



# St Mary Immaculate & St Patrick's PARISH OF THE CLARENCE VALLEY

*Copmanhurst & Cowper*      *Grafton & South Grafton*



## Cowper

Parish Office: 2 Clarence Street  
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Email: [admin@clarencevalleyparish.com.au](mailto:admin@clarencevalleyparish.com.au)  
P.O. Box 577, Grafton NSW 2460  
Website: [cvcparish.org.au](http://cvcparish.org.au)

Office Hours:  
8.30am to 3.30pm Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri  
9.30am to 3.30pm Thursday

**St. Mary's Church, Grafton**  
Victoria Street, Grafton

**St Patrick's Church**  
Skinner Street, South Grafton

**Mary Immaculate Church**  
Cowper

**St John of the Cross**  
Copmanhurst

**McAuley Catholic College**  
Hennessy Drive, Clarence  
Phone: 02 66431434  
Email: [grafs@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:grafs@lism.catholic.edu.au)

**St. Mary's Primary School**  
Turf Street, Grafton  
Phone: 02 66422262  
Email: [grafs@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:grafs@lism.catholic.edu.au)

**St Joseph's Primary School**  
Hyde Street, South Grafton  
Phone: 02 66422899  
Email: [sgrafs@lism.catholic.edu.au](mailto:sgrafs@lism.catholic.edu.au)

**Parish Priest:** Fr Joe Holloway  
**Assist. Priest:**  
Fr Emmanuel Okparanaku



## Copmanhurst

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

20th August 2023

## Parish Family News



BISHOP of LISMORE  
— GREGORY HOMEMING OCD —

### PASTORAL LETTER

#### GATHERING IN THE EXPECTATION OF THE EUCHARIST

When the Bishops of the world met in Rome from 1962 to 1965 at the Second Vatican Council they issued a document on the role of the laity in the life of the Church. By virtue of their membership of the Body of Christ through Baptism lay people are called to play their part in the Church's mission. In the liturgy they read Scripture and act as acolytes. In parish life they act as pastoral workers in collaboration with the priest.

Some ministries like the distribution of Communion, baptising and officiating at funerals are the normal function of the priest or deacon, but lay people may fulfil these functions as Extra-ordinary Ministers if there is a need.

Over recent years there has been a marked decline in the number of vocations to the priesthood. The effects of this decline are fast becoming evident. Parishes will have to be geared up to cope with fewer priests, and in some cases, without a priest.

At present lay people are being inducted as Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion and are distributing Communion at Mass, taking Communion to the sick, and offering prayers at the bedside of the dying. It is possible that the laity will also be called on to baptise and officiate at funerals. However, by virtue of the sacrament of Orders the celebration of the Eucharist at Mass, the administration of the Sacraments of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick are reserved solely to the priest.

Parish churches may not be able to offer the same choice of Mass times on Sunday and those from outlying centre with easy access to the parish church may be asked to travel.

It is also inevitable that there will be occasions when a priest will not be available for Sunday Mass. This could arise when the priest is away on authorised leave and is unable to get a supply. It could also happen when there is an emergency and the neighbouring parishes are unable to help. There will be places where it is only possible to have Mass once a month or at some other interval. On those Sundays a lay person will preside over a Liturgy of the Word at which Communion is distributed.

In these circumstances, God does not abandon his own. Rather Jesus is present when the assembly gathers in his name, when his word is proclaimed, when the reserved Eucharist is distributed among the faithful and when the various liturgical ministries bring about full, active, and conscious participation in worship. The same is also true when the laity lead prayers and administer the Eucharist (Viaticum) at the bedside of the dying: the risen Lord is there.

It is important that designated lay people be trained to assume these various ministries, drawing on programs provided by the diocese. Further, norms governing these liturgical services will be issued.

For the present it is important to understand that these changes are inevitable and to be prepared for them. It is also important that there be no blurring of the differences between the full celebration of the Eucharist in Mass and Liturgies of the Word at which Communion is distributed.

All are asked to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood so that Catholic communities of the future may share in the unique blessings that come with the full celebration of the Sunday Eucharist at Mass.

+Gregory Homeming OCD  
Bishop of Lismore  
15<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## **DIARY OF THE WEEK: LITURGIES, DEVOTIONS ETC**

### **Saturday 19th August**

**9.00am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton**  
**4.15pm—4.45pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Church**  
**5.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**

### **Sunday 20th August** - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**  
**8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper**  
**9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton**  
**11.00am Mass at St John of the Cross Copmanhurst**

### **Monday 21st August** - St Pius X, pope

**NO Mass**

### **Tuesday 22nd August** - The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**5.15pm Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**

### **Wednesday 23rd August**

**9.15am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton**

### **Thursday 24th August** - St Bartholomew, apostle

**8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**

### **Friday 25th August**

**11.30am—11.55am Reconciliation and**  
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
**12.00noon Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**

### **Saturday 26th August**

**9.00am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton**  
**4.15pm—4.45pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Church**  
**5.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**

### **Sunday 27th August** - Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

**8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton**  
**8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper**  
**9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton**

## **Reflection**

Today's scriptures all address the question of who belongs to the People of God. Isaiah makes clear that anyone can belong: it is faithful service of the Lord, not ethnicity, class or caste, that qualifies. Paul also affirms that all are included—his mission to the pagans is not intended to exclude his fellow Jews from Christ's salvation but to help them see that it is offered to everyone. The persistence of the Canaanite woman in the Gospel further demonstrates that deep faith is not the prerogative of any particular ethnicity. We may be left wondering why Jesus failed to show her the compassion we see in so many other encounters, but the dialogue about children's food and house-dogs makes it very clear that this Canaanite woman—a foreigner—has a rightful place as a follower of this amazing rabbi, Jesus of Nazareth. May we always rejoice in the diverse community of faith to which we belong.

*Break Open the Word © 2020 Liturgy Brisbane*

## **Please remember in your prayers:**

**Those who are sick and frail:** especially Ed Dennis Reilly, Dr Anselm Okechukwu, Jenni Howard, Susan Simmons, Joscelyn McCabe, Brian William McGrath, Margaret McMahon, Ian Huxley, Mary O'Brien, Brenda Comerford, Rod Hughes, Fr Anthony Lemon, Evonne Coutis, Alfred Morris, Bill Morris, Frank O'Brien, Jeannette Davies, Margaret Knight, Ray Hynes, Bev Merrick (NZ), Eamon McLaughlin, Lee Denton, Joan Knox, Pat Connelly, Chris Small, Peter Newby, Dan Moran, Cheryl Kinnane, Dot Dougherty, Sandy Beadman, Gwen Haynes, Sonya Moore, Moya Ellem(Melb), Fay Ellem, John McAnally, Darcy Patricks, Eli Hagar, Kevin Burns, Shona Owens, Jacinta Frawley-Werger, Amanda Crawford, Aileen Whalan, Bree Brossman, & all those in hospital.

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**The Recently Deceased:** including Marina L Jumao-as, Ronald Whiteman, Patricia Matthews, Max Mulligan, Brother Mel Madden SM, Alf Cassar, Bruce Rogan, June Byrnes, Patrick Goddard, Margaret McClymont.

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**Those whose Anniversaries are at this time:** Including Fr Thomas King, Fr James Henderson, Fr James Ryan, Fr William Vincent Ryan, Leo Norton, Elsie Davey, Christopher Boswell, Kathleen Wheeler, Margeurita Daly, Jim McPherson, William Murnane.

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**Other Mass Intentions:** including Thomas Daly, the Tarrant family, and all the Holy Souls.

## **Mass Attendance - COVID 19**

\*We will continue to maintain a single file for receiving Holy Communion. **Those who prefer to have communion on the tongue may do so; and are asked to join the queue at the end of the communion line.** \*Anyone who is unwell **should not** attend Mass.

***Thank you for your continued co-operation.***

## **Parish Notices**

**Friday 25th August - Charismatic Prayer**  
**Group Meeting** at McCarthy Centre -  
12.45pm to 3pm.

**Clarence Valley Parish 200 Club - Week 18**  
453 1st Prize \$60 Bruce Rogan  
725 2nd Prize \$30 Colin Comerford  
611 3rd Prize \$10 Chris & Irene Moran

A warm welcome to visitors & parishioners (who are new or returning) to our church. If you would like to receive our Church bulletin via email on Friday afternoon please email: **admin@clarencevalleyparish.com.au**  
*Visitor bookmark available in porch.*

### Living on the margins

Matthew's community consisted of Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles), which contributed to tension and disharmony. The Jewish Christians still saw themselves as Jews. For them, they hadn't changed their religion. Christianity was simply another reform-movement within Judaism. However, being Jewish was not solely about religion, it was also cultural; giving identity, meaning, understanding and depth to life.

The Jews saw themselves as a holy nation, a people set apart; and non-Jews were considered the opposite! So, when non-Jews began joining the new community and growing in number, the Jews felt overwhelmed and uncomfortable with the religious and cultural blending. Questions arose: Were non-Jews welcome in the Christian movement and on what conditions? Who decides about membership and participation? Is there openness to integration and compromise? Throughout his gospel, Matthew confronts attitudes of superiority and contempt for Gentiles among the Jewish Christians. For example: He introduces and gives prominence to the Gentile Magi. He has Jesus calling his followers to "love your enemies". He shows Jesus curing the servant of a Gentile centurion and exorcising Gentile demoniacs. In today's story, Matthew addresses the differences between a woman and Jesus' disciples. Matthew doesn't just identify her by geography but uses the term 'Canaanite'; an ancient word for Israel's long-time enemies. He shows that it's the disciples who first have a problem with her: "She's shouting after us." Matthew uses the usual Jewish objection by having Jesus say: "I was sent only to the lost-sheep of the House of Israel." But then he adds a balancing statement by having Jesus respond to the woman and praise her faith: "Woman, you have great faith."

Matthew shows Jesus being deeply moved by the woman's desperate motherly love and her readiness to trust him. Jesus has no interest in her 'religion' or any questionable moral worthiness, and certainly not that she was a Gentile woman. Jesus is as close to those on the margins as he is to those who belong to the so-called 'inner circle'.

In the conversation between the woman and Jesus, Matthew demonstrates God's abundance: "Even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table." (Recall the feeding of the 5000 - twelve baskets-full of scraps were collected from what was left over). God's grace, mercy and compassion are lavish and reach out beyond Israel to embrace the whole world.

So, who might be today's equivalent of the ostracised Gentile woman or the Gentile and Jewish members of Matthew's community?

Like Matthew, perhaps we can use the story to examine contemporary life, with all its questions, differences, uncertainties, tensions and complexities. A good starting point is to see life through the lens of God's unconditional love for everyone and to reach out with respect, compassion and sensitivity to others, especially those pushed to the edges.

David Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2023

### A Thought for the Day

How will I live as a child of God today?

When I pray, will I ask God what he wants of me and not simply focus on what I want from God?

#### Schoolzine eNewsletter!

**McAuley Catholic College**

<https://grafslism.catholic.edu.au/schoolnews?nid=76>

**St Mary's Primary School**

<https://grafplism.catholic.edu.au/schoolnews?nid=75>

**St Joseph's Primary School**

<https://sgrafplism.catholic.edu.au/enews?nid=80>

Or View/Download a PDF copy from the School website.

#### Television Free to Air—Channel Ten—Sunday Mass at 6am

**Mass at 8am Sunday**—Livestreamed on Lismore Diocesan

YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LismoreDioceseAU>

Also the following has Mass on demand. [https://](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ)

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD\\_HVaQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ)



Weekend August 26/27	St Mary's Church Saturday 5.00pm	St Mary's Church Sunday 8.00am	St Patrick's Church Sunday 9.30am	Mary Immaculate Sunday 8.00am
Commentator	Margaret Lee	Chiara Hassett	Lynne Higham	Ellen Moloney
Reader	Jim Muldoon	Saxon Hassett	Nancy Crook	Basil Moran
Extraordinary Minister	Tania Disson	Marie Small	Stephen Summerell	
Morning Tea				All Parishioners



**A reading from the prophet Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7**

*I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.*

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm: 66**

**R: O God, let all the nations praise you!**

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and exult, for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

**11: 13-15, 29-32**

*The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.*

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to**

**Matthew 15: 21-28**

*Woman, you have great faith.*

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Next Week's Readings: (21st Sunday of Year A)**

Is 22:19-23; Ps 137; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20



Those who love do not stand around doing nothing. Those who love serve. They hurry to reach others to serve in the name of Jesus. We love through our deeds and love makes us happy!

*Pope Francis Pontifex 17/08/2023*

**Planned Giving - Details for electronic funds transfer (EFT).**

Banking details are:

**Second Collection** - for support of our Parish, including maintenance of our churches and parish buildings, parish office wages and administration expenses.

**BSB: 062546 Account Number: 00800690**

**Name: Grafton Catholic Church.**

**First Collection** - for the support of our clergy locally and in the Diocese.

**BSB: 062546 Account Number: 00800535**

**Name: RC Lismore Presbyterium Grafton**

In the details section of your online deposits please record your surname or Planned Giving number eg **Smith or PG500.**

**Diocesan Investment Fund Interest Rate 3.70%**



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*The DIF contributes to the printing of the weekly newsletter.*