

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
27 AUGUST 2023 YEAR A/1

A former Federal Attorney General, Darryl Williams, was a subdued, quiet figure who never raised his voice. Whatever the hysterics in the Parliamentary Chamber, his was the unflappable monotone.

Naturally, his nickname was 'Rowdy'! This seems to be an Australian thing. In the school yard we used to call a fellow pupil with snow white hair 'Blackie'.

It is a quirky Australian sense of humour to give somebody a nickname diametrically opposite to their character. Jesus had an Australian sense of humour! Who amongst his band of followers was the most unpredictable: hot one moment, cold the next, devoted one moment and treacherous the next? The least dependable of his followers was Simon, son of Jonah. He was far from being a rock solid supporter of Jesus.

So Jesus gave him the nickname 'Rocky' which in the Greek is Petros, from which we get the name with which we are familiar, Peter. And Jesus does not stop there. He puns on the nickname in a way which has shaped the Catholic Church over the centuries.

First, we hear Jesus give a blessing. According to the gospel record, this was the only blessing bestowed on an apostle by Jesus. 'Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah.' Why was Simon blessed? Because God had revealed to him the true identity of the Jesus of Nazareth he had been following. In fact he was the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed one of God.

And then Jesus plays with the nickname. 'You are Rocky and upon this rock I will build my church.' The natural personality of shifting sands was transformed by the blessing. That personality was not entirely superseded as we know, but, Our Lord was laying his foundation for his community of followers after the Resurrection.

I think that we can resonate with Peter's experience. When one receives a blessing from God, it does not annihilate one's personality. Quirks will remain. But it transforms and strengthens it for a particular role or task, which, in the mysterious will of God, is for you alone to fulfil.

There is a further element to this image of the rock. You have all seen television shots of the Golden Dome in Jerusalem. It is a place of Muslim worship and was the site of the great Jewish temple destroyed by the Romans. The site is the outcrop of rock which dominates Jerusalem.

The Jewish people apparently believed that this rock acted like a plug into a volcano. It stopped the forces of death and annihilation (Hades or Hell) from erupting and destroying God's chosen people in Jerusalem.

So Jesus went on to make the famous promise to the church built upon the rock which is Peter: 'The gates of hell will not prevail against it.' What is the 'it'? And this is where we Catholics can go astray. Jesus the Christ makes the promise concerning what he calls '*my church*' – the church designed by Our Lord, not a church shaped by human imagination, perhaps shaped by modes of Roman imperial rule or with a Eurocentric mindset.

Fortunately, in Pope Francis, we have a successor of St Peter responding to the Risen Lord's command to St Francis of Assisi: 'Rebuild *my church*.'

May Jesus Christ shower the 265th successor to St Peter with every blessing so that the Church continues to prevail over the forces of annihilation and death which threaten humanity. We can make this plea in the confidence of the promise of today's gospel. 'You are Peter and upon *this rock* I will build *my church* and the gates of hell shall *not* prevail against it.'

© Fr Michael Tate



Readings Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 3 September 2023
Jeremiah 20:7-9; Ps 62:2-6, 8-9; Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:21-27



**2023 Confirmation
Sacramental Program**

Family Workshop

Saturday, 2 September
9.00am to 11.00am or 12.00pm to 2.00pm
Mary Immaculate Church

Practice

Wednesday, 6 September 2023
4.00pm or 6.00pm
Mary Immaculate Church

Confirmation

First Session – Saturday, 9 September 9.00am
Second Session - Saturday, 9 September 11.00am
Mary Immaculate Church

If you have any queries please contact
Lisa Perkins on 5510 2222 ext 3 or
Email: sacramental@scp.org.au



A REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

Build your life on a solid foundation
– Jesus Christ

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING

will be meeting every 2nd Saturday
morning of each month at **10.15am**
St Joseph the Worker Church,
Labrador

Next meeting **9 September 2023**

Leaflets are at the back of each church



Southport Catholic Parish
Melbourne Cup Luncheon
Tuesday 7 November at 11.00am
Lumen Christi Centre
44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Fashions on the Field
best hat & best outfit

Sweep tickets will be on sale on the day

Tickets \$35.00 - includes lunch & drinks
Ph 5510 2222



**ADORATION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
IN OUR PARISH**

Tuesday 1.00pm – Wednesday 1.00pm
24 hour adoration

Guardian Angels Church, Southport
Contact yurikos@gmail.com

Thursday 7.45am – 8.45am
Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore

Come and spend some time with the Lord.



Every Saturday our walking
group meets at St Joseph
the Worker, Labrador at
6.30am. Contact Janeece on
0408 763 772



2023 ANNUAL

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN

Our Church • Our Mission • Our Community

ANNUAL CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN: 19 - 20 AUGUST 2023

Last weekend our parish held an appeal for the Annual Catholic Campaign in support of the important Catholic ministries in our Archdiocese. Thank you to everyone who responded generously to the Archbishop's call for support.

If you didn't get a chance to make a gift last week, there is still time. Envelopes are still available. If you took the envelope home, please pop it in the mail or place it in the second collection.

Your tax-deductible gift will be put straight to work by funding the vital Catholic agencies in our local community.

Thank you again for your time and generosity.



Mary Immaculate Church
is open for private prayer
Tuesday, Wednesday and
Thursday
9.00am—4.30pm

A Funeral Mass will be held for the late
Karen Condon at Mary Immaculate Church
on Monday 4 September at 11.00am

STOPLINE

receives information about suspected abuse, (information can be provided anonymously) misconduct & serious policy breaches by Archdiocesan clergy, employees or volunteers.
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR),

Kerri Kleidon

Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy. We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all our employees and volunteers and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.

1300 304 550

aob@stopline.com.au

www.bne.catholic.stoplinereport.com



INFORMATION SESSION ON MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS

There will be an information session on marriage annulments in the Catholic Church, given by staff of the Regional Tribunal for Queensland. What is an annulment? Who needs one? What's involved? FAQ's answered and the chance to have your own questions answered. Tuesday 22 August 2023, Mary Immaculate Hall, 616 Ipswich Rd, Annerley (parking adjacent), 7:45pm. Enquiries to tribbris@bne.catholic.net.au or 3324 3033.



CALLING ALL SINGERS

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to be part of a massed choir to sing at

St Stephen's Cathedral

Friday 29 September at 5:30pm

as part of the National Liturgy and Liturgical Music Conference taking place here in Brisbane. Archbishop Mark will preside at this special Mass which will be attended by bishops, clergy, religious and lay conference delegates from around the country. Please complete the registration form at

<https://lbsurvey.weebly.com/conferencechoristers.html>

where you will be able to download the list of music tracks. For enquiries phone Liturgy Brisbane on 3324 3321.



is available at all of our churches for just \$4.00

FAITHFUL DEPARTED



**Karen Condon
Mary Amos
Ted Reid
Valerie Crowe
Elaine Cueva**



Please pray for all whose names are in the Book of Remembrance

ANNIVERSARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

We are happy to place the names of the above in the Newsletter, provided the family has given approval.

BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE AND SICK

Each Church has one of each of the above books.

If you would like the name of deceased or sick family or friends placed in the book, please contact the Parish Office 5510 2222

REACH BEYOND
to new horizons.

Set out and share your skills through a long-term assignment in Asia, Africa or the Pacific.

See current opportunities at palms.org.au

Request an info pack: palms@palms.org.au

Who is Palms Australia ?

With over 60 years experience, Palms Australia recruits qualified and experienced Australians who participate in an exchange of knowledge and skills to meet the requests of overseas communities seeking to reduce poverty by developing the capacities of their people and organisations.

REGISTER NOW

Register for our webinar and be inspired as Michelle, Angelica & Rofina speak about their intercultural experiences and learn about our other opportunities abroad. There might be a position that calls to you.

Thursday 14 September 2023.

Ring 02 9560 5333 for more details.



Please come and join us at Marian Valley for the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on the 13 September 2023. The bus will be picking us up at 8.15 am at the Sacred Heart Church Clear Island Waters. The Cost for the bus fare is \$25.00 return. Secure your seat with your contact name and phone number with Xavier Solomon 0404 843 260 or Madeleine on 0405 252 367
All are welcome.

St Joseph the Worker Church

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Mass

8.00am

Weekday Masses

Monday & Wednesday 7.00am

1st Wednesday 7.00pm

1st Saturday 9.00am

Rosary

Monday & Wednesday 6.00am

1st Wednesday 6.00pm

1st Saturday 8.30am

Novena

Wednesday 6.00pm

Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm

Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am

Vietnamese Mass

2nd & 4th Saturday 7.00pm

Adoration & Rosary

Tuesday & Thursday 7.45am

Gold Coast University Hospital

Rosary & Mass

Friday 10.00am

Guardian Angels Church

99 Scarborough Street, Southport

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Reconciliation Saturday 4.30pm

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30pm

Sunday 7.00am & 9.00am

Korean Mass

Sunday 3.30pm

한인미사 일요일 오후 3시 30분

Filipino Mass

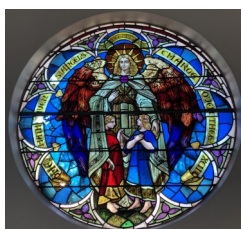
1st Sunday 12.00pm

Prayer & Adoration

Wednesday 12.00pm

Rosary & Mass

Friday 12.00pm



PARISH CONTACTS

Ph 07 5510 2222

<https://scp.org.au>

Parish office Ashmore

Tuesday-Thursday 9.00am-4.30pm

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore, 4214

Parish office Southport & Gift Shop

Monday-Friday 9.00am-4.30pm

115 Scarborough Street, Southport, 4215

Office Support

Catherine Francis parish@scp.org.au

Finance Officer

Therese Rogers accounts@scp.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator

Lisa Perkins sacramental@scp.org.au

Associate Pastor

Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen (Hospital Chaplaincy)

Parish Priest

Fr Gerard McMorrow PP