



The Massabielle

The Weekly Newsletter of St Bernadette's
Parish Community, Castle Hill, NSW

August 28 & 29, 2010 – TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year C

Issue Number 374

THE 1971 SYDNEY ORDINATIONS—MEMORABLE

Thirty-nine years ago last Saturday I was ordained in Sydney's St Mary's Cathedral. August 21, 1971 dawned a bleak winter's day in Sydney. It was bitterly cold and it was raining. I had slept the night at the presbytery at Parramatta so that the priests could take me the next day to St Mary's Cathedral for my ordination. On the top of Gladesville Bridge, the Parish Priest of Parramatta, Monsignor Frank Kerr, instructed the driver, Father John Dougherty to turn back and return to Parramatta, when he could, because the conditions for driving were so atrocious. Even though it was 8.30 am in the morning, it was very dark and the wind was so ferocious that the Gladesville Bridge was swaying to the outer limits of the engineer's specifications for the once in a hundred-year gale. I wanted to be ordained so, from the back seat, I piped up urging the driver on, despite the inability of the car's windscreen wipers to clear the rain in any meaningful way. The street lights were on but you couldn't see. An eclipse of the sun, even a partial eclipse of the sun, can bring out catastrophic climate conditions such as wind, rain, lightening and hail, but this was unique. The road conditions were quite dangerous.

What I didn't know was that the Sydney rail network had failed because trains had broken down on all the major lines and guests and seminarians had become flood-bound in tunnels. Radio station 2GB went off the air for some hours. Boomerang, the famous 1928 art deco Albert's music home in Billyard Avenue, Potts Point, suffered a collapsed roof sending tons of hail into the oak panelled banquet room, and a circus elephant, going berserk, jumped into the Georges River and was drowned. Hail covered Sydney's streets with a blanket of white making the city look like some fairy-tale theatre set. That it had snowed heavily in Sydney was the impression created by the hail, looking at the photos appearing in the papers the next day.

Despite these horrific conditions, St Mary's Cathedral was filling to capacity with the ticket-only 10.00 am ordination ceremony to be presided over by Sir Norman Thomas Cardinal Gilroy.

The ceremony started late. As the procession, lead by the processional cross and two tall candles, wound its way around the cathedral and started to mount the ten marble stairs onto the sanctuary, the most terrifying clap of thunder rumbled through the cavernous gothic structure, followed almost instantaneously by a strike of lightening which lit up for five seconds or more the until-now black stained glass window set in the northern wall of St Mary's Cathedral. For what seemed forever, the processional cross was silhouetted against a blaze of brilliant window colour that died just as instantly as it had appeared. There was another lightening strike, announced yet again by a theophanic clap of thunder that was truly awesome. I heard a voice from the roof announce, "This is my beloved son. He enjoys my favour. Listen to him". [Matthew 17:5]. The other priests-to-be, less sensitive than myself, said they heard nothing.

The public address system in St Mary's Cathedral was like the present PA in the new St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. Inadequate.

Some said it had been installed by the Marchese Marconi himself (1874-1937) and when competing with hail on a slate roof it was useless. It was impossible to hear the choir. You would not have known there was one there.

Cardinal Gilroy asked the ordinands to come closer so that we could hear what he was saying. The photos I have of the ordination show us moving our chairs closer to the Cardinal, but looking up into the roof watching the water run down the walls from the clerestory. There it hit the top of the arch and slid down the voussoirs until it hit the springers. Eventually, it bypassed this watercourse, coming down in sheets onto the sanctuary floor. The hail had chocked up the



Ordination Day 1971

gutters and the water came in under the eaves and into the cathedral. Mixed with the pollutant of a hundred years, the water speckled our albs with indelible spotting. Remember, 1971 was in pre-NapiSan days, so the marks stayed for years as a reminder of our special day.

During the course of the storm a window blew out above the stairs that lead to the crypt. In that section of the cathedral the congregation was drenched. But the hail also entered the cathedral through the mediaeval ventilation system and rained down on the unsuspecting worshippers who were forced to put up umbrellas to protect their skulls from nasty pea-size hail. Cathedral windows traditionally do not go fully to the window ledge. They stop some centimetres from the sill and another panel of glass at a forty-five degree angle coming from the sill up past the sealed stained glass window stops rain from getting in but allows air to pass through freely. Gauze joins the opening and stops birds from entering the building. The trouble was, the gauze had worked beautifully during the 1928 Eucharistic Congress but had never been maintained in forty years. The hail hit the sill and then some ricocheted through the rusted gauze, descending at 32 feet per second per second like a missile onto the heads of my guests. It was a strange sight to see people coming to Holy Communion under umbrellas. The cathedral was completely awash with water and photos show the cardinal holding his choir dress, alb, dalmatic and chasuble looking for safe areas to walk. His crosier was not just a fashion accessory but had become a very practical and handy liturgical aid for this task

Unbeknown to us, the Dean of the Cathedral was working with his staff stuffing candles into every available benediction candelabra he could find because he thought the lights would fail. Another priest was heroically working in the switch room, in between blue flashes, putting plastic over the electricals where water was coming out of those old-fashioned ceramic fuses.

In the course of the chaos, the cardinal, who fourteen hours previously had retired as Archbishop of Sydney, made a mistake in the ordination rite and that day, tragically, none of us was ordained a priest. His mistake in the ordination formula meant that we were all ordained bishops.

It has been a great hurt to me that, in the past 39 years, no one in authority, no hierarch, not one prelate, has been prepared to acknowledge the legitimacy of my claim to wear rings and crosses and mitres. My mother would have been proud of me getting around in episcopal haberdashery. I have had to be content to be a wounded healer, humbly accepting Castle Hill as a consolation prize.

Father John.

LITURGY CORNER

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is often depicted as sharing meals with those people in the society at the time who were not considered to be appropriate table companions: publicans, tax collectors, sinners and women of dubious reputation. In this meal, Jesus reveals more of the radical reversal of God's way. He challenges the way the Pharisees see their own standing in society as people of status, urging them instead to take the more humble positions at table and allow the host, or God, to choose those who should be exalted. He also shatters the Pharisees' idea of table fellowship by urging them to share their festive table with those who are the least important or the outcasts of society. The way to God cannot be organised according to human priority! It is in the ultimate humiliation of crucifixion that Jesus is exalted in resurrection and ascension. *The Summit*



Today's Readings

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:17-20,28-29. The author stresses the importance of humility for those in positions of authority and the unfortunate state of those who are overcome by pride.

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24. The assembly of Moses and the people at Mount Sinai is contrasted with the assembly in the heavenly sanctuary of all who are redeemed in Christ.

Gospel: Luke 14:1,7-14. When guests at a meal choose places of honour for themselves, Jesus reminds them that in the kingdom of heaven it is the lowly who will be exalted.

Next week: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C
Wisdom 9:13-18; Philemon 9-10,12-17; Luke 14:25-33.

HOLY HOUR WITH BENEDICTION this Thursday from 8.00 to 9.00pm including Rosary, prayers, hymns & scripture reading. All welcome.

REPARATION PRAYER GROUP meets Wednesdays at 8pm in the Parish Office Basement. All welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION this Friday following 6.45am Mass until 9.15 and following 9.15 Mass until 11.45am.

FATHERS' DAY MASS: The 6.45am Mass this Thursday, 3 September will be a special Fathers' Day Mass for the fathers of the children at St Bernadette's School. We look forward to seeing many dads on this special day.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place this Friday, September 3 at 12 noon followed by a light lunch in the Marion Centre. All welcome. If you can help with transport or by providing sandwiches, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Marion Heron on 9659 9385.

FATHERS' DAY APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND

The annual Fathers' Day Appeal to raise funds to assist sick and retired priests will take place next weekend.

POSITION AVAILABLE - Out of School Hours Care Coordinator

The Executive Director of Schools invites applications for this newly created position, which will be responsible for the establishment and ongoing coordination and oversight of Catholic Out of School Hours Care services in the Parramatta Diocese. Closing date: Tuesday 7 September. For information go to www.parra.catholic.edu.au.

CELEBRATE THE JOURNEY will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral on 19 September with Mass at 2.00pm celebrated by Bishop Anthony Fisher. This day is set aside to recognise and value the importance of Marriage as part of Marriage Week. Married couples with significant wedding anniversary milestones are invited to attend and their marriage will be acknowledged during this time. Please phone the parish office to leave your details.

THEOLOGY IN THE PUB with Bishop Anthony on 6 September from 6.30pm at PJ Gallagher's Irish Pub, 74 Church St, Parramatta for young adults 18-35.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2010-2011

If you wish to enroll your child in the Sacramental Programme to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and/or Confirmation in 2011 and you have completed, or are attending, the Faith Formation Course, please collect your enrolment package from the Sacristy at the front of the church.

DIOCESAN WORKS FUND APPEAL: Thank you for your generous contributions to the recent DWF Appeal. A total of \$20,365.00 has been donated.

A SAINT FOR TODAY: The Sisters of St Joseph have just released an album of three hymns, plus associated CD with lyrics, including the title hymn by Margaret T Cusack rsj newly composed specifically for the occasion of the coming canonisation. Single copies of the album and/or CD are available from The Shop at Mary MacKillop Place, or wholesale (not less than three copies) from music@sosjns.org.au.

DIOCESAN CELEBRATION for the CANONISATION OF MARY MACKILLOP: Sunday 31 October

Join Bishop Anthony Fisher OP for a Eucharistic celebration for the canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop on Sunday 31 October. This Eucharistic celebration will be preceded by music, dance and testimony by the youth of the Diocese of Parramatta. Afternoon tea will follow. Program commences at 1.30pm. Please be seated by 1.15pm in the Morley Centre, Westmead Catholic Education Precinct (Parramatta Marist), Darcy Street, Westmead. Ample parking off Darcy Street, opp. Westmead Private Hospital.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA COMMITTEE ARCADIA invites you to join with them on Sunday 10 October at St Benedict's Church, Arcadia for Rosary in five languages at 1pm followed by Mass.



Youth & Young Adults Ministry



LIFE Nights presents "Clean Your Ears out" (for grades 9 to 12) next Sunday night, 3rd September after the Youth Mass in the hall under the church till 8:30pm.

Bring \$2 donation for food & drink.

Into Life is on this Monday 7 - 8.30pm in the Parish Hall. Bring \$2 donation for food & drink. All in Years 7 - 8 are welcome to attend.

Young Adults: Alpha Course on this Tuesday Night.

Join together with other Young Catholics for inspiration. For more information contact the youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au

REGISTER FOR SPRING CAMP 2010 NOW !!

Registration is open online at www.lifeteencastlehill.com.au. Cost is \$185 p.p. **Into Life "Dr Seuss"** (Grades 7-8) is on 10-12th September.

Life Night "Pulse" (Grades 9 -12) is on 17-19th September. Both are at La Salle Youth Camp Kincumber.

Young Adults "Soul Foods"

Topic: What Not to Wear-A Guide to Etiquette, Modesty and Presentation. Location: Castle Hill Tavern Time: 6:30pm Tuesday, August 31st



Leadership and Parent Support: LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE: Leader (ages 16yrs+) & Parent support. We have our next training and information night this Sunday 29th August in the hall after the youth mass 7pm till 8:30pm. For more information contact youth ministry on 0420 594 277 or email ym@stbernadette.org.au

Coming soon is WYD2011 Madrid (ages 15 - 34). More information nights coming up so stay tuned. For information wydtours.com.au (Parramatta diocese) or contact the youth ministry on 0420 594 277.

Join our facebook groups:

Into LIFE - St. Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill
LIFE Nights - St Bernadette's Parish, Castle Hill
St Bernadette's Young Adults Group
WYD2011 St.Bernadettes Parish Castle Hill

LOOKING FOR MARY - Video Competition: Take up your cameras and get creative! Calling all youth aged 16 to 35 to find Mary MacKillop in their day-to-day lives with a 2-3 min video. Entries close 20 September 2010. 1st prize \$5,000. Find out more at www.xt3.com/marymackillop.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS

are now available from the Parish Bookshop.

St Bernadette's Parish Community
Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154

Telephone 9634 2622 Fax 9899 3511 Email: admin@stbernadette.org.au
 Web page: http://www.stbernadette.org.au

Parish Staff

Fr John Boyle, Parish Priest
 Fr Eugene Szondi, Assistant Priest
 Sr Judy McLeod, rsm, Pastoral Associate
 Mr Luke Hackett, Pastoral Associate (Youth)
 Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager
 Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)
 Mr Darren Edwards, Maintenance

Mass Times for this Week

Sunday Sat 6.00pm
 Sun 7.30am, 9.00am, 10.30am &
 6pm Parish LIFE TEEN Youth Mass

Weekdays Mon 6.45 am
 Tue 6.45am
 Wed 6.45am, 9.15am
 Thurs 6.45am, 9.15am
 Fri 6.45am, 9.15am, 12 noon
 Sat 8.00am

Reconciliation Sat 8.30am-9.00am; 4.30pm-5.30pm

Mass on Public Holidays at 8.00am

Baptisms and Marriages: By appointment only. Contact the Parish House. Please note the Church law: Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

St Bernadette's Parish School: Mr Paul Colyer, Principal 9634 2898

Please pray for Kenneth Stone, Norman Walch and Kevin Quinn who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Barbara Eaton, Frank Novacek, Yang Pao-Chin, Ni Shou-Ying and Reg Millgate and in remembrance of Lucy D'Souza.

Prayers for the Sick: Caroline Wooster, Marj Orioles, Karen Jackson, Peter Wahlen, Remedios De Leon & Alvin Lai.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – September 4 & 5

ACOLYTES/ SERVERS	LECTORS	MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
VIGIL Stephen MacMahon S6	Rebecca Barrett Tony Calabria Douglas/Felicity Carvalho	Felicity Carvalho, Lourice Asmar, Patrick Bowie, Rod Boyd, Laura Burrridge, Ignatius/Natalia Chui, Lynne Myers, Barbara Ortlepp, Mary McMahon
7.30AM Philip Myers S7	Tony Falzon Patricia Bright John O'Dea	Lina Josue, Alfred & Gladys Tsang, Colleen & Eric Woodhead, Jo Wickens
9.00AM Melvyn Myers S8	Trevor O'Shea Brian Blacklock Joanne O'Shea	Karen & David Askey, Christine & Hubert Jenneke, Cathy & Greg Piggott, Trevor & Joanne O'Shea, Lena Madry
10.30AM Terry O'Mara S9	Tony Smith Philip Golanco Trinity Abbertson-Woo	Anita Christy, Pauline Camilleri, Dorothy Finucane, Elizabeth Fogolin, Philip & Yolanda Golanco, Margaret Hawkes, Winnie & Henry Li

6.00 PARISH LIFE TEEN YOUTH MASS MINISTRY ROSTER - September 5

Adult Servers Marc Clasquin Gillian Pak	Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Belinda Lee Darren Edwards Ian Pomeroy		Musos Bass Erich Gracias Flor Piano Alice Bradshaw Guitar Michael Smith Horns/Strings/ Winds Matthew Ashton Drums Justin Abeleda
Lectors Stef Musgrave Jen Austin Raquel Lobo			Singers Monique O'Callaghan Darian Jessup- Lonsdale Julia Calixto Natalie Jones Maree Calabria
Altar Servers S10	Projectionist Larissa O'Callaghan		
Gift Preparation	Usher Alfonso Aguilera	Welcomers Tony Muscat Tina Muscat	

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Fathers' Day No Children's Liturgy FLOWER ROSTER Lorraine O'Mara	CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING Andrea Tomic, Ivonne Purnomo, Krystyna Graczyk, Janice Bonaccorso, Eva Mustapic COUNTING (1st Collection) Barbara Ingram Marie Sammut	COUNTING (2nd Collection) David Solomon, Brian Iles, Joe Harney, David & Kaylene Hollis, Anthony Denham BOOKSHOP Maureen Gain / Rose Huby / Christine Jenneke / Jan Harrild / Bernadette Boulos
---	---	---