

The priesthood is a call from Christ to live a relationship with him by serving his people. Not content to leave his people with simply the memory of his redeeming love, Christ chose certain of his followers (the apostles) to continue his work on earth until the end of time. The priesthood is an extension of this, and is hence a continuation of the work of Christ in the world today. While the whole Church is a priestly people, sharing in the priesthood of Christ by their daily sacrifices, prayers and spreading of the Gospel, God calls specific people to serve in his name in the midst of the community. These people are priests.

The priesthood is a calling. Christ asks of some men the sacrifice of their lives in following him as his more intimate companions. From all eternity, certain men are called to the priesthood. It is a call inscribed in their nature and because of this, is a call that will bring them fulfilment. Thus, the priesthood is not simply one occupation among many. It is a way of life through which God invites a man to enter more deeply in relationship with him.



Happy Birthday to Adrian

The priesthood is a sacrament. Sacraments are physical means through which God's grace is experienced in the world. The sacrament of the priesthood (known as Holy Orders) is the visible way through which Christ continues his mission in the world.

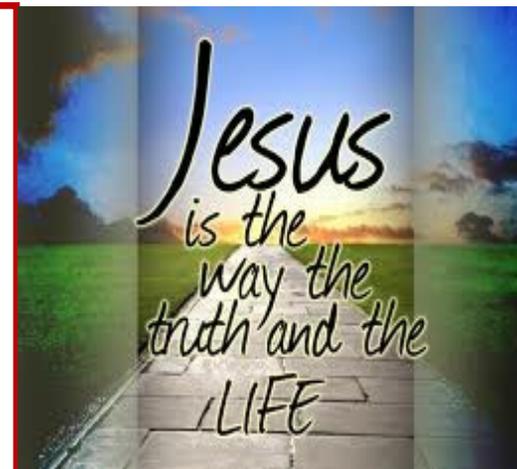
We live in a moment in history when all are searching for meaning. What is the meaning of my life? Where am I to find the happiness that I desire? Our being cries out for meaning, for purpose, and, if we are honest with ourselves, for love. God has not left us alone. He has heard our cries for love, for mercy, for justice, for beauty, for goodness, for truth. And he has loved us so much that he has become man and dwelt among us. He has sent his son, Jesus Christ, as an answer to human longing. Christ instituted the priesthood so that we would not be alone. It is the priest who makes present Christ himself in the Eucharist through the daily offering of Holy Mass. It is the priest who leads men and women to God. The world needs priests, because ultimately the world needs Christ.

Everyone has a call from God. Big or small, we all have an important role to play in the kingdom of God. Are you ready to answer Him?

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18th May 2014 (A)

5th Sun of Easter

1ST READING: Acts 6:1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

2ND READING: Peter 2:4-9

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

GOSPEL: John 14:1-12

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; he who lives in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, alleluia!

WEEKEND MASS TIMES:

Sat. Vigil: 5pm

Sunday: 8am, 9:30am & 5pm

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 7:30am

Wed: 6pm

Fri: 9:15am

Sat: 9:15am (Stn Cross Hostel)

HOLY HOUR: Wed: 5pm

RECONCILIATION:

Wed: 5:15 – 5:45pm

Sat: 4:15 – 4:45pm

BAPTISMS:

Sundays 9:30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PROGRAMME &

WEDDINGS:

By appointment

ANOINTING MASS:

Quarterly: 1st weekend

1ST SAT OF EACH MONTH:

11am Mass in honour of Our Lady.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAMME:

100% tax deductible. Please join by contacting parish office.

FAITH FORMATION:

Sundays 3:30pm (in presbytery)

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am to 2:30pm

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 9:15am: †John Lia

Sat Vigil: †Keith Cook

Sun 8am: †John Heaney

Sun 9:30am: †Salvatore Blanco

Sun 5pm: †John Bevan

Mon: Sam Fayad (Int)

Tue: †Delia & Josephine McShane

Wed: †John Heaney

Thur: †Martin Clara

OUR SICK: *Marie Busuttill, Pat Raby, Maria De Andrade, Mollie Burgess, Patricia Flannery, Josephine Helback, Carmella Cicciari, Joy Williams, Moira Butler, Domenico Cirillo and Jenny Yong*

Accommodation still available in Foley Gardens. Please call Fr. Jerzy on 93491292 or 0411125357 and you will be referred for further details to Mr. Robert O'Shea, the manager.

Happy Birthdays to: Patrick Youssef & Ray Licalalde (18th).

Parish School Centenary Mass: this Fri. 23rd May at 10am.

Fundraising Bake Sale: this weekend. Please support our young adults.

Formation & Training Workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy

Communion will be held in **our Parish Hall** on Tue 10th, 17th & 24th June from 7pm to 9pm. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in attending for registration forms.

Bishop Peter Comensoli invites all young adults to attend the **Annual Pentecost Catechesis** at St John's College, Univ. of Sydney on **Fri 6th Jun.** Theme: "Human Rights and Religious Freedom in Australia. For full programme and RSVP, email events@catholicyouthservices.org or phone 9764 4357

Holy Hour & BBQ with the seminarians: Sun 25th May 5pm at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd, Homebush. For more info, ring 93905970.

Sisters of Charity Outreach is seeking Volunteers for their Visiting Programme. For more info, ring Maria McNuff on 8382 6437 or mob: 0404 861 523.

Reminder: Sydney's Annual Procession of the Blessed Sacrament: Sun 22nd June from St Pat's Church Hill at 2:30pm. *The Book of Life is now available in the church foyer for your personal prayer intentions.*

This weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) S Kirpalani, R Williams (R) S Kim, Volunteer (C) G Guerrero (M)

8:00am: G Diab (A) M Marshiella, T Long (R) A Burke, Sr Betty (C) P Low (M)

9:30am: A Varghese (A) H Evening, S Gerakiteys (R) M Tjokrowidjaja (C) A Burton (M)

5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers **Counters:** B Dunn, H Morris

Next weekend: Vigil: J Haggar (A) Volunteers please (R) F & G Hogan (C) G Guerrero (M)

8:00am: G Diab (A) V Meyer, R Wijaya (R) P Chen, R Houghton (C) P Low (M)

9:30am: A Varghese (A) I Lie, J Lie (R) I Tjahjadi (C) A Burton (M)

5:00pm: R Yang (A), Volunteers please **Counters:** G Hogan

FORMATION/INFORMATION SESSIONS: 1) **Sun 25th May** - Infants' baptism preparation for parents and godparents from 3:30pm to 4:15pm.
2) **Sun 8th June** from 3:30pm to 4:30pm –Bible Timeline.
3) **Sun 15th June** from 3:30pm to 4:30pm – EPIC: Journey through church history.

The early Christian communities searched the Scriptures for passages that illuminated their understanding of the life, ministry and death of Jesus. Metaphors for Jesus abounded — body, high priest, rock, living water and in this passage, stone. Psalm 118 speaks of a stone rejected by the builders but later used as the cornerstone — perfect! But followers of Jesus are also stones — part of a new living temple built by God. We all share in the role of Jesus the Christ and the ministry of the people of God. Being chosen is always for service, not superiority or exclusion.



Confusion and anxiety reigned at the post-meal discourse by Jesus. The disciples were upset and afraid because He was leaving them. They could not quite understand His cryptic assurances that He was coming back for them and that they already knew the way to the Father. His insistence that He was the “way, the truth and the life” need not be taken in a dogmatic or exclusionary sense. The “formula” referred to Jesus Himself rather than institutional Christianity. The pattern of the life of Jesus — love, humility and submission to the will of God —

could be considered the path or way to God. Jesus is the truth in that He revealed the true nature of God, which is light and love, in a human form that humans could comprehend. He is life because He has the power of life within Him and the ability to grant eternal life.

SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

In our continuing catechesis on the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, we now turn to the gift of fortitude. We have seen that the first three gifts of the Spirit – wisdom, understanding and counsel – enable us to contemplate God's loving plan and to know his will. Through the gift of fortitude, we receive the strength to do God's will in spite of our own natural weakness and limitations. In the parable of the sower and the seed, Jesus teaches us that the seed of God's word sown in our hearts can encounter not only interior resistance, but also be choked by life's sufferings and trials. Through the gift of fortitude, the Holy Spirit enables us to remain faithful amid every difficulty and – as the experience of so many Christians around the world shows – even amid persecution and martyrdom. For most of us, the gift of fortitude is exercised in our patient pursuit of holiness in the circumstances of our daily lives. Whenever we feel weary or discouraged along the journey of faith, let us ask the Holy Spirit to grant us the gift of fortitude, to refresh us and to guide our steps with renewed enthusiasm. (Summery of the Pope Francis Catechesis on 14th May.)