

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year C

20th January 2019

Mary

The question is sometimes asked as to why the Catholic and Orthodox churches have such special devotion to Mary. The answer can be understood in the following way – Mary cooperated perfectly with the will of God and, as the mother of God's divine Son, was a person of purity, holiness and grace. Her life was unblemished in every respect. At Cana, when the wine was exhausted, it was upon Mary's intercession that Jesus worked his first miracle. It is for this reason that Mary is held by the Church as our primary intercessor. Similarly, it is very much within Catholic spirituality to ask Mary to receive our prayers and present them to her Son on our behalf. We can and should also pray directly to God, just as we do at Mass.



Australia Day 26th January



This coming Saturday is Australia Day and Mass will be celebrated at 9.00 AM with sacred music. Please be mindful that John Street outside the church could be blocked off because of community activities.

During Mass, some of the prayers that are specific to this celebration are particularly beautiful. The Opening Prayer – known as the Collect – reads as follows: *Grant we pray O Lord our God, that as the Cross shines in our southern skies so may Christ bring light to our nation, to its peoples old & new, & by saving grace, transform our lives.*

And the preface reads in part: *“.....for from ancient times you made this land a home for many peoples and became their rock of strength; when they were hungry you gave them food and when thirsty, water, even in the desert.”*

Vigil Mass 26 January

The celebrant will be **Bishop Brian Mascord**. During his first 12 months in the Wollongong Diocese, Bishop Brian has been travelling far & wide to meet as many people as possible and develop a stronger familiarity with his new home. May we extend to the Bishop our customary hospitality.

Saturday Morning Confession ~ 26th

Because of the Australia Day Mass at 9:00 AM with sacred music, and the local civil festivities with parking limitations, there will be no confessions next week on Saturday 26th. The normal arrangements will apply from the following weekend. Thanks



Mass for Teachers and Ancillary Personnel ~ Tuesday 29 January

Advance notice is provided that our teachers and ancillary personnel at St Paul's, Mater Dei, St Clare's and Magdalene will be returning to work after a well-earned and much needed holiday which began only a few days before Christmas. To begin the school year, Mass will be celebrated in the parish church at **8:30 AM**. All our parishioners are invited to be present and offer prayerful support. Mass will include sacred music and a homily. There will be no 9:00 AM Mass at Camden on this day.



Australasian Catholic Record

The Reverend Dr Gerard Kelly, Editor of the Australasian Catholic record, is seeking to widen the circulation of this periodical which is now in its 96th year of production. Over the years, the many editions have provided articles of interest in the life of the church. It has covered a wide range of topics and would be of usefulness to anyone with an interest in theology and philosophy. In the most recent edition there was an excellent article on Catholic schools. More next week.