



large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Note the disciples' reaction to the plight of the hungry crowd: 'Send the people away so that they can buy.' The disciples have gone for the fix which puts no responsibility on them. They are willing to entrust the hungry crowd to market forces. Those with money can eat: those without, can't. For the disciples, money and commerce are the answers to hunger.

Jesus rejects that solution. 'There is no need for them to go; give them something to eat yourselves.' The solution to the hunger of that crowd was to give generously what little the disciples had. What they could have kept for themselves was to become gift. Once the disciples were in Jesus' frame of mind, the hunger of the crowd was satisfied. How did this come about? The answer lay in human cooperation with the impulse of Divine generosity which knows no limits. The story simply says that Jesus blessed and broke the loaves 'and handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowd.' Jesus depended on the disciples to obey him: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'.

Jesus still looks with gut-wrenching compassion on those who are hungry in our own society and throughout the world. If we answer that market forces will suffice, Jesus will reject our answer as decisively as he rejected the answer of his earliest disciples. We have to take responsibility to share what we have, to be generous with what we have. After all, Jesus, Our Lord and Master, commands us: 'Give them something to eat yourselves'. Note how Jesus blessed those loaves and broke them before they were distributed, which reminds us of the words of Pedro Arrupe, former General of the Jesuits, 'Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in the world.'

We could pause for a moment at Mass to ask: Who are those hungry people crowding in on us, and then pray that we may respond to them as our Lord commanded, so that the hungers of the crowd, and our hunger to really follow our Lord, will be satisfied.

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The Living Word

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

2 August 2020

First Reading Is 55:1-3

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
 though you have no money, come!
 Buy corn without money, and eat,
 and, at no cost, wine and milk.
 Why spend money on what is not bread,
 your wages on what fails to satisfy?
 Listen, listen to me and you will have
 good things to eat
 and rich food to enjoy.
 Pay attention, come to me;
 listen, and your soul will live.
 With you I will make an everlasting
 covenant
 out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

*(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us:
 he answers all our needs.*

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
 slow to anger, abounding in love.
 How good is the Lord to all,
 compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
 and you give them their food in due time.
 You open wide your hand,
 grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
 and loving in all his deeds.
 He is close to all who call him,
 call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 8:35. 37-39

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ. Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!

*No one lives on bread alone,
 but on every word that comes from the
 mouth of God.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 14:13-21

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a

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HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

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Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Mon 8:30am, Tues 7:00pm, Wed 8:30am, Thur 8:30am, Fri 7:00am,
Sat 8:30am. **Public Holidays 8:30am**

Reconciliation: Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next Week: 19th Ordinary (A) 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:22-33.

Fr Stan writes ...

Today we jump ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel to Chapter 14, to the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Jesus' blessing brought abundance from the meagre provisions of the disciples. In this action, Jesus offers us a sign of the Kingdom of Heaven that he has been teaching about in the parables. A feast results from the smallest of portions—remember the mustard seed and the yeast. In this miracle we witness an example for Christian life and ministry. Even the smallest of offerings can produce abundant results when placed in the service of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Again, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, I would like to emphasise that you please follow the instructions imposed by the State Government as you come to church. 100 people are now allowed at each Mass, whilst maintaining the required physical distancing. Each must register their name and contact details clearly as well as following the hygiene requirements by sanitising hands. Also, it is very important that as you leave the church after Mass, you maintain the physical distancing particularly if you are congregating outside. We continue to pray for an end to this pandemic!



FIRST FRIDAY Mass & Devotions this coming Friday

7th August will be live streamed from 8:00pm.

Church will be opened for a maximum of 100 people to attend.

www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au

Our Flame Gift Shop is OPEN! Check out the great selection of cards and gifts for all occasions. Come in and visit us and see our range of sacramental and general gifts. There is something for everyone. All proceeds benefit our parish!



Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop on Saturday 8th August – Australian National Patronal Feast.

Mass in our parish at 8:30am

Mary MacKillop Feast on Saturday 8th August 2020, Mary MacKillop Place will be **CLOSED**. Mass in the Mary MacKillop Memorial Chapel will be **livestreamed at 10:00am 8th August** followed by a time of prayer at the tomb. The details will be posted on the website www.marymackillopplace.org.au

*Vinnies is proud to announce the launch of the **Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP)** for students in Years 4 – 6, who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. For more information please go to <https://bit.ly/MVFPinfo>*

*This is the link to the **Vinnies Metropolitan Schools July 2020 Newsletter:** <https://bit.ly/VinniesMetroSchoolsNewsletter2020Term3>*



Congratulations to Fr George Gorzkowski as he celebrates the 13th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood on 4th August.

Fr George, we remember the great celebration we had here at Holy Spirit North Ryde when you were ordained. We continue to pray for you and thank you for your ministry in our parish.

Are you struggling in this time of crisis?



Depression. Anxiety. Loneliness. Conflict. Stress.

CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. **For help finding help, call CCareline on 13 18 19**



Prayer to St Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil, may God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING: Dorota Gorzkowski.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Nella Mazzulla, Ekaterini Limperopoulos, Gina Rubino, Tom Gaha, Clarence (Tony) Furtado, Donato Mallari recently deceased.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, Orlando Dalumpines, Adelia Stanley and the deceased members of the Zammit and Zahra families.