



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The prophet Isaiah had drafted a manifesto for divine action in the world. Jesus of Nazareth is divine action in the world, and no doubt his fellow villagers in Nazara would have been thrilled that one of theirs would 'set the downtrodden free'.

But, in proclaiming 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', Jesus inaugurated a revolutionary phase within the Jewish tradition. He invited people to *relax*!! Holiness is not a matter of our *striving*, but of *accepting* that we are *accepted* by the All Merciful God. Good works should follow in response, but good works don't gain our acceptance by God.

How does one best show acceptance of someone, forgiveness of someone, friendship with someone? One relaxes over a meal together. This was Jesus' characteristic way of embodying Divine Acceptance in our world. It still is.

We might pause for a moment to relax into the saving fact that we exist in 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', that this acceptance is signified and effected by our sharing in the Bread of Life and the Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion which gives us the energy to help make Divine Acceptance a reality for others.

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Gospel Acclamation See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

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The Living Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

23 January 2022

First Reading Neh 8:2-6, 8-10

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

- The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
- The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
- The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)

- May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 12:12-30 or 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27 (shorter form)

Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. If the foot were to say, 'I am not a hand and so I do not belong to the body', would that mean that it stopped being part of the body? If the ear were to say, 'I am not an eye, and so I do not belong to the body,' would that mean that it is not a part of the body? If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything?

Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you.'

What is more, it is precisely the parts of the body that seem to be the weakest which are the indispensable ones; and it is the least honourable parts of the body that we clothe with the greatest care. So our more improper parts get decorated in a way that our more proper parts do not need. God has arranged the body so that more dignity is given to the parts which are without it, and so that there may not be disagreements inside the body, but that each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it. In the Church, God has given the first place to apostles, the second to prophets, the third to teachers; after them, miracles, and after them the gift of healing; helpers, good leaders, those with many languages. Are all of them apostles, or all of them prophets, or all of them teachers? Do they all have the gift of miracles, or all have the gift of healing? Do all speak strange languages, and all interpret them?



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

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Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel
(Michaelite Fathers)



. Catherine

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(23 January 2022) Web: www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au

Michaelite Community: Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.
Spanish Speaking Mass 12:30pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday Communion Service 8:30am
Tuesday - Saturday 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: 4th Ordinary C: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13; Luke 4:21-30

Fr Stan writes ...

Today we read in the Gospel that as Jesus stands in the synagogue, he reads from the scroll handed to him; it contains the words of the prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in his ministry, Jesus announces his mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus' ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus' ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in his life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit so that the Kingdom of God can be fulfilled. The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to the Church. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did—bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed—we serve the Kingdom of God.

Join us for the **Australia Day Mass on Wednesday 26th January at 8:30am**. It is good for us to stop and give thanks for God's many gifts to us in this Blessed Great South Land of the Holy Spirit.



God Bless
Australia

**Australia Day Mass on Wednesday
26th January at 8:30am – all welcome!**

The Australian National Flag Prayer

Almighty God, the father of creation and the sovereign ruler of the nations, we thank you for your many blessings upon the people of Australia.

Our trust is in your protection and power, as symbolised in the crosses of St. George, St Andrew and St Patrick, the Commonwealth Star representing the states and territories, and

the Southern Cross, an emblem of our land.

May our flag continue to enshrine our belief in the importance of democracy, the rule of law, and our friendship with people of other nations.

We pray that this flag of stars and crosses will continue to inspire unity of purpose for all Australians.

Give us grace to work together for the welfare of each other and with compassion to serve those in special need.

Inspire us with a vision for the future, expressing our concern to live in harmony with our families and with people of other cultures.

Enable us to extend our love without prejudice to all people everywhere, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN



SUMMER HOLIDAYS WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Throughout January 2022.

Monday 8:30am (Communion Service)

Tuesday – Saturday Mass 8:30am.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays and First
Friday Devotions and Mass will resume in February.**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults [RCIA] program is currently running in our parish. We have a number of Catechumens (unbaptised), and a number of Candidates (previously baptised in another Christian denomination), preparing for baptism and reception into the Catholic Church. We have a Catechumen whose first language is Mandarin. It would be helpful if a person that speaks Mandarin could join the team to assist her learning of our Catholic faith. Please call the parish office if you can help.

Do you need help finding help in the Ryde area?

A community care worker has joined Holy Spirit Parish, North Ryde and St Charles Borromeo, Ryde for help and referrals to services concerned with relationships, parenting, ageing, disability, addiction and mental health.



Call to make an appointment

131819

CatholicCare.org

connect@catholiccare.org

8am – 6pm Monday – Friday



We welcome into our Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism Mateo Dela Cruz Aguilar and congratulate his family.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Antonio Coluccio, Maria Gloria Fisher (Archbishop Anthony's mother), Josefa Odizygozdz (Wiech), Souheil Malek recently deceased.

Also, the Escalante & Venal families, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Carmela, Angelo, Paul Scicluna, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank lentile, Maria lentile, John, Annarita, Antonio lentile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, lentile, 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, Andrea Brajic, Thanasin Tranchaoren, Luz Inaldo, Robert Portus, Andres Siochi, Anna Siochi, Jacinto Lopez, Lino Cremasco, Bruna Zamboni, Catherine & Fred Assender.