

ST.ALOYSIUS GONZAGA Catholic Parish of Cronulla

Incorporating: Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena

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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time ... Year B

Rabbi, where do you live?

Last Monday, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, when the Church recognises that Our Lord Jesus Christ was revealed as the Son of God; as the One sent by the Father to redeem his people, and the one in whom God the Father was "well pleased". The Gospel for that Mass instructed us to "listen to him", that is, to listen not just with our ears, but to 'hear' Jesus by striving to really understand, and to live his Divine teaching in our lives. The Solemnity of the Lord's Baptism is also closely linked with another great feast day, that is, the Epiphany, which we celebrated last Sunday. The Epiphany is another feast of the Church, which recognises the same revelation, manifestation and showing forth of Jesus to the world, as at his Baptism. However the setting is very different from the Baptism scene; our Lord is a small child and laid in the manger, worshipped by the shepherds, by Mary and Joseph and by the three wise men. Yet, in the Baptism scene, our Lord is a grown man, mature, and ready to begin his public ministry.



The Gospel reading for this Sunday's Mass follows immediately upon the account of the Lord's Baptism, where Jesus now begins his apostolic life, but it is not he who issues an invitation for others to follow him and become his disciples. It is St John the Baptist, the one who has prepared the way, who called to conversion; the one who was baptising on the bank of the Jordan River, who points out Jesus to his own Disciples, and bids them to turn and follow him. One of these new Disciples of Jesus is St Andrew, and the other although not named, has been traditionally understood as St John himself, the writer of this Gospel passage.

Discipleship at this very early stage of Jesus' public ministry, simply means following him. Before long, however, our Lord turns and looks steadily at these men who follow him, and he asks them a very basic yet hard-hitting question "What are you looking for?". Our Lord asks US this question too, every day. What are we looking for? What do we search for and long for in our lives? Do the lives we lead, the things that we seek and search for, and spend so much time doing, really fulfil us and satisfy our genuine needs?

Yet, these new Disciples, St Andrew and St John, find it difficult to answer this question of the Lord, because they do not really understand what it is about Jesus that has attracted them. That is, they do not understand yet! And so they simply answer our Lord with yet another question – "Where do you live". They do not mean just the physical place; the street number and address of the Lord's residence, but they seek to understand him; to know him, and then in turn to understand why they are attracted to him. Only the one who truly accompanies the Lord throughout their lives, can really begin to know him in this way. Although our faith is perfectly reasonable and can be studied in great theological depth, our faith is not ultimately an academic exercise. We cannot sit on the side lines, sitting "on the fence" if you like, and understand who Jesus is. We can only begin to understand him if we truly FOLLOW him, by spending time with him in our prayer.

And so these new Apostles follow the Lord and spend the afternoon with him. Can we ever imagine what those hours must have been like? They would have eaten with him, talked things out, and expressed their hopes and desires, and the Lord would have responded with absolute clarity, with stunning and profound vision, and he would have read deeply into the very depths of their souls, to see who they were too. And so their formation, their training and preparation had begun, for the mission and ministry that the Lord would establish among his people, that is, to establish the life of the Holy Catholic Church, that Body that he would found, to continue his teaching over the ages.

St John the Baptist points out the Lord to us as well. He is that herald, who over the weeks of Advent and Christmastide, as we have read through and pondered the Scriptures of those seasons, has gradually prepared us to follow. And so the Lord bids us turn and walk after him, seeking to know where he lives in OUR LIVES. The Lord's "house", his "residence" is not far from us, or at least, it shouldn't be. That place where he is to dwell, and the place where we spend time with him, just like his new Disciples, is to be a place in our lives. And so, we are challenged to come back to our faith, if we have left it. To renew our commitment to Sunday Mass, each and every Sunday, and to daily personal prayer and meditation, within the context of our daily living. This is how we 'turn and follow', and find out where Jesus 'lives', for us.

One beautiful form of prayer that I deeply encourage you to consider praying, to find and encounter the Lord more deeply in your lives, prayed as a family or by yourself, is the Holy Rosary. It is a beautiful prayer that reflects and ponders the very mysteries that we have begun to celebrate: the Lord's Annunciation and Birth, and then shortly into his Suffering and Death, and then to his Resurrection and Ascension. If you have not prayed the Rosary for a long time, I encourage you to give it another try, and to experience the peace and joy that Mary herself experienced in living with her Son, and of bringing him forth into the world.

.....Fr Andrew Benton

RESPONSES FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Entrance Antiphon:

May all the earth give you worship and praise, and break into song to your name, O God, Most High

Responsorial:

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation:

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. **ALLELUIA!**

First Reading:

Samuel e: 3-10. 19

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening

Second Reading:

Corinthians 6: 13-15. 17-20

The bodies are members of the body of Christ.

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord has prepared a feast for me: given wine in plenty for me to drink.



CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday:	No Notices
Tuesday:	Memorial of St Anthony, Abbot. The Legion of Mary meet in the Madden Room at 4.00pm.
Wednesday:	Care and Concern: There will be a Coffee Morning at the Coffee Shop at Monro Park Lane (All Welcome) 10.00am.
Thursday:	Fr Andrew Benton's BIRTHDAY
Friday:	No Notices
Saturday:	Memorial of St Agnes, virgin, martyr. Mass at St Aloysius' Church. 8.00am Vigil Mass of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B. Mass at St Aloysius' Church 6.00pm.
Sunday:	Masses of the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B. Masses at St Aloysius' Church: 8.00am, 10.00am and 6.00pm. Mass at Our Lady of the Way Church: 9.00am



FATHER ANDREW

This Thursday Father Andrew will celebrate another birthday. We wish him a very Happy Day!

This Week in the Catholic Weekly ::

- Catholic call to Govt over aged-care reform
- Troubled path to harmony in the Holy land - Maronite prelate
- Sisters celebrate 120 years
- Fresh light on authenticity of the Shroud
- Hills alive with St Peter's music
- Call to fight slaughter of 'war in the womb'

CANCELLATION OF MONDAY MORNING MASS AT ST ALOYSIUS' CHURCH

We have received advice from our new Parish Priest, Fr. Tom Carroll, that it will be necessary to cancel all regular Monday morning Masses at St Aloysius Gonzaga Church, Cronulla, effective from and including Monday 9th January 2012.

Fr. Tom Carroll is required to be away on many Mondays of the Year, teaching courses to students for the priesthood and with other important Diocesan commitments. Similarly, Fr Andrew is not always available on Mondays to celebrate the Parish Mass, and hence it is not possible to provide a consistent Mass for Monday mornings, going ahead. For a public Parish Mass to be scheduled, it must be consistently celebrated each week, and by a priest appointed to the Parish, otherwise it leads to endless confusion.

There is a 7.00am Monday morning Mass celebrated at the Caringbah Parish (Our Lady of Fatima, 389 Port Hacking Road, Caringbah), for those who wish to travel the short distance to that Mass. Otherwise, Parishioners are very welcome to come and pray in the Church on Monday mornings, and to participate in a Communion/Prayer Service at 7.00am, lead by our Parish Acolytes or Senior Servers.

The Church will be locked after the Monday morning Communion Service/prayers, to maintain the security and safety of our parish church while unattended but will remain open during the other days of the week

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this change in our Mass schedule.

SEE BACK PAGE FOR OTHER WEEKDAY MASS TIME CHANGES FOR THE TIME BEING

CONGRATULATIONS Ron & Thelma Stannard



Wedding bells rung out from St Patrick's Church, Kogarah, on Saturday 12th January, 1952 as young Thelma Heber walked down the aisle to greet her future husband, Ron Stannard. Fr Danny McAuliffe was the priest who would celebrate the Nuptial Mass on this wonderful occasion.

On behalf of all your friends in our parish we wish you both had many of God's Blessings on that wonderful day of your 60th Wedding Anniversary last Thursday. Your family will gather around you, along with as many friends in the parish, who can be present at the 6.00pm VIGIL MASS ON SATURDAY 11th FEBRUARY TO CELEBRATE THIS OCCASION.

You both have been very supportive of the many Works in our parish and others outside the parish since you both arrived in Cronulla in 1954. We pray the Blessed Teresa of Calcutta is looking down on you both with love in her eyes for your wonderful work on her behalf in Australia.

PLEASE BEAR WITH US :::::

On the 27th January, Fr. Tom Carroll will be taking up residence at St Aloysius Parish, as our new Parish Priest. We extend our prayers and support to him, as he takes on this new and different opportunity in his priestly life.

It will take a little while to get to know our new Parish Priest, but Father has asked that we continue to be supportive of our Parish, during his time of moving and adjusting to Cronulla. Each Parish is very different, even across the suburbs of Sydney, and it will take Fr. Tom a little while to become used to life at Cronulla. So it is very important that we all strive to be understanding and patient if Masses or other Parish activities need to be temporarily altered and adjusted. Fr. Tom certainly recognises that such changes are sometimes difficult, but also necessary in these situations.

So please be patient, and soon we will have our new Parish Priest, and we will be able to plan for the future life of our Parish and our people here in Cronulla and Bundeena.

I wish you God's blessings for the New Year, to your families and loved ones.

.....Fr. Andrew Benton

**ALL PARISHIONERS INVITED TO A THANKSGIVING MASS AND FAREWELL SUPPER
FOR FATHER THOMAS KURUNTHANAM. PP.
FRIDAY 24th FEBRUARY, 2012, 7.00pm AT ST ALOYSIUS' CHURCH**

Rev Mr SAM LYNCH A new deacon! :::::

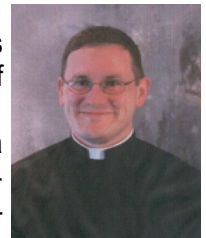
On Saturday 10th December, 2011, Sam Lynch prostrated himself before the altar in St Mary's Cathedral to be ordained to the Diaconate by His Eminence George Cardinal Pell, the Archbishop of Sydney, along with three other candidates.

What led this man to a life serving God, eventually as a priest? Sam says he remembers having a calling to the priesthood when he was about 13 or 14. He was at the Christian Brothers College at Lewisham and a newly ordained priest came to say Mass for the students. "and it was during that time I particularly remember experiencing a call to serve God in some way", he said. "Later it became clearer to me in what way. I did think a lot about the priesthood and explored the possibility when I was in University. Ultimately the idea of priesthood kept on coming to me quite forcefully."

Sam went to Cologne (Germany) for the World Youth Day in 2005 and attended a catechesis session on 'Commitment in Life'. "It was there I found a sensation of great freedom and realised that all the reasons I had for putting it off weren't reasons but excuses", he said. "So I decided to take the plunge!"

Sam took encouragement from the cardinal's homily on the night of his ordination to the diaconate in which he acknowledged that seminary life provides many challenges. "Cardinal Pell talked about the seminary being a purifying time; you get the edges knocked off you basically." said Sam. "He acknowledged the seminary can be difficult, particularly in facing up to things about yourself that you need to discover and be aware of, and overcome. Just acknowledging that process can be hard was much appreciated by me and the other seminarians."

We in the parish of Cronulla congratulate you Deacon Sam on your decision to 'take the plunge', as you said; and thank God for steering you in our direction to be with us until you reach the goal of your life this year A PRIEST OF GOD!



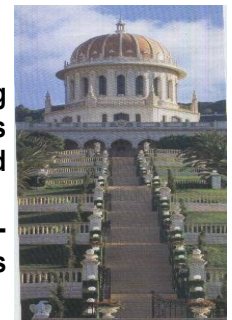
A PILGRIMAGE

To the Holy Land via Bangkok IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

Book now to reserve your place on this wonderful tour of the Holy Land, leaving Sydney on Saturday 14th April, 2012, and returning on Friday 27th April, 2012. 14 days and 13 nights (3 days of which will be touring Bangkok and Pataya) of sightseeing and experiencing being in places where Jesus stood during His ministry on earth.

The cost of the tour is AUD\$5,500 which includes airfares, twin share accommodation, most meals, all transports, entry visa to Israel, tour guide and entrance fees. Does not include Tips and extra personal expense.

For further information on itinerary and booking, contact X. MAI (Vince) on 0403241703.



Acolytes, Communion Ministers and Readers of the Word :::::

Your Roster for the months of February, March and April will be made up this week. This roster includes Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies. If you will NOT be available at any time during this period it would be appreciated if you would phone Vicki Rolland early this week on (m) 0414523449.

Ministerial Duties Next Weekend 21st & 22nd January.							DIRECTORY	
Masses Cronulla	Vigil Mass Saturday 6.00pm	8.00 am Sunday	10.00 am Sunday	6.00 pm Sunday	Bundeena Sunday 9.00am	Nursing Home		
Acolyte & Adult Server	R. Driscoll	V. Steed	F. O'Driscoll	M. Sakowciz		F. O'Driscoll	Pastor..... Rev Dr Thomas Carroll Email ... Assistant Priest Fr Andrew Benton Email andrewbenton@stalcron.org.au Deacon..... Sam Lynch Pastoral Associate..Mrs Cathy Sammut Parish Centre18 Giddings Ave, CRONULLA 2230 SecretaryMrs Kim Plummer Office Hours 9.00 am to 3.00 pm Monday to Friday Phone 8522 0300 Fax9544 1451 Email..... admin@stalcron.org.au Internet Website www.stalcron.org.au Bulletin.....Mr Ken Maughan Phone9523 1357 Email bulletin@stalcron.org.au	
Communion Ministers	J. McDonald M. Boyd J. Kennedy J. Buhagiar	M. Hennessy R. Winton F. Schembri A. Cimino	R. McCabe R. Natoli M. Loxley A. Palumbo	C. Sammut L. Ison P. Morris L. Overton				
Ministers Of the Word	J. Kennedy M. Boyd	R. Winton J. Gallagher	G. Hetherington. M. Loxley	C. Snow P. Woods	B. Maughan B. Shanahan			
Commentator	J. McDonald	V. Rolland	A. Zammit	L. Wright	K. Plumer			
Junior Altar Servers					Church Work B. Phillis			
Parish Counting Groups	This Week Group 1 G. Neville, J. O'Neill, J. Kennedy, R. Schacrcr		Next Week Group 2 B. McWilliams, C. Sola, K & B. Burke.			The Prayer Tree Can you please pray for someone who needs your prayers? Phone Jane on 9527 9964		SCHOOLS St Aloysius Primary 9523 2593 St. Francis de Sales Primary9523 7323 O.L.M.C Burraneer 9544 1966 De La Salle, Caringbah9524 9133

Mass and other Liturgical Schedules

Sunday:

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena:

Vigil Mass: 6.00pm. (Saturday). 8.00am, 10.00am, 6.00pm

Sunday Mass 9.00am

Weekdays: This week:

St Aloysius Church, Cronulla:

Monday: **(No Mass)** 7.00am **Communion/Prayer Service**

Mass Wednesday & Friday: 7.00am Only

Mass Tuesday & Thursday: 9.30am Only

Mass Saturday: 8.00am

St Francis de Sales School, Woolooware: **No Mass during school holidays.**

Sacrament of Penance (Confession) St Aloysius Church, Cronulla: Saturday 5.00pm to 5.30pm

(or by appointment)

Our Lady of the Way Church, Bundeena: Before Sunday Mass..

Baptisms: By appointment. **Morning Prayer:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday 6.45 am..

Rosary: After the weekday Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction: First Friday of the month: 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm.

Anointing of the Sick in Mass: 1st Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, December. Mass at 10.00am

Anointing of the sick as required in the home or church. Please contact the Parish Centre.



We pray for the repose of the souls of **Stephen Filan and John Sidgreves who died recently, also for Ken Bowen** whose anniversary occurs around this time. Let us also remember our relatives and friends who have departed this life, especially Diana Casaceli, Jean & Jim Quinn, Eric & Kathleen James, Jean Givney, Allan Howarth, Megan Howarth, Brian Small.

MAY THEIR SOULS AND ALL THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED REST IN PEACE

Your Contribution to the Church is your appreciation for your Parish. To become a regular contributor please fill in this slip and return it to the Parish Office or place it on the Sunday Collection Plate.

Planned Giving Envelope Request Form

Name.....Telephone Number

Address