



Saint Mary MacKillop Parish Western Border

Comprising the communities of Apsley, Balmoral, Casterton, Coleraine, Dunkeld, Edenhope, Glenthompson, Goroke, Hamilton, Harrow, Macarthur, Peshurst and Tarrayoukyan.

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

3 September 2023

First Reading Jer 20:7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,

imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. *(R.)*
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. *(R.)*
3. So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. *(R.)*
4. For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. *(R.)*

Second Reading Rom 12:1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled

by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

Gospel Acclamation See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope

to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?'

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel is the first of three predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew's gospel (see also Mark and Luke). Despite Peter's confession of faith that immediately precedes this passage (see last week's gospel), the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion - his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. One can almost hear Peter saying, 'Look, Jesus, you've got a good thing going here, don't spoil it by talking about dying!' However, Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom.

The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' - to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be selfless, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus - to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life.

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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the Gunditjmarra people.

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Office Address: 23 Dinwoodie St, HAMILTON
Weekend Mass Times @ Hamilton: 6pm Sat & 10:30am Sun
Weekday Mass Times @ Hamilton: Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri @ 10am .
Reconciliation (Confession): Sat. 5.30pm & after weekday Mass

We are a Child Safe Parish. Child Safe Officer: John Hockey 0439 319 823
<http://westernborder.church/child-safe-policy-and-protocol/>

ST MARY'S PRIMARY, HAMILTON
Principal: Mrs Terrielynn Groves
Phone: (03) 5551 9000

ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY, PENSURST
Principal: Darren Lloyd
Phone: (03) 5576 5438

MONIVAE COLLEGE, HAMILTON
Principal: Jonathan Rowe
Phone: (03) 5551 1200

www.westernborder.church

Country Mass Schedule

St Joseph's Penshurst

	1 st Sun	2 nd Sun	3 rd Sun	4 th Sun	5 th Sun
Penshurst 8:30am	No Service	Mass	SAWC	Mass	Mass
Dunkeld 8:30am	Mass	No Service	Mass	SAWC	No Service (To Hamilton)
Glenthompson 8:30am	SAWC	Mass	No Service	Mass	No Service (To Hamilton)

Sunday 10 September	
Lector	Brendan Kelly
Prayers	Don Adamson
Gifts	Anita Holmes
Special Minister	Helen Brown
Leader	
Communion to Hospital	

Macarthur - 1st Sunday of each Month, Uniting Church @ 8.30am.

Weekday Masses @ St Mary's Hamilton:
Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri. @ 10am.
Confession after all weekday Masses
& 5.30 Sat. evenings.

Ministry Roster if you are unavailable for your ministry please try to arrange swap & advise office of change

	2 & 3 September Ministers of Communion	9 & 10 September Ministers of Communion
6:00pm	Annette Mason	Karen Barker
10:30am	T Hurley & M Cook	F Soulsby & P Stanhope.
The Grange	Margaret Roberts	

Date	Open & Welcoming	Cuppa	Computer	Commentator	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading
02/09	Karen Brewis	Noreen McLeish	Jacinta Ryan	Karen Brewis	Noreen McLeish	Kerry Stevens
03/09	Carolyn Stanhope	A & D Slattery	Carolyn	Carmel Schlaghecke	Trish Irving	Helen Tripovich
09/09	Paoline Kelly	Kylie Anne & Trish Shanahan	Paoline Kelly	Kerry Stevens	Terrielynn Groves	Fiona Marie
10/09	Franks Soulsby	M Patience & T Irving	Carolyn Stanhope	Franks Soulsby	Ursula Murphy	Richard Murphy

Saint Mary MacKillop Parish



SEASON OF CREATION

Let Justice and Peace Flow" is the theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos:

"Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:24).



The evocative image used by Amos speaks to us of what God desires. God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God's children made in his likeness as water is essential for our physical survival. This justice must flow forth wherever it is needed, neither remaining hidden deep beneath the ground nor vanishing like water that evaporates before it can bring sustenance. God wants everyone to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to his laws and thus to enable life to flourish. When we "seek first the kingdom of God" (Mt 6:33), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures.

Our Parish Collections

1st Collection: Priests' Support: \$ 575.
2nd Collection: Stewardship Given YTD:\$
2022 FY Full Year Pledged:\$131,856

Western Border Parish Mission Outreach Mission Donations made this financial year to date.

Sr Lourdes—Kenya Mission \$ 6,500.
Sr Stella's—India Mission \$6,500.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

DEATHS:

Michael Phillips.

Our prayers and condolences are with Sherry and families.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Anthony Mooney, Robert Tierney, Ruby Mahoney, Allan Johnson, Joyce Brooker, Lorna Schultz, Mary Penington, Basil Jeffreys, John Burrow, Tony Ryan, Peter Dickie, Ellen McIntosh.

SICK:

Lynda Freeman.

..... A Prayer for FATHER'S DAY

Gracious God,
Bless father's
and all father figures
with such love
and faithfulness that children flourish
and grow in joy.
Bless those who long to be fathers
and those for whom this day is difficult.
AMEN.

PRAYER

Transform us, O God,
by the renewal of our minds,
that we may not be conformed to this world
or seduced by human standards of
success.

But as true disciples
may we discern
how good and pleasing it is to you
for us to deny ourselves,
take up the cross,
and follow in the footsteps
of Christ your Son.

AMEN.

50th
WEDDING
Anniversary
CONGRATULATIONS
KERYN & ANDY
GORDON.

Pope's prayer intention:

SEPTEMBER | For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.



Sunday 17 Sept.

5-6pm

**St Mary's Catholic Church
Hamilton.**

The Australian Boys Choir is embarking on its 2023 tour to Western Victoria and is thrilled to be singing in Hamilton.

This concert features pianist Timothy Mallis and is conducted by ABCI

Artistic Director Nicholas Dinopoulos.

Tickets

General Admission \$35

Concession \$25

Child (under 12) free

**Tickets at the door
or book ahead @**

www.australianboyschoir.com.au



Fr Paddy

is going on Sabbatical Leave for 10 weeks.

By the blessing of God and the generosity of the Ballarat Diocese, I have been granted Sabbatical Leave from Sunday, September 10, to Friday, November 24.

During that time, I am joining an Ignatian group of 16, walking the Ignatian Camino in the footsteps of St Ignatius, founder of the Jesuits, over 20 days and 400 kilometres. (It is exactly 10 years since I did this same Pilgrimage)

It is as much an inner spiritual journey with talks and readings to ponder while walking, with Eucharist and shared reflections in the evenings.

I also hope to visit and spend time with Jesuit, Fr Jaime Flaquer in Granada, in the south of Spain, who had spent a month with us here in Hamilton around 2010, leading the Retreat in Daily Life.

I conclude the Sabbatical with a week's Meditation Retreat at the World Centre for Christian Meditation in France, led by Archbishop Rohan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury.)

In between for two weeks, I am joining two of my sisters who serendipitously are in Europe at the same time.

Please pray for me that I may utilise this time of grace as much as is feasible

and return home safely, renewed and refreshed!

Fr Paddy.