SECOND READING: **1 Corinthians 7:32-35**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **Matthew 4:16**

Alleluia, alleluia!
A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: **Mark 1:21-28**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching

made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

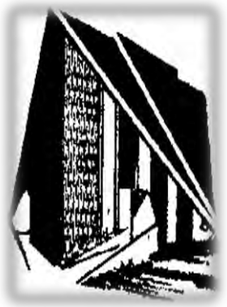
Job: 7: 1-4,6-7;
1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23;
Mk 1: 29-39.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or by calling (02) 9390 5810.

Mobile phones at Mass.

To maintain a spirit of reverence and solemnity, please turn off and refrain from using all mobile telephones and other electronic devices during Mass.



PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE

Presbytery and Office
8 Inkerman Rd, Denistone 2114 Tel: 9809 2925
Website: www.sttherese.org.au
Parish Priest: Fr Roberto Castillo
Deacon: Rev Mr Aruna Perera
Parish Secretary: Gayle White admin@sttherese.org.au
Office hours Tues-Fri 9am-3pm
St Therese's School
448 Blaxland Rd, Denistone 2114 (02) 9874 0412

MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY VIGIL:	6:00 pm.
SUNDAY:	8:00 am and 9.30am (changed to 10 am till further notice)
MONDAY:	No Mass.
TUESDAY through to SATURDAY:	9.00 am Mass.
FRIDAY:	9.00 am Mass.
	Exposition & Benediction every Friday after Mass.
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.
Baptism:	Every Sunday at 11am or 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.
Marriage:	By appointment.
Anointing of the sick:	Please give names to Father Roberto Castillo.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B)
30th / 31st January 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

FIRST READING: **Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: **Ps 94:1-2. 6-9**

RESPONSE: **If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **Response.**

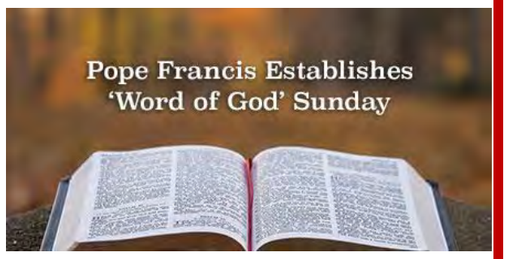
Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **Response.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'
Response.

(continued on back page)

‘Word of God’ Sunday next weekend.

On September 30, 2019, on the liturgical memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. In Australia the Bishops decided that we will celebrate ‘The Word of God’ on the first Sunday in February. To introduce this the Holy Father wrote Apostolic Letter, “Aperuit illis: Instituting the Sunday of the Word of God”. It is a beautiful letter encouraging us to love, study, revere and pray with the Word of God (The Bible) and reminds us of its supernatural power. In a beautiful paragraph he said:



“The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: ***“Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ”*** *(Commentary on Book of Isaiah, Prologue: PL 24,17B).”*

We will celebrate the ‘Word of God’ Sunday next weekend - the 6th and 7th of February.

Lent 2021.

As usual Lent begins with Ash Wednesday.
Ash Wednesday is on the 17th February.
Masses will be held here at Denistone at:
9am and 7.30pm.

A message from the Clergy Office.

The Congregation for the Divine Worship has issued a Note concerning the Imposition of Ashes in this time of pandemic.

For practical point of view, “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel” or “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return” will be said only once rather than repeating the formula to each person. Additionally this year the ashes will be distributed differently – Fr Roberto is still thinking through how to do this without touching people’s foreheads. One option is to sprinkle the ashes on your head OR dabbing the ashes on the forehead using swabs.

Pastorally, given that the usual practice in Australia is for the ashes to be daubed on the foreheads of the faithful in the form of a cross rather than sprinkled on the head. It could be helpful to read the following:

- The act of putting on ashes symbolizes fragility and mortality, and the need to be redeemed by the mercy of God. Far from being a merely external act, it symbolizes that attitude of internal penance to which all the baptised are called during Lent.
- The placing of ashes on top of the heads is the more ancient practice.
- It is common method in many parts of the world.
- In time of Covid19 it has the advantage of not requiring the priest to contact the skin of many people one after another, risking inadvertent infection
- The fact that the ashes are not readily visible to others is of no concern, since they are principally intended as a sign for the person receiving them and not for others.

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES:

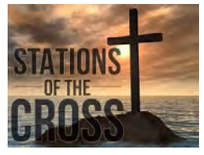
Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died especially Fr Isidore Anantharaj, Fr Barry Swift and Pasquale Simonetti. Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries at this time.

Covid19 Safe directions as at 28th January 2021.

- Parishes still have to observe the 4m² rule with respect to the numbers allowed to attend Mass.
  Our church limit remains at 65 people.
- Masks are still compulsory and NSW Health can impose a $200 fine on each individual failing to abide by this rule.
  We are hoping this restriction will be removed soon, as it was removed from other venues.
  Some of us may have a lawful reason to be exempted from wearing a mask. If you have a lawful reason and are stopped by a regulatory officer in a setting where masks are mandatory, they will ask you to confirm the lawful reasons you are not wearing a face mask.
  Officers will only issue penalty notices if you clearly refuse to wear a mask without lawful reason.
- **QR codes are now available and should be used.**
  Please note we do request that even if you use the QR code, please also note “QR” on the attendance page where your name should have been recorded.
  This helps us to keep track of the numbers within the church and ensures we don’t exceed our current church limit of 65 people.
  Thank you everyone for your continued patience and understanding with all these rules and regulations.

Stations of the Cross.



Will run throughout Lent on every Friday evening at 7.30pm. Come, meditate and pray on the Passion of our Lord to prepare well for Easter.
Stations will begin on Friday the 19th February.

Lenten programme.

This year come and be inspired by the Word of God at our Lenten Group on Wednesday evenings. Our sessions will begin on **Wednesday 24th February at 7.30pm** in the Church and will run throughout Lent. Please speak with Fr Roberto or call the presbytery to reserve a seat.

Parish Council Meeting.

Our next meeting will be held NEXT **Thursday the 4th February** at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

Rosters and Volunteers.

Currently we do not have any current rosters. These were all suspended in March last year due to the pandemic. But if you wish to resume helping out please do so if you see a need. This can be from reading, acolyte – supporting Fr Roberto on the altar, staying back to clean the church after Mass or counting. Simply approach Father Roberto with your offer to help when you are at church.

Next Tuesday blessing of candles.

On Tuesday the 2nd February we celebrate the joyful mystery of the Presentation of the Lord. There is a tradition to bless the candles used in the Liturgy and Devotion. You are welcome to bring your candles to be blessed on this special day. Mass will be at 9am.

Prayer to Our Lady during the pandemic:

Mary, Help of Christians, we fly to you today
as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.
Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of God’s holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of
healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are
vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another
and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus
to our land and to our hearts.
We come to you with confidence,
Knowing that you truly are
our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know
the love of your Son, Jesus, Amen.