

ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time/Feast of St Anne

24 & 25 July 2021

READINGS:

2 Kings: 4: 42 – 44
Ephesians: 4: 1 – 6
John: 6: 1 – 15

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and celebrate that this land is of the Wangal people of the Darug nation on which we are gathered. We commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation, justice and peace.



Responsorial Psalm:

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Alleluia! A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.



This weekend we celebrate the feast of St Anne, the patron saint of our family of families. Also, Pope Francis has proclaimed the day as the world day of prayer for grandparents and the elderly because it is the feast of the grandparents of Jesus. Even in modern times, grandparents play an important and unique role in the lives of our families, particularly our children. It may be appropriate that because of the lockdown that you encourage your children to reach out to their grandparents with a special message of love and gratitude. It might be a card that they have drawn and posted or via a special zoom meeting. In these times of isolation, it would be a special grace that children are encouraged to reach out to grandparents who are estranged from their grandchildren because of divorce, family breakdown or by distance etc.

We should remember that because of the irreplaceable relationship that grandparents have with their grandchildren that through St Anne's intercession we are united in love with all who have been placed under her care. That is all of us. It is reasonable to assume that St Anne would asking her daughter, Mary our mother, to speak to Jesus on our behalf in good times and especially in times of distress.

May the Father carry you gently through the week.

Mgr Greg

Please
Pray
for...



FOR OUR DEAD

Holy Souls, especially, Fr Colin
Mason

FOR OUR SICK

especially Bill Petrie, Fr. P Maher,
Tony and Lorraine Grace, Peter
Simon, Frank Zerafa, Kathy Fleri
and Giuseppina Savoca.



Should you have any prayer requests that you would like our families of families to pray for, please send them to the Parish Office on:
stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com

ST ANNE'S WEBSITE IS:

<https://www.stannestrathfieldsouth.org.au/>

Many thanks to Emily Giles who is our web guru

A very warm welcome to all who are visiting our family of families of St Anne's. It is good to have you with us.

We are striving to offer you resources via the bulletin to assist you in spending some time in prayer as a family. If any of you want a special intention, please let us know so that it can be published. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our family of families, please contact Mgr Greg. We welcome your suggestions and enquires, including feedback about the bulletin. Please send them via stannesstrathfieldsouth.@outlook.com.

If you find this bulletin helpful and / or enjoyable please pass it on to others. Additionally if you have not received it from us directly, please contact us via the email above and your email address will be added to our bulletin contact list.

Please keep well and follow the current directions as best as you can; always try to be gentle on yourself and others. Try to keep an eye on each other and your neighbours especially the elderly and vulnerable.

WELCOME
to our
PARISH



St. Anne's Strathfield South Parish

Parish Priest: Mgr Greg Flynn

11 St Anne's Square

Strathfield South NSW 2136

Email: stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com

Website: <https://www.stannestrathfieldsouth.org.au/>



St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

Principal: Mr Mark McKeown

St Anne's Square

Strathfield South NSW 2136

Phone: (02) 9642 6149

Fax: (02) 9742 6250

Website: <https://www.stastrathfield.catholic.edu.au/>



If you know of anyone who is not receiving the bulletin and would like to, encourage them to contact the Parish Office on stannesstrathfield@outlook.com with their email address and they will be included in our list for the following week.

The bulletin should arrive each Saturday from around mid to late afternoon. If it does not please contact us and we will resend it to you..

LOCKDOWN RESPONSE

Due the lockdown, as long as it runs, it has been decided to include in our weekly bulletin and website, the homily and universal prayers and the slides for the weekend Mass.

Remember that Mgr Greg will celebrate Mass as often as possible and will include your intentions, health of you all and your safety.

Finally, please remember the more times we insert into our browsers the address of our parish website, the easier it becomes to access it: <https://www.stannestrathfieldsouth.org.au/>

COVID-19 UPDATE

All churches across greater Sydney are closed until at least 30 July under a NSW Government lockdown aimed at containing the spread of COVID-19.

Funerals may proceed at this time, with a maximum of 10 people in the congregation.

More information is available on the Archdiocesan website here, including rules parishes must observe around singing at livestreamed Masses:

www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-frequently-asked-questions/.

In the new vision of peace, there is no place for self-centredness and antagonism. We are all involved; we carry the responsibility for our own conversion to thoughts and actions of peace. One person alone cannot change the world, but all of us together, strong in the conviction and determination that peace begins in our own hearts, will be able to create a peace and peace-loving society.

Pope John Paul II

THIS WEEKEND

This weekend is the celebration of the feast of St Anne, the patroness of our parish. Therefore, we are using the prayers from the Mass of St Anne and the scripture readings are from the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

COVID-19



QR codes are now compulsory for churches to ensure there is a record kept for all attendees. However in cases where you have parishioners unable to use a QR code, the parish must keep an electronic record of that person's name and contact details.

All are encouraged to download Services NSW App to your phone prior to coming to the church. When the download completed, scroll down to Tools and you will find the COVID app. Prior to entering the church, please do the following:

1. Open the app at the appropriate page.
2. Place your phone over the QR sign. A page will open with all your details.
3. Sanitised your hands (take a mask if necessary) and you are welcome to contribute to the collections
4. Show your open app to the person who is marking off names.
5. Go to your seat and ensure your phone is in silent mode.



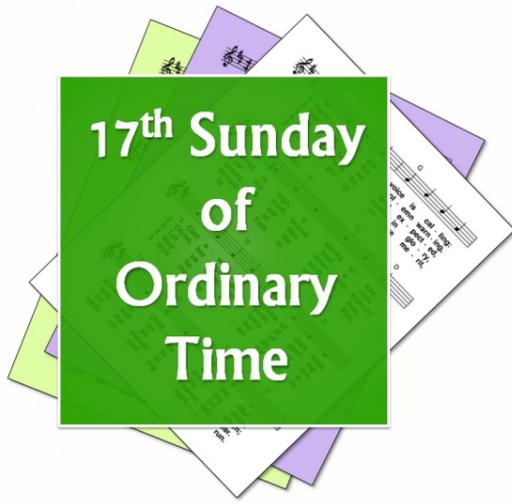
QR CODE

for St Anne's Catholic Church, Strathfield South



Don't forget to Check Out afterwards.

PLEASE REMEMBER AFTER MASS: Open the app and scroll to Tools, tap on COVID and then on last place visited; tick the circle to log off. Otherwise, you will be marked as being in the church until you follow this procedure.



Everyone can see that Mark's gospel is the shortest of the four; scholars are agreed that it is also the first. Because of its brevity, the framers of the lectionary saw that there was not enough material to last for the whole of Ordinary Time. To remedy this, they have inserted a series of five readings from the sixth chapter of John's gospel. They begin with the feeding of the crowd, continue with Jesus' teaching on the bread of life, and conclude with the departure of many of his disciples.

Those who will derive most benefit from this interlude are those who are familiar with the Old Testament stories and themes that lie behind the episode. John assumes that his readers will know the story of Israel's exodus from Egypt, their journey through the desert, their being fed with both manna and the word of God, and the meaning of the Passover celebration.

There are other connections with Old Testament traditions such as Elisha's feeding of the prophets and the banquet given by Wisdom. Perhaps these five Sundays will prompt you to delve a little more into the books of the Jewish scriptures. They shaped the faith of Jesus, they continue to inspire our Jewish brothers and sisters, and they illuminate all that we believe and hope for. **Source: Liturgy Brisbane**



YOU OPEN OUR DESIRES

Today's readings call us to wake up, open our eyes and be aware of the generosity of God. Elisha did not give the people strictly-rationed portions: 'they ate and had some over'.

Jesus looks at the crowd that had gathered to hear him and to be healed. As a sign of the life he brings, Jesus feeds them with the five loaves and two fish, feeds them abundantly. When we attend the Eucharist, Jesus offers us the food that is his body and blood. The Eucharist offers us the opportunity to draw abundant life from him.

It is not easy for us to appreciate the richness and depth of God's gifts. Too often we are content with our easy-going ways. We pray now and then and we don't do anyone any harm. But this is not the life Jesus came to give. He calls us to an enthusiastic and ever-growing love of his Father and of other people. How generous and hospitable am I with guests or with people I meet daily? Do I show by my willingness to listen and to talk that my heart is an expanding, Christ-filled one? You give me so much, Lord. Open my heart that I may grow in love of you and love of the many people you put in my path. **Source: pray.com.au**

PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord Jesus, you nourish us with your word: **Lord have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your own body: **Christ have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to proclaim your word and share our bread with all. **Lord have mercy.**

COLLECT

Lord, God of our ancestors, you gave to Saint Ann the grace of bringing into this world the Mother of your incarnate Son.

Listen to the prayers of this holy person and lead us to the salvation promised to your people.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **AMEN**

First Reading - Kings 4: 42 - 44 - a reading from the second book of Kings

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear. 'Give it to the people to eat,' Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some over." He served them; they ate and had some over, as the Lord had said. '



Responsorial Psalm - Ps 144:10 - 11, 15 - 18

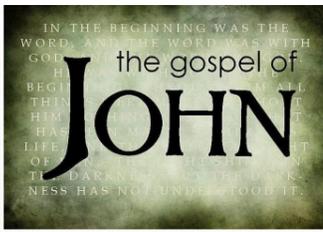
(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

1. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. **(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, who call on him from their hearts. **(R)**

Second Reading - Ephesians 4: 1 - 6 - a reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

There is one body, one Lord, one faith, one baptism

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you



Gospel - John 6: 1 - 15 - The reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

He distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted.

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee - or of Tiberias - and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

HOMILY

Our readings this week help us to continue to explore the relationship between our individual lives and the Father's plan for our salvation and that of the world. It is announced in the first reading from the Second Book of Kings. A man from the village of Baal-shalishah came to Elisha with the first fruits of his yearly harvest. From the beginning of Jewish faith, the bringing of the first fruits to the man of God (Elisha) was according to the Torah. This relatively small gift was accepted and used to feed the whole people with some left over. Please note the story of Jesus feeding the crowds is told slightly different stories in each of the Gospels. Psalm 144 which is the responsorial psalm, expands on the story.

Our Gospel this week is from John, the sixth chapter of John, the famous 'Bread of Life' chapter. After Jesus has taught the crowd in a lonely place, he wanted to feed them. The Twelve could not do it; it would cost too much – 200 denarii, but a young boy, who at that time, had no rights in religious or civil law, unexpectedly made his offering of five barely loaves and two fish. From this Jesus fed a crowd of five thousand men, not including the women and children, with twelve hampers of leftovers. The people who witnessed this wanted to take Jesus and make him king because they could be free from physical hunger which was a too common an experience in their lives. Such an action would distort God's love and the intention of Jesus, But Jesus takes our lives and makes of them greater in more ways than we can ever imagine. This is our part of the Father's plan as we learnt last week. We can and do make a difference because God is with us, so we are encouraged to have confidence in the work of the Holy Spirit with and through us. Together, this particular family of families changes the lives of people around us and within our own families. We note the generosity of God towards his people as part of the common story throughout the Scriptures, told over and over again to convince us to rely more completely upon the love of God.

Our reading from Ephesians reminds us that Paul is confined to prison in Rome, but this does not prevent him from living out his vocation of love. Even the extreme conditions of prison life offers an opportunity in which the presence of God is intensified in his life and that of the Ephesian church. It is true for us now. The Father continually gives us the ability to 'bear with one another, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience'. Living out our care in our circumstances is what we are called to do.

This weekend, Pope Francis encourages us to remember, honour, and pray for grandparents and the elderly. When we do this, we are made a better person than we think we are because God's love and life is acting though and within us. God's love rebounds upon us and we become a sign of God's love in the world.

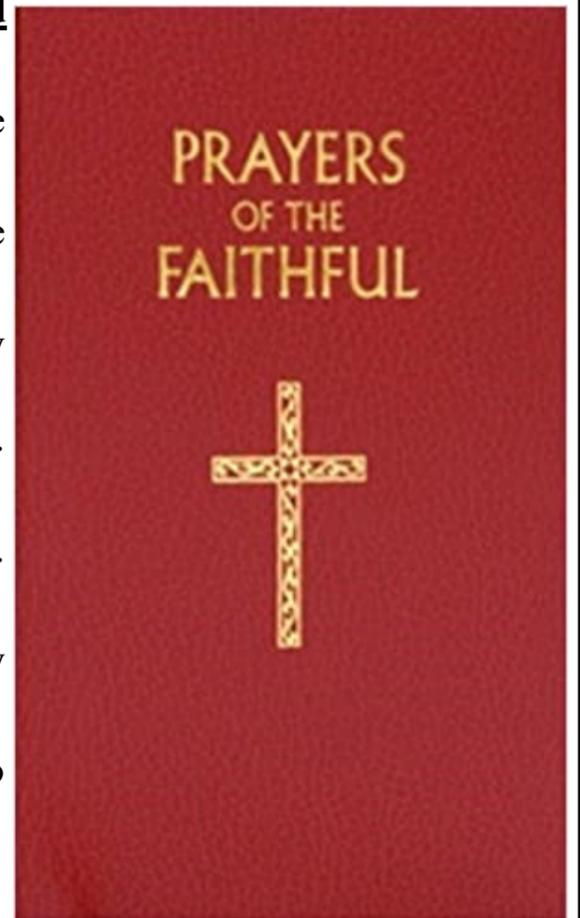
BLESSING FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY - BLESSING ON A LONG LIFE



God of mercy, You have given your children the gift of long life, And they ask for your blessing. Let them feel the tenderness and strength of your presence. As they look back to the past, let them rejoice in your mercy. As they look to the future, May they persevere in hope that does not fade. To you be praise and glory for ever.

In the feeding of a great crowd, Jesus demonstrates to us that the Father, in his love, will give us all we need. In that spirit of love, we ask for all our needs and those of the world.

- ⇒ For our pastors, may they continue to nourish us with sound teaching. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For all who fight against famine, may they be strengthened in their resolve and work. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For our grandparents, may they be able to pass on their wisdom and love **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For the elderly among us, may they not live in isolation but know that they are treasured by us all. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For our family of families, may we follow the call of Jesus to unity in love. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For those undertaking important exams, may they strive to remain calm. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For the families of those who are part of our sacramental programmes, may be confident of the Father's love for them. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For our sick and dead, especially those for whom we have been asked to pray. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For the prayers of our hearts LONGER PAUSE **Lord hear us.**



Most compassionate Father, we have gathered in your name to receive your care and love through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **AMEN.**

MASS ON DEMAND

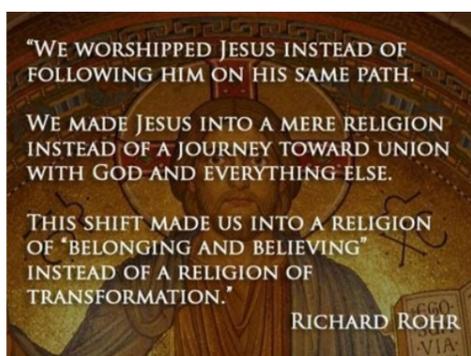


We hope that you enjoy this service, and tell your friends, families, and colleagues about it and invite them to join the community of St Anne's Parish as we worship.

Click [HERE](#) for Mass on Demand.

LIVESTREAMED MASSES

The Archdiocese of Sydney has set up a dedicated webpage with details on livestreamed Masses to help the faithful during the current lockdown and beyond, at this address: www.sydneycatholic.org/live-masses. If you would like to add your parish details onto this site, please contact Michael Kenny via email: michael.kenny@sydneycatholic.org.



CONTRIBUTIONS / COLLECTIONS:

Those who make their contribution via credit card, should they wish to change their details, please contact Janelle via email:

stannesstrathfield@outlook.com



TAXATION RECEIPTS:

Janelle has completed receipts for all who requested them. Those of you who need them now, please call at the Presbytery 11 St Anne's Square. You may include this as one of your exercise walks (Please sip a mask in your pocket if you do this.). I am mostly here so I happily will hand them to you. Those who did not request a receipt and now want one, please send an email:

stannesstrathfieldsouth@outlook.com

and Janelle will attend to it next Tuesday all being well.

**AN EXTRACT OF THE POPE'S MESSAGE
ON FIRST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR
GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY**

Dear Grandfathers and Grandmothers,
Dear Elderly Friends,

“I am with you always” (Mt 28:20): this is the promise the Lord made to his disciples before he ascended into heaven. They are the words that he repeats to you today, dear grandfathers and grandmothers, dear elderly friends. “I am with you always” are also the words that I, as Bishop of Rome and an elderly person like yourselves, would like to address to you on this first World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly. The whole Church is close to you – to us – and cares about you, loves you and does not want to leave you alone! I am well aware that this Message comes to you at a difficult time: the pandemic swept down on us like an unexpected and furious storm; it has been a time of trial for everyone, but especially for us elderly persons. Many of us fell ill, others died or experienced the death of spouses or loved ones, while others found themselves isolated and alone for long periods..... Even at the darkest moments, as in these months of pandemic, the Lord continues to send angels to console our loneliness and to remind us: “I am with you always”. He says this to you, and he says it to me. That is the meaning of this Day, which I wanted to celebrate for the first time in this particular year, as a long period of isolation ends and social life slowly resumes. May every grandfather, every grandmother, every older person, especially those among us who are most alone, receive the visit of an angel!

At times those angels will have the face of our grandchildren, at others, the face of family members, lifelong friends or those we have come to know during these trying times, when we have learned how important hugs and visits are for each of us. How sad it makes me that in some places these are still not possible!

**PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY FOR
GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY**

I thank You, Lord,
for the comfort of Your presence:
even in times of loneliness,
You are my hope and my confidence,
You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank You for having given me a family
and for having blessed me with a long life.
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,
for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for
those that are still ahead of me.
I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which
You call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith,
make me a channel of your peace,
teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me,
to never stop dreaming
and to tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,
that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.
Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,
that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed,
the poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness
and help me to live life to the full
in each moment that You give me,
in the certainty that you are with me every day,
even until the end of the age.

AMEN.



Pope Francis has established the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly beginning in 2021 on the fourth Sunday of July, near the Memorial of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. This year, the first, will be celebrated in circumstances in which it will not be possible in many countries for the elderly to physically attend Mass.

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for the first annual World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is:
"I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

ST VINCENT PALLOTTI SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offers scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. **More information and Applications Forms are available on our website**

<https://pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE WINTER APPEAL

Each year Jesuit Refugee Service Australia serves more than 3,800 children, women and men who have been forced to flee their homes and need lifesaving support. **This month an important way to support these families is to donate to the JRS Winter Appeal.** Find out more and how to donate here:

<https://aus.jrs.net/en/news/winter-appeal-2021-walk-with-men-women-and-children-seeking-welcome-and-protection/>

Due to the new restrictions/lockdown JRS has closed their offices at this time, so is encouraging online donations.

PLENARY COUNCIL AMBASSADORS GATHERING POSTPONEMENT

Owing to the COVID lockdown the gathering for the Parish Ambassadors Gathering scheduled for July 3 has been postponed until August 28. If parishes would like to send a representative to this event please contact Sr Jo Brady RSJ at jo.brady@sosj.org.au. An excellent resource to pray and reflect in preparation for the Plenary Council is Fan the Flame on the Plenary Council website, <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fanthe flame/>.

ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN IN THEIR PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS

Archdiocesan Sacramental Program Coordinator Simon Yeak provides parent focused sessions on 'Reconciliation', 'Holy Communion' and 'Confirmation'

When: Monday 26 July 7:30 PM

Where: Life, Marriage and Family Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/LifeMarriageFamilySydney>

PARENTING CONVERSATIONS: YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE!

Life, Marriage and Family Team Leader Steven Buhagiar presents a series of conversations with experts in practical parenting.

When: Thursday 29 July 8:00 PM

Where: Life, Marriage and Family Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/LifeMarriageFamilySydney>

A MIND AT PEACE: AN ONLINE BOOK STUDY WITH DISCUSSION AND SHARING

Life, Marriage and Family team member Chris Da Silva facilitates, over ZOOM, an in-depth study of a book which will help those who are feeling especially anxious during this time of uncertainty and trial

When: Wednesday 28 July and 4, 11, 18 August 7:30 PM

Where: Online via ZOOM Register here - <https://bit.ly/3kti2vF>

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - CBHS LEWISHAM'S SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Christian Brothers' High School Lewisham is seeking expression of interest for potential new members of its School Advisory Committee (formerly the School Board). CBHS Lewisham is a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition educating boys from Year 5-12. The School Advisory Committee supports the Principal in the strategic management of the school. The Committee is looking for members of the community who have expertise in financial management, master planning, risk management and other areas of school governance. To request an expression of interest form please email Mrs Cathie Dalliwall at cathie.dalliwall@cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au. For more information about the school please go to <https://cbhslewisham.nsw.edu.au/>. Once received, EOIs will be assessed and suitable candidates will be included on an eligibility list for consideration when a vacancy arises.



July 26

Saint Joachim and Anne (Joachim and Anne are named as Mary's parents in a late second century tradition. Churches dedicated to Saint Anne are found in Jerusalem and Constantinople from the middle of the sixth century. The feast of St Anne was kept in Rome by the eighth century, that of Saint Joachim from the fifteenth century. The feast honours the parents of the Virgin Mary and grandparents of the Lord). *Source: Liturgy Brisbane*

July 26

Emancipation Bill approved, abolishing slavery throughout the British Empire (1833)

July 27

Schools Tree Day

July 29

National Tree Day

July 29

Dag Hammarskjöld ([29 July 1905](#) – [18 September 1961](#)) was a Swedish diplomat, the second [United Nations Secretary-General](#), and a [Nobel Peace Prize](#) recipient. He dealt with the horrors of the Korean War, emerging problems in the Middle East and the Suez crisis, and the violence following the mutiny and secession in the newly-liberated Congo. While trying to secure peace in the Congo, he was killed in a plane crash

COVID TESTING CLINIC IN MERYLA STREET, BURWOOD NOW OPEN

There is great concern that the number of residents testing for COVID -19 in the Burwood Local Government Area is comparatively low. To help raise the numbers, Council has been working with NSW Health to establish a Drive Through and Walk-In Testing Site at the Meryla Street Car Park in Burwood.

The site is now up and running and will initially operate from 8am – 4pm for the next two weeks. At this location, it will be easy for the community to come forward and get tested so please help us by making everyone in the community aware of the new testing site.

Connie Vartuli

Executive Project Support Officer

T: 02 9911 9837

E: Connie.Vartuli@burwood.nsw.gov.au



IN FOREIGN POLICY AUSTRALIA PROVES TO BE A SLOW LEARNER

James O'Neill *Dissident Voice* July 16, 2021

Quod deus vult perdere prius dementat. (Whom the Gods wish to destroy they first make mad).

One of the more enduring mysteries of Australian foreign policy is its continued adherence to the American way of war.

This history of adherence began in Korea in the war that raged in that country between 1950 and 1953. It will be recalled that for years following World War II both the North and the South of Korea waged a guerrilla campaign against each other. The war commenced when the North invaded the South and made major moves on the Southern capital of Seoul and were on the verge of capturing it.

Australia was one of the countries that willingly joined this ostensible United Nations action to restore the status quo in Korea. Australia's next involvement in United States aggression was to take part in the war on Vietnam which was precipitated by the South of the country refusing to allow a national election that would undoubtedly have been won by the North's Ho Chi Minh. Australia's involvement in that fiasco lasted more than a decade before the election of the Whitlam Labor government in 1972 saw that government withdrawing Australian troops. That action earned the animosity of the Americans, who together with their agent, the Governor General John Kerr, worked tirelessly for the defeat of the Whitlam government which they achieved in November 1975. Since that time no Labor government has dared to cross the United States. Australia's foreign policy is an unbroken chain of adherence to United States aggression ever since. This manifested itself in 2001 when Australia joined the attack on Afghanistan

Similarly, Australia was among the first of the western nations to join the entirely illegal invasion of Iraq. Again, the Labor Party retained that commitment when they were in power, although they initially opposed it. **The United States alliance goes beyond joining a succession of wars of minimal national interest to Australia. The United States has a number of military bases in Australia**, of which arguably the most important is the electronic spying facility at Pine Gap in the Northern Territory. This base had also been targeted by the Whitlam Labor government. It is absolutely no coincidence that the sacking of the Whitlam government by the attorney general John Kerr occurred the day before Whitlam was to announce to the Australian parliament his government's intention of closing the Pine Gap facility. That also is a policy that has been abandoned by the Labor opposition.

Read more <https://dissidentvoice.org/2021/07/in-foreign-policy-australia-proves-to-be-a-slow-learner/#more-118816>

Yes, there is hope. Technology is beginning to empower people through communication. Governments are having to become more transparent. People can no longer continue to get away with what has been done before.

Femi Kuti, Nigerian musician and activist



Pat Marrin, Francis Chronicles, **National Catholic Reporter**