

ST. ANNE'S STRATHFIELD SOUTH PARISH

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9 & 10 October 2021

READINGS:

Wisdom: 7: 7 – 11
Hebrews: 4: 12 – 13
Mark: 10: 17 – 30

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: Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we shall sing for joy!
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Happy are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!
Eucharistic Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again .



It is wonderful that we are coming out of lockdown. There are many people to thank for that as it is through their efforts (in many cases, heroic) that we are coming to that space where we can begin to open up. Sadly, there are some people emphasising and speaking about not having and others having more. This is the root of mistrust, self-interest, selfishness among other things that brings division. We should remember that many have worked tirelessly for this goal and not overlook our own efforts either. There will always be those who appear selfish or misguided but that is their right. We should strive, particularly in these times, to acknowledge and respect those rights and strive to do the best we can for ourselves, our families, and our society. We will be happier and find the peace and harmony to live with one another.

May our compassionate Father carry you gently through the week..

Mgr Greg

God has no other hands than ours. **Dorothee Sölle**

Please Pray for...



FOR OUR DEAD

Holy Souls, especially, Holy Souls, Dino Pratelli, Jack and Jean, Ray and Roseli

FOR OUR SICK

especially Bill Petrie, Fr P. Maher, Peter Simon, Lorraine and Tony Grace, Frank Zerafa, Kathy Fleri, Bishop W Wright, Mgr John Usher, Mgr Brian Raynor, Frs M Kelly, Frank Coorey, Paul Foley, David Coffey, and Don Willoughby.



PRAYER Intentions 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

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.

CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS

COVID restrictions are easing significantly from next Monday, October 11, now that the State has achieved 70% vaccination. Please note that the Government has made these changes at this stage only for people who are fully vaccinated.

Here is a summary of the situation from next Monday:

1. Our **churches are still closed** and there will be **no public masses until the 80% vaccination threshold is reached**.
2. Churches may be opened for weddings and funerals, and for services restricted to those who are fully vaccinated (e.g. for baptisms; or for a 'private' Mass with a priest who is fully vaccinated.)
3. Whenever people gather in a place of worship, the **number permitted is according to the 4 sqm rule**, and **masks must be worn**. **COVID Check-in is also required** via the Service NSW App or a written record.
4. **If all those present are vaccinated**, the permitted number for weddings and funerals will be 100 (but subject to the 4 sqm rule).
5. **If some of those attending a funeral or wedding are not vaccinated**, then the ceremony must be "small": maximum 5 at a wedding and 10 at a funeral. (I anticipate there will be some confusions around the status of funerals, and I suggest we let the Undertakers manage the issue of numbers.)
6. **Schools** will reopen by October 25. Like teachers and others, **clergy will be required to be vaccinated** before ministering in a school. In the case of our own Sydney Catholic Schools, each school has a church engagement officer who will contact you directly and assist with registering your vaccination (or approved exemption).
7. If a **priest who is not yet fully vaccinated** is approached for ministry at this time (e.g. for a baptism or hospital visit), **he should arrange for a 'supply' priest to replace him**.

When 80% vaccination is reached, Churches and places of worship may open for mass with one person per 4 sqm, and with no singing (apart from up to 10 vaccinated cantors). Those who are not fully vaccinated will be allowed to participate.

As you know, the safety requirements are changing frequently. We will provide further information once the 80% threshold is reached and any further advice from the Government is received.

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

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.



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.

QR CODE

for St Anne's Catholic Church,
Strathfield South

Don't forget to Check Out afterwards.



Workers in some industries these days are monitored by the minute. Their time is measured relentlessly for its economic value. The pressure to be constantly productive can be immense. It can take a huge toll on employees' health and well-being. No wonder we relish other spheres of life where time isn't evaluated in monetary terms.



In the light of this it may seem unfair to raise a question about how we spend our "free" time. Yet there's every chance we'd learn a lot from an honest audit of the time and effort we choose to invest in things. It could bring to light what we actually value rather than what we think or say we value. Further steps could lead us to reflect on what the exercise has revealed and to reassess our priorities. A final step, if we had the courage which the rich man of the gospel did not, would be to let go of what possesses us and make room for the reign of God in our lives. Even if we only get to first base, we can be sure that Jesus will look steadily at us and love us.

Source: Liturgy Brisbane

GIVE EVERYTHING YOU OWN TO THE POOR, AND FOLLOW ME



Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

Matthew 5:3

The rich man walks away shocked and grieving, choosing to return to the comfortable 'prison' of his wealth rather than risking the 'freedom' of the life Jesus describes. Like the rich man, our prosperity and possessions often possess us, holding us captive. The kingdom of God, limitless love, invites us to be free and let go. What sounded radical to the disciples feels just as hard now. We live in a society that worships expensive brands, where achieving immense wealth is celebrated.

A call to simplicity and relationship asks me to notice the focus of my ambitions. To ask whether these bring to me closer to others and God. How can I let go and grow when I attach so much status, pride and self-worth to what I own and what I earn? How do I live more deeply yet simply, stepping outside the comfortable prison of my own self-interest and security? If God's love is gift, may my heart's doorway remain open and uncluttered enough to receive it.

Source: pray.com.au

PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord Jesus, you are the Word of God dwelling in our midst: **Lord have mercy.**

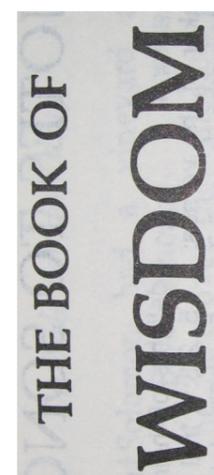
Lord Jesus, you are the Word who speaks to us today and every day: **Christ have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the Word who can change our lives: **Lord have mercy.**

COLLECT

O God of wisdom,
whose word probes the motives of our hearts, with you all things are possible. Let worldly treasure not keep us from Jesus, who looks on us with love. Free us to leave all things and follow him, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

First Reading - Wisdom 7: 7 - 11
a reading from the book of Wisdom



I prayed, and understanding was given me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.

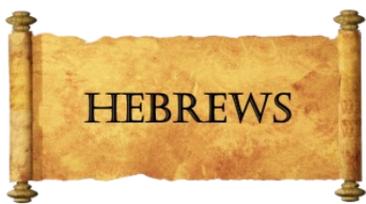
Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

1. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servant. **(R)**
2. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Give us joy to balance our affliction for the years when we knew misfortune. **(R)**
3. Show forth your works to your servants; let your glory shine on their children. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. **(R)**

When you regain a sense of your life as a journey of discovery, you return to rhythm with yourself. When you take the time to travel with reverence, a richer life unfolds before you. Moments of beauty begin to braid your days. When your mind becomes more acquainted with reverence, the light, grace and elegance of beauty find you more frequently. When the destination becomes gracious, the journey becomes an adventure of beauty.

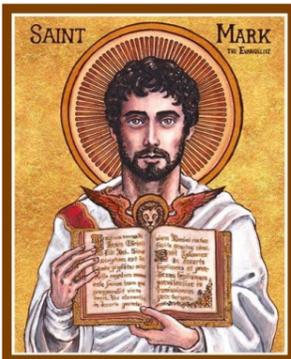
John O'Donohue



Second Reading - Hebrews 4: 12 - 13 - a reading from the letter of Hebrews

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

Gospel - Mark 10: 17 - 30 - The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark



Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.'

[Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land - not without persecutions - now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.']

HOMILY

The ancient name for the Book of Wisdom was 'The Wisdom of Solomon' and is traditionally placed between The Song of Songs and Ecclesiasticus in the Catholic version of the Bible. Some protestant Christians reject this literature. It is thought to have been written by an Alexandrian Jew with strong knowledge of Greek philosophy, particularly Plato and Aristotle, thereby making the book difficult to date but certain it cannot be attributed to King Solomon. There appears to be two parts. Our reading is in the first part which teaches that there is only one God, the God of the universe, the God of the Jews, and has created all things. It is wise to follow this God and this true wisdom should always be sought, prized above all things. It was a necessary gift for a king to have as one key role of a king was to make judgements.

Our first reading tells us that wisdom can only be sought through prayer. It is noted that Wisdom is referred to here in the feminine form and by ancient tradition that female form is attributed to Holy Spirit. The spirit of Wisdom has overtones of Greek thought as the principle of life and is represented as a 'breath of air' as seen in Genesis and creation stories. Therefore, it is the true life (the life of God) and must be sought above all. Our author gains wisdom and prizes her above all things and so encourages us to think and do the same.

There almost collective agreement among scholars that author of the Letter to the Hebrews was not Paul but another who must have written the Letter around the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. He was steeped in the Old Testament values and argues that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and therefore superior to Moses. He is appointed as the Great High Priest so he freed us from the slavery to the devil so merits our obedience. Through this work we are called to enter the great sanctuary, which we call heaven, as there Christ sits at the right hand (the place on honour) of the Father. The author reminds us that the word is alive and active in each of us. It brings all things to life and the light. The word calls us to account.

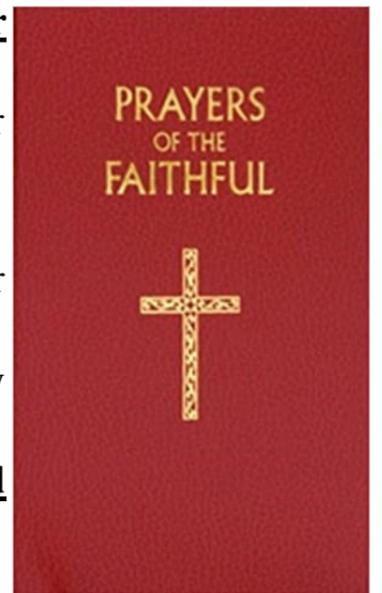
Today, Mark tells the story of a young wealthy man who is earnestly seeking to do good. We are told that Jesus grows to love him and offers him a call. The young man refuses with Mark remarking that he was a rich man. Jesus reflects on the event and gives us one the most discussed verses in the gospels: "It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." We are warned that the distractions of the world are great and that we are called to seek even greater - Wisdom (Jesus). Peter, unconsciously showing that he had not quite gotten over the thought that the messiah was a worldly, conquering king, sought reassurance from Jesus as they (the apostles) had given up much. Jesus calmly responds with that they, too, will be rewarded.

HOMILY (CONTINUED)

We are all called to seek true Wisdom (God) - the prize beyond measure and at the same time, the word is active in us. Jesus Christ as Son of God saves and unites us in that quest. Further, he reminds us that no effort in seeking him will go unrewarded, now, but particularly, in eternity. We are reminded, too, that if we fail to seek wisdom we will be called to account. But Wisdom (the Holy Spirit) has been given to us at Baptism and Confirmation. We are reminded that we are a forgiven people but must continue to strive after this great life giving, light giving gift. It is our life's work beyond all else.

God, our Father, through your Jesus you call us to search for and treasure your sacred wisdom. May we always do so in appreciating and addressing the needs of the world and its peoples.

- ⇒ For our Church, may it always strive to actively support the freedom of all. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For our Plenary Council members, may they continue be open to the Holy Spirit in their prayers and discussions. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For the leaders of nations, may they not be deaf to the cries of the poor. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For those who have worked tirelessly to overcome the pandemic, may they know of our gratitude and appreciation. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For those children and families participating in our sacramental programmes, may they be open to the wisdom of the Father. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For our sick and dead, especially those for whom we have been asked to pray. **Lord hear us.**
- ⇒ For our silent prayers LONGER PAUSE **Lord hear us.**



Loving Father hear the prayers of those gathered to hear your word of wisdom and be nourished by your beloved Son. We ask this through the same Christ, our Lord. **AMEN.**

An elderly priest is driving down a highway when a policeman pulls him over. After the priest winds down his window the police officer smells alcohol on his breath and spots an empty wine bottle rolling around on the floor. He says, "Father, have you been drinking?" The priest replies, "Just water, my son." The policeman asks, "Then why do I smell wine?" The priest looks down at the bottle and says, "Good Lord. Jesus has done it again!"

REST time is NOT
WASTED TIME. It is ECONOMY
to gather FRESH STRENGTH.
It is WISDOM to take
occasional FURLOUGH.
in the LONG RUN we
shall DO MORE by
sometimes DOING LESS.
Charles Spurgeon

The amount of money spent on the military-industrial complex in one year is more than enough to end hunger in Africa. Every problem on earth today has more than one solution. However, priorities are determined by values.'

Suzy Kassem



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.

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



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.

WRITE TO YOUR LOCAL NSW MP TO STOP PROPOSED EUTHANASIA LAWS IN OUR STATE

Parishioners are encouraged to please contact your local NSW MP, expressing your opposition to the voluntary assisted dying bill, proposed by Independent MP Alex Greenwich. The anti-euthanasia coalition, HOPE has developed an online tool that will allow you to send an email directly to your state MP and to all members of the NSW Upper House. The tool is available here: https://www.no euthanasia.org.au/petition_2108_ocp_nsw

If parishioners do not wish to use an online tool, you can download a [series of sample letters here](#), and a [letter writing guide here](#).

THIS CATHOLIC LIFE PODCAST ON EUTHANASIA WITH ARCHBISHOP FISHER

As one of the world's leading bioethicists, Archbishop Fisher is widely respected for his contribution to public debate on pro-life issues such as euthanasia.

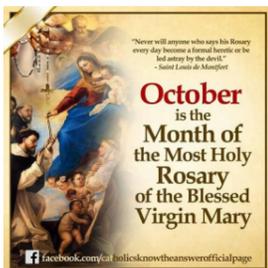
Archbishop Fisher will speak specifically about some of his deep concerns about the proposed euthanasia laws in NSW in an episode of the popular podcast, *This Catholic Life*, which will be available from Thursday 14 October here: <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/category/podcasts/>

The Sydney Centre for Evangelisation is undertaking a pilot in which **we are offering a limited number of subsidies for laity serving in key roles in parishes** to undertake a "Foundations of Missionary Leadership Course" with the Areté Centre of Missionary Leadership. This outstanding year-long course takes a whole-of-person approach to formation, offering theological, spiritual, human and practical formation in missionary leadership. It is undertaken principally online and on a part-time basis. For more about the course, please visit <https://aretecentre.org/courses>

ST VINCENT DE PAUL- SUPPORT FOR THE DISADVANTAGED IN LOCKDOWN

St Vincent De Paul volunteers have recently distributed 900 snack packs, 250 self-care packs and 130 hampers through a range of services including Redfern Youth Connect, Parramatta Mission Meals Plus and local support hubs. Find out more and what support is available [here](#).

You are invited to join our community to pray the Rosary during the month of October.



The Family educators from the Ashfield-Olympic park Network are hosting a weekly prayer group on Thursday evening at 7:30pm, via zoom, commencing Thursday 7th of October. The link to the zoom event is below. If you require any further information, please contact Giovanna Conti the Family Educator at St Anne's via email: giovanna.conti@syd.catholic.edu.au

Link to Weekly Rosary <https://scscatholic.zoom.us/j/65317311082>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES - ENGLISH TEACHERS, YOUTH WORKERS & YOUTH MINISTERS

The Cagliari Project is an initiative of the Australia-Pacific Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco, providing overseas volunteer experiences for Australians who wish to work with disadvantaged young people. We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers for January 2022 departure. Our volunteer placements run for 6-12 months and are centered around working with young people in educational settings. We are currently recruiting for volunteers in our Australian communities however when it is possible and safe to do so we will recommence sending volunteers to Cambodia, Samoa, Timor Leste and the Solomon Islands. We aim to utilise the skills and talents of our volunteers to provide the best possible contribution to the host community. Our aim is not to 'help' but to walk in solidarity with young people and for volunteer and host to have a mutual learning experience. We are also present in host communities to be role models - people that young people can aspire to be.

Cagliari volunteers commit themselves to working in the 'Salesian way'. This means that young people are the central focus in all work. The Salesian way also means approaching life in a joyful way with a loving heart. The experience as a Cagliari volunteer is not about the volunteer but is focused on the people we go to serve. However, serving as a Cagliari volunteer will probably be the most rewarding thing you ever do!

For more information, or to send us an inquiry, follow this link: <http://cagliari.org.au/>

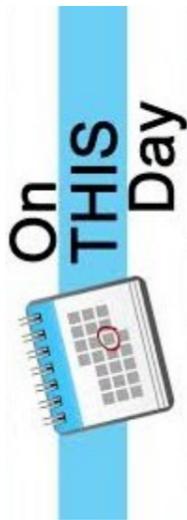
Applications close October 30th, 2021.

Contact: Lauren Hichaaba, Director of the Cagliari Project Email: lhichaaba@salesians.org.au

NOTICE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, has been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest / Administrator who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



- October 9 **Invitation** to explore the implications of the *New Universe Story* with Fr. Diarmuid O'Murchu msc. Diarmuid has published his evolving thoughts in his latest book, *Doing Theology in an Evolutionary Way*. He has agreed to share his insights with us on October 9. He will be talking at 7.00am from Ireland and we can tune in at 5.00 pm AEDT (Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne). People in other locations please adjust accordingly.
To Join Zoom Meeting: <https://olmcparra.zoom.us/j/88945592349>
- October 11 Feast of Pope St John XIII
- October 11 Opening of the Second Vatican Council 1962
- October 14 Canonisation of Oscar Romero and Paul VI
- October 15 Saint Teresa of Jesus (Born at Avila [Spain] in 1515. Died at Alba de Tormes in 1582. Left her aristocratic family for the Carmelite monastery in Avila at the age of twenty, but only after two decades of dryness in prayer felt an inner conversion of Christ. Honoured as a spiritual writer and mystic who experienced and comprehensively described the life of prayer. Remembered as a strong, practical reformer who restored the strict Carmelite observance of poverty, solitude, and austerity.) **Source: Liturgy Brisbane**
- October 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/international-day-for-the-eradication-of-poverty-homepage.html>
October 17th presents an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and struggle of people living in poverty, a chance for them to make their concerns heard, and a moment to recognize that poor people are the first ones to fight against poverty. Participation of the poor themselves has been at the centre of the Day's celebration since its very beginning. The commemoration of October 17th also reflects the willingness of people living in poverty to use their expertise to contribute to the eradication of poverty.
- October 17 Saint Ignatius of Antioch (Born probably in Syria. Died a martyr in Rome about 107. At Antioch, where he was bishop, his death has been commemorated on this day since the fourth century. Remembered for seven letters written on his way to execution. They show him to be devoted to Christ and his resurrection; they urge Christians to unity in and through the Eucharist and around their local bishop. Called himself the "God-bearer".) **Source: Liturgy Brisbane**
- October 17-21 Anti-Poverty Week For more information and resources <https://antipovertyweek.org.au/>
- October 11 20th Anniversary of the Sinking of SIEV X off Christmas Island with the loss of 353 children, women and men and the shame of Australia's abandonment of responsibility and subsequent lies around the tragedy.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE SYMPTOM, CAPITALISM IS THE PROBLEM

Our planet cannot handle an eternal growth model. We live in a finite system and capitalist innovation can only take us so far. Eventually we run out of resources. Climate appears to be the limit.

Samantha Fox *Countercurrents* September 15, 2021



Too often climate change is reduced to quantification of greenhouse glasses or melting ice caps. These indicators of climate change are important to verify the existence of the problem, but they are less constructive in helping us understand where the problem of climate change comes from. ***Understanding the source of climate change means moving beyond the source of GHGs and looking into the power relations that drive capitalist growth.***

We know climate change because we have a science to understand it. Many people are familiar with the standard natural science narratives, narratives that are divorced from society. Fewer people are familiar with the social science explanations of climate change, even fewer still incorporate notions of power into the explanation. The first step to understanding climate change is understanding how power operates in the history of capitalist civilization.

Most climate change scholarship treats society as a black box or explains the problem as one of homogenous humanity. Take for example the idea of the Anthropocene where humanity is treated as something of a plague, entirely disconnected from nature. In this line of thought, humanity itself is the problem. But this line of thinking ignores histories of power dynamics within humanity and between humanity and nature. It fails to acknowledge the contributions of the liberal arts to understanding power.

The Anthropocene line of thought suffers from a capitalist ideology that reduces relations of power and production to simplistic human activities. The economic imperative of accumulation and profit did not and does not operate independently of social processes. Not only was the material wealth extracted from nature that propelled capitalism forward largely lost in the 16th century, the knowledge of entire civilizations was intentionally destroyed and repressed.

READ MORE <https://countercurrents.org/2021/09/climate-change-is-the-symptom-capitalism-is-the-problem/>