

## **ST FRANCIS AND THE MERCY OF GOD**

### **Our Diocesan Heritage**

#### **THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY – SACRED HEART PARISH INVERELL – AUGUST 2016**

It is remarkable how little we really know about the deep spiritual lives of our Armidale diocesan bishops. With **Bishop Elzear Torreggiani**, however, our second bishop (from 1879 to 1904), we can be sure that his commitment to life as a Capuchin-Franciscan friar shaped his spirituality profoundly. His remarkable simplicity, gentleness, humility, friendliness and his strong and tireless sense of mission, are all Franciscan spiritual traits.

On his way to Australia from England via Italy, the new bishop visited the new Pope, Leo XIII (1878-1903). The Pope had been bishop of Perugia in central Italy, a see that included Assisi, the hometown of St Francis. He was deeply committed to promoting Franciscan life and he believed that lay (or Third Order) Franciscans could make a special difference in the world. This was already happening in Europe. Frederic Ozanam (1813-53), for instance, the founder with others of the St Vincent de Paul Society in France, was a lay Franciscan. So Pope Leo encouraged Bishop Torreggiani to organise lay Franciscan groups in his new diocese in far-away Australia. The bishop did so, and Inverell and Glen Innes in particular became thriving centres of lay Franciscan activity during Bishop Torreggiani's time.

The Franciscan commitment of Bishop Torreggiani and his Capuchin confreres has left us a tangible legacy in the churches dedicated to **Our Lady (or St Mary) of the Angels** in the diocese: in Bundarra (where the bishop loved to take a break), Guyra, Rowena, and the chapel of the former Ursuline Convent in Armidale. Our Lady of the Angels was the patroness of the very small chapel on the plain below the mountain-side town of Assisi. It was given to St Francis by the local Benedictines for the annual rent of a basket of fish. It became the "Little Portion" (Italian *Porziuncula*) for Francis. He loved it dearly and he made it the headquarters for the annual fathering of his new religious Order, the Lesser Brothers of Penance, whom we know now as Franciscans. From this place Francis sent his Brothers out on mission to the world to announce the mercy and goodness of God. Here the Poor Man of Assisi died, lying stripped on the floor, surrounded by his Brothers, who sang to him and read the Passion from John's Gospel as he was passing to God. The chapel still stands and is housed today in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Angels.

*Misericordia*, mercy, was a word of special significance to St Francis. It occurs throughout his writings and is a basic feature of his thinking and his way of life. St Francis asked Our Lady of the Angels and Our Lord for the special privilege known as the Pardon (*Perdono* in Italian) of Assisi, an understanding that anyone who visited the chapel and prayed with sincerity and sorrow, would be pardoned for their sins. He wanted everyone to go to heaven. This year marks 800 years since that Pardon was granted to St Francis at Our Lady of the Angels in 1216. Franciscans all over the world are celebrating the anniversary (<http://www.ofm.org/ofm/?p=11184&lang=en>). On **Thursday 4 August**, Pope Francis will visit Our Lady of the Angels in Assisi as part of the schedule of events for this Holy Year of Mercy, remembering the special grace of the *Perdono*. We can join in the occasion in spirit, recalling how confident St Francis was that our God of love and mercy would grant us forgiveness if we approached him humbly.

**August 2 (Tuesday) is the feast of Our Lady of the Angels.** We can make it a day of special gratitude to God for the gift of our Franciscan heritage in the diocese through Bishop Torreggiani and his Capuchin confreres who served our rural church so well into the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Pardon of Assisi, part of that heritage, shows us another radiant face of our merciful God and another facet of the jewel-like beauty of Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, whom St Francis loved so deeply.

***“Let all things their Creator bless!”***

St Francis is renowned for his tender love for all created things and especially for animals and birds. Everyone knows the story of how the saint tamed the ravenous wolf of Gubbio and established an agreement between the animal and the citizens to their mutual advantage. Francis told everyone to be sure to give extra feed to birds and animals on great feast-days, but at Christmastime particularly, in honour of God becoming part of our created world in Jesus, the Beloved Son. Our modern sensitivity to cruelty to animals did not exist in the medieval period, and society has struggled with showing kindness to animals in every age since the time of St Francis. The RSPCA, focused on animal care, emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the work of a clergyman, Reverend Arthur Broome (1779-1837). He formed a Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in London in 1824 ([https://animalsmattertogod.com/2012/06/16/reverend-arthur-broome ...](https://animalsmattertogod.com/2012/06/16/reverend-arthur-broome)). Christian living should be marked by deep consideration for animal welfare. The tradition of blessing the animals on or about the annual feast of St Francis (4 October) is something we could consider for St Francis Church in Tingha. Monsignor Wilkes, a local Inverell farm boy, used to hold this ceremony in Armidale when he was at the Cathedral. Tingha is special, with its cattle free to roam on the common between the grids. Pets can be included in the gathering for a blessing. We can read the *Genesis* story of our creating God. St Francis's *Canticle of the Creatures* and psalms honouring the Creator can be sung. We can tell stories of what animals, birds, fish – and trees and plants - mean to us individually and how they bring us closer to the wonder of our God. Perhaps the blessing of the animals could be part of our Catholic community or Christian ecumenical contribution to the annual Inverell Sapphire City Festival in October. Or maybe part of a Festival of St Francis with a pilgrimage to Tingha over the October long weekend.

St Francis believed that the God of infinite mercy had come into his life when God moved him to embrace a leper on the road below Assisi, something he felt he could never do before. He saw God's mercy in his life when the crucified Lord spoke to him from the Cross in the chapel of San Damiano, just below Assisi, giving direction to his life: “Francis, go and repair my church which you see is everywhere falling into ruins.” All this happened in a rural setting. It should give us great hope that the God of mercy will also come into our own lives in country Australia, here and now, in Inverell, Tingha, Ashford. The Lord of all goodness sent us Bishop Torreggiani and his Capuchin-Franciscans as a great act of mercy. We must always treasure that heritage of Franciscan spirituality they brought us, putting us in close touch with the divine mercy seen in the life of St Francis, and try to recover it as part of our celebration of 150 years as a parish in 2018.

Our pastor, Father Roel, was ordained to the priesthood in a church with St Francis as patron in the Philippines. Perhaps our Tingha St Francis church can become our very own local “Little Portion,” our *Porziuncula*, a pilgrimage centre, with a San Damiano Cross placed there, calling our young people especially to generously serve our Lord and his people in the Church, the community of mercy.



# Sacred Heart Parish

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 Website: <http://sacredheartinverell.org.au/>

Rev. Fr. Roel J. Llave  
 Email: [roeljllave2@yahoo.com.au](mailto:roeljllave2@yahoo.com.au)



## SACRED HEART PARISH MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart Church : Inverell

Saturday (Vigil Mass) 6:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

Monday, Tuesday and 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 9:30 am

Wednesday, Thursday and 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 12:00 noon

1<sup>st</sup> Friday Adoration and Benediction 12:30 PM

### RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:30 to 5:30 pm

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 8:00 to 8:30 am

McLean Retirement Village

Friday (EXCEPT 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY) 11:00 am

St. Patrick's Church : Ashford

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 11:30 am

St. Francis' Church : Tingha

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday 7:00 am

St. Joseph the Worker Church : Yetman

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday 12:30 pm

Nota bene: You may contact the Parish Priest on 0412771516

### ROSTERS THIS WEEK

13 August / Sat. 6 pm

Greeters  
 Projector OP.  
 Readers  
 Commentator/P of F.  
 Bread & Wine  
 Communion Ministers

Altar Servers

Music Ministry  
 Cantor  
 Collection Offeror  
 Children's Liturgy  
 Sunday Morning tea  
 Counters

VOLUNTEERS  
 SR CORAL  
 D DASEY, N McCOSKER  
 N TURNER  
 M & J COOK  
 M SCHOFIELD, MGAUKROGER,  
 R & T TRAVES  
 J HOLLIS, M STEVENS,  
 B & C HORNER  
 D GIBSON GROUP  
 G GIBSON  
 B McGUIRE  
 VOLUNTEER

TEAM : J FRATER, D HANNIGAN

### ROSTERS NEXT WEEK

20 August / Sat. 6 pm

Greeters  
 Projector OP.  
 Readers  
 Commentator/P of F.  
 Bread & Wine  
 Communion Ministers

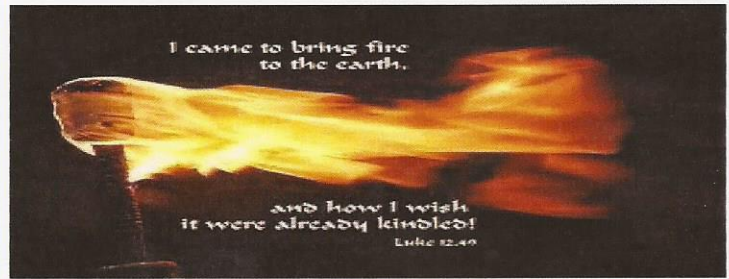
Altar Servers

Music Ministry  
 Cantor  
 Collection Offeror  
 Children's Liturgy  
 Sunday Morning tea  
 Counters

VOLUNTEERS  
 J KELLY  
 J GIBSON, J TURNER  
 P MATHER  
 BALBOA FAMILY  
 SR CORAL, P CROFT,  
 M & M WARD  
 N HOGAN, H DITCHFIELD,  
 G GREEN  
 C McCOSKER GROUP  
 S TURNER  
 A MICHAEL  
 P ARMSTRONG

TEAM : G CHIE, G FLEMING, M SCHOFIELD, C HOYT

# 20th Sunday C



## PARISH SCHEDULES this WEEK...

MONDAY: Rosary 4:30 PM  
**SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION** 5:00 PM  
*Holy Day of Obligation*

TUESDAY: Rosary 9:00 AM

WEDNESDAY: NO MASS

HOME ROSARY 3:00 PM  
**Joan Hiscox (99 Warialda road)**  
 Tingha Home Rosary 4:30 PM

THURSDAY: SCHOOL VISITATION 9:15 AM  
 Rosary & Angelus 11:30 AM  
 Home Visitation 2:30 PM

FRIDAY: **Infants Liturgy** 9:30 AM  
 McLean MASS 11:00 AM  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday TEAM  
 Hospital Visitation 3:00 PM

SATURDAY: WEDDING 10:00 AM  
**Rogie Zapata and Winnie Ferrer**

BAPTISM 2:00 PM  
**Imogen Joy Emerson Sippel**

### Altar Society ROSTERS

#### August

Margaret Allan  
 Jan Frater  
 Danica Ybas  
 Jonah Grava

#### September

Pat Mather  
 Judy Harris  
 Yvonne Campbell  
 Rhonda McGregor

#### October

Yvonne Hawkins  
 Ann Tubb  
 Maree Chie  
 Mary Middleton

### 14 August / Sun. 9 am

P CONSTABLE, REDONDO FAM.  
 D BRYANT  
 J RAINGER, B McGRATH  
 G TAVIERA  
 ALMOITE FAMILY  
 J SAINT, M WALES  
 R & T BENARES  
 F NAVARRO, R GASCON

A TUBB GROUP  
 A TUBB  
 M BUENVENIDA  
 R LONG

### YBAS & BALBOA FAMILY

### 21 August / Sun. 9 am

P CONSTABLE  
 SIBUL/DIZON FAMILIES  
 D McMAHON, E SIBUL  
 J HARRIS  
 ROA FAMILY  
 R GASCON, S HOLLIS,  
 M NEWBIGIN, VOLUNTEER  
 O & L RAINGER,  
 S CAPA, A McINNES  
 A TUBB GROUP  
 A TUBB  
 P CONSTABLE  
 J SAINT

### ALTAR SOCIETY GROUP



The Sacred Heart Parish acknowledges the Kamilaroi people, the traditional owners and custodian of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon this land. And we pray that peace and harmony prevail. GOD BLESS AUSTRALIA.

FATHER of Goodness and Love,

hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in Your healing presence. Show Your mercy as You close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking You for all Your gifts. We ask this through our Lord Jesus who healed those who trust and believe. AMEN.

### **We Pray for the Sick**

Baby Rose Kennedy, Marie Boulus, Dianne O'Connor, Pat Schuman, Brett Romer, Dolores (Tootie) Rolfe, Margaret Polock, Laurel Barker, Maryellen (Dickins) Bond, Anthony Simpson, Kath Hiscox, David Sanders, Sr. Judith Carney RSM, Debbie Radford, Harold Castledine, Irene Dasey, Gwen Zemit, Jenny (Ryan) Dwyer, Mary Schembri, Brian Barker, Tony Seitz, Anne Di Costanzo, Lisa Hopgood, Agnes Hannigan, Anne Gleeson

and all the sick members of our parish whose names are not listed here.

### **We Pray for the Recently Deceased**

Spencer Cook, Joyce Thompson (sister of June Saint), Noella Sims (sister of Shirley Hardy), Pamela Boulus, Robert Upton, Brian O'Farrel, Joseph Kazzi, Helen Palmer, Neil Barker, Lloyd Finlay, Brok Geaney, Marjorie Gentz, Cyril Paul O'Keeffe, Doris Miller

**Anniversaries:** Joseph Michael Stephen, John Thomas O'Brien, Emily Quinlan, Thomas Robbins, and Margaret Dickins

May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

### **Mass Intentions for the Week**

#### **For the repose of the souls of :**

Joseph Michael Stephen, John Thomas O'Brien, Thomas Robbins, Margaret Dickins, Emily Quinlan, Joyce Thompson, Pam Boulus, Noella Sims

#### **For the speedy recovery of the sick especially:**

Marie Boulus

#### **Men's Breakfast 10th SEPT., Saturday 7:30 am**

At the New Australian Café Corner Otho & Evans St. Names to Bernie Cook at 67224387 by Wednesday Night Sept. 7th. ALL ARE WELCOME!

#### **Women's Breakfast 9th September 2016, Friday**

2nd Friday of the month at the Bridge Coffee Lounge. We would love to have other ladies of the parish to join us. Please phone Ann Barry on 67222858 or Marj Manuel on 67224772.

Also now, the 1st Thursday of September at 10:00 am. Everyone welcome.

# THE Mercy OF GOD

Mass of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother  
**A Holy Day of Obligation**



Welcome and Thank You...

**Sr. Helen Baguley**

for sharing your Spiritual Insights  
on  
Jesus as the Face of Mercy...  
God bless...

**THE CLOSING OF THE YEAR OF MERCY**

**"Feast of Christ the King"**

**KINDLY WRITE YOUR NAMES AT THE FOLDER PROVIDED AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH IF YOU ARE GOING TO JOIN THE PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ARMIDALE ON 20TH NOVEMBER**

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**2nd Collection : \$ 1,472.00**

**Loose Collections :\$ 67.10**

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