

**Communion Antiphon:** The earth is replete with the fruits of Your work, O Lord; You bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

**Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible**

**A reflection by the Venerable Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J Sheen**

The announcement of the Eucharist produced one of the greatest crises in His life. His promise to give His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity for the souls of men caused Him to lose much that He had gained. Until now He had almost everyone behind Him: first, the masses or the common people; next, the elite, the intellectuals, and the spiritual leaders; and finally, His own Apostles. But this lofty spiritual doctrine was too much for them. The announcement of the Eucharist cracked His followers wide open. No wonder there has been such a division of sects in Christianity when each man decides for himself whether he will accept a segment of the circle of Christ's truth or the whole circle. Our Lord Himself was responsible for this; He asked a faith too much for most men; His doctrine was too sublime. If He had been only a little more worldly-minded, if He had only allowed His words to be treated as figures of speech, and if He had only been less imperative He might have been more popular. But He rocked all His followers. Calvary would be the hot war against Him; this was the beginning of the cold war. Calvary would be the physical Crucifixion; this was the social Crucifixion. He lost the masses; He created a schism among His disciples; He even weakened His apostolic band.

He lost the masses: The masses were generally interested only in wonders and in security. When He multiplied the loaves and fishes, He startled their eyes. When He filled their stomachs, He satisfied their sense of social justice. That was the kind of king they wanted, a bread king. "What else can religion do for man, anyway, except give him social security?" they seemed to ask. The masses tried to force Him to become a king. That is what Satan wanted, too! Fill gullets, turn stones into bread, and promise prosperity—this is the end of living to most mortals. But Our Lord would have no kingship based on the economics of plenty. To make Him King was His Father's business, not theirs: His Kingship would be of hearts and souls, not digestive tracts. So the Gospel tells us He fled into the mountains Himself alone, to escape their tinsel crown and tin sword.

How close the masses were to salvation! They wanted life; He wanted to give life. The difference was in their interpretation of life. Is it the business of Christ to win followers by elaborate social programs? This is one form of life. Or is it the business of Christ to be willing to lose all the stomach-minded at the cost of reaching the few with faith, to whom will be given the Bread of Life and the Wine that germinates virgins? From that day on, Christ never won the masses; within twenty months they would shout, "Crucify!" as Pilate would say, "Behold your King."

Christ cannot keep everybody united with Him: it is His fault; He is too Divine, too interested in souls, too spiritual for most men.

He also lost a second group that day, namely, the elite, or the intellectual and religious leaders. They would accept Him as a meek, gentle Reformer Who would not extinguish the burning flax; but when it came to saying that He would give His very life, more intimately than a mother gives life to a child at her breast, that was too much. So the Gospel tells us: After this, many of His disciples Went back to their old ways, And walked no more in His company. Our Blessed Lord would certainly never have permitted them to leave if they had not understood what He had said, namely, that He would give us His very life as our life. It could only be that understanding it correctly, they could not swallow it. And He permitted them to leave. As they left He said to them: Does this try your faith? Of course, it tried their faith. Do not men have reason? What was He expecting them to believe? That He was God? That every word He said was Absolute Truth? That He would be able to give hungry souls the same Divine life that they saw before their eyes now? Why not forget this Bread of Life and make it a figure of speech? So Our Lord watched them leave; and they never came back. One day they would be found stirring up the masses against Him; for although they did not leave Him for the same reason, they were agreed that they should take leave of Him.

Christ lost both the chaff and the wheat when He spoke of Himself as the Bread of Life. But now came the break which caused Him the greatest of all sorrow—a sorrow so great that, a thousand years before, it had been prophesied as one of those human rents which would torture His soul—the loss of Judas. Many wonder why Judas broke with Our Lord; they think it was only at the end of Our Lord's life, and that it was only love of money that forced the break. Avarice, indeed it was; but the Gospel tells us the astounding story that Judas broke with Our Divine Lord the day He announced the giving of His Flesh for the life of the world. In the midst of this long story of the Body and Blood of Christ, the Gospel tells us that Our Lord knew who it was that would betray Him. At this promise of the Heavenly Bread, Judas cracked; and at the giving of the Eucharist on the night of the Last Supper, Judas split wide open and betrayed.

Our Lord now marched practically alone. So He turned to the one whom He had associated so intimately with Himself, the man whose name He had changed, from Simon to Peter or Rock, and said to him: Would you, too, go away? Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom should we go? Thy words are the words of eternal life; We have learned to believe and are assured that Thou art the Christ, The Son of God. But the Heart of Christ already had a Cross in it. One of His own twelve was a traitor. The elite, who were divided among themselves, would now unite against Him. And the five thousand that had been in contact with His hand refused to be in contact with His Heart. (Life of Christ)



## 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

25 AUGUST 2024



**"Since Christ Himself has said: 'This is My Body' - who shall dare to doubt that It is His Body?" - St Cyril of Jerusalem**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Turn Your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in You, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to You all the day long.

**First Reading** Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18

**A reading from the book of Joshua**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God Who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, Who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for He is our God.'

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 33:2-3, 16-23

**R: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**
2. The Lord turns His face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns His eyes to the just and His ears to their appeal. **R.**
3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed He will save. **R.**
4. Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue Him. He will keep guard over all His bones, not one of His bones shall be broken. **R.**
5. Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the soul of His servants. Those who hide in Him shall not be condemned. **R.**

**Second Reading** Ephesians 5:21-32

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed Himself for Her to make Her holy. He made Her clean by washing Her in water with a form of words, so that when He took Her to Himself She would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because It is His body - and we are Its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Acclamation** John 6:63, 38

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; You have the words of everlasting life. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel** John 6:60-69

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

After hearing His doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that His followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where He was before? It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to Me unless the Father allows him.' After this many of His disciples left Him and stopped going with Him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that You are the Holy One of God.'

◆ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



# Sacred Heart Parish Church

## Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

### 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

#### August 25th, 2024

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 Website: [www.sacredheartinverell.org.au](http://www.sacredheartinverell.org.au)  
 Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell  
 Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066  
**Parish Office Hours:**  
 Monday 26 August & Friday 30 August - 8am to 1pm  
 Tuesday 27 August - 8am to 12pm  
**Administrator:** Fr Paul Chandler  
**PPC Chair:** Mr David McMahon  
**Holy Trinity Principal:** Mrs Jillian Rainger  
**Parish Secretary:** Peter Turner



#### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

**We pray for:** Repose of all souls in Purgatory; the health and recovery of Craig Johnson.

#### the Recently Deceased:

Sr Agnes Sasagawa (visionary of Our Lady of Akita in Japan), Helen Baldwin, Valerie Coggan, Val Malisse, Robert Sanders (great-nephew of June Turner), Bishop John Baptist Bac (Vietnam).

#### the sick:

Brenda McPhee, Danielle Irwin, Sue Barwick, Bob McGuire, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, Phillip Matthews, Neville Barwick, Fr Barry Leech, Lara Bentley, Danny Dickins, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, **and all the sick members of our parish.**

Please contact the priest on 67221103 for home visits to the homebound and the sick

#### PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

**1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)**

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

**2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses**

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell

For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

**Planned Giving Program:** If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

#### AUGUST - THE HOLY MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

##### MONDAY 26th

Feast Day of Bl. John Paul I, pope

**No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm**

##### TUESDAY 27th

Feast Day of St Monica

**No Mass - Church open from 8am to 12 Noon**

##### WEDNESDAY 28th

Feast Day of St Augustine of Hippo, bishop, doctor

**No Mass - Church open from 11am to 12 Noon**

##### THURSDAY 29th

The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr

**No Mass - Church open from 11am to 12 Noon**

##### FRIDAY 30th

Friday of the 21st week of Ordinary Time

**Funeral of Valerie Coggan - 11.00am**

##### SATURDAY 31st

Saturday of the 21st week of Ordinary Time

**Baptism of Callum Short - 10.00am**

**Holy Mass of Sunday - 2.30pm at Ashford**

**Rosary - 5.00pm**

**Holy Mass of Sunday - 5.30pm**

#### SEPTEMBER - THE HOLY MONTH OF THE SEVEN SORROWS OF OUR LADY

##### SUNDAY 1st

**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time / Father's Day**

**Rosary - 8.30am**

**Holy Mass - 9.00am**

##### Sacrament of Confession

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Saturday: 4.45pm to 5.15pm

(and at any time upon request)

**OTHER MASSES: (May to August times)**

*McLean Village* Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *Bundarra*, St Mary of the Angels - 3.00pm

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.00pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.00pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 2.30pm

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am

Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

**We welcome Fr John McHugh** who will be our celebrant in

Fr Paul Chandler's absence.

#### PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

##### A friendly reminder

Please maintain a respectful atmosphere of reverence before and after each Mass so those praying may do so without distraction. Any conversation should be conducted quietly. Also, please remember to turn off your mobile devices.

*"By devoutly assisting at Holy Mass you render the greatest homage possible to the Sacred Humanity of Our Lord."*

- St Leonard

##### ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR AUGUST

Rosie Michael & Val McMahon

##### HOME ROSARY

*"How beautiful is the family that recites the Rosary every evening."* - Pope St John Paul II

Bernie & Colleen Graham

11 Diamond Street, Tingha

**Wednesday 28 August at 4.30pm**

##### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Pastoral Council - Thurs 5 Sept 2024, 5.00pm

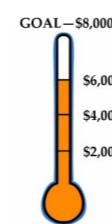
First Holy Communion Mass - Sun 8 Sept 2024, 9.00am

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 8 Sept 2024, after Mass

Liturgy Committee - Sat 21 Sept, 9.00am

Finance Committee - Wed 9 Oct 2024, 5.00pm

**Thank you** to those who have donated to the air-conditioning project. For others who may wish to contribute, you may use the Special Collection envelopes placed at the entrances of the Church or use the BSB and Account Number of the 2nd Collection. Use "air-conditioning" as the reference.



**Social Justice Sunday:** In the 2024 – 2025 Social Justice Statement, *"Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World"*, Australia's Bishops scrutinise the signs of our own troubled times, observe the violence around us, and ask why it is so. They also ask what is needed if there is to be peace. In a world full of pessimism, they put their faith and hope in the possibility of peace, which is possible if we put our trust in Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. It is from Him that we learn about the architecture of peace. From Him, we learn a commitment to the importance of seeing everyone as our sister, our brother. The statement also provides some suggested actions to help us to build on our commitment to be peacemakers locally and internationally. The statement can be read online at [socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://socialjustice.catholic.org.au).

MASS ROSTER	24Aug-Sat 5.30pm	25Aug-Sun 9am	31Aug-Sat 5.30pm	1Sept-Sun 9am
Projector	Sr Coral	P Girle	S Szumowski	R McGregor
Readers	J Harris & C Roberts	G Johnson & MJ Guest	J Monie & M Casey-Ransom	B McGrath & S Hollis
Commentator	P Mather	M Gaukroger	J Kelly	J Rainger
Offertory	Volunteer	M Wales & volunteer	Volunteer	S Kenny & Volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	J Monie	R Johnson	P Moroney	G Johnson
Counters		N Turner		R & G Johnson

##### Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, refuge of sinners, I beg of you by the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and by the graces God has granted to you since your Immaculate Conception, the grace of never going astray again. Mother, keep me, a sinner, constantly bathed in the light of your Immaculate Heart. Amen.



##### Prayer for the Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist - 29 August

O God, You raised up St John the Baptist to prepare a perfect people for Christ.

Fill Your people with the joy of possessing His grace, and direct the minds of all the faithful in the way of peace and salvation. Grant that, as he was martyred for truth and justice, we

may energetically profess our Faith in You, and lead others to the Way, the Truth, and Eternal Life.

St John the Baptist, by the example of your life of penance and the power of your word, you drew the multitudes in order to dispose them to receive the Messiah worthily and to listen to His heavenly doctrine. Help us to follow your example of a holy life so we may bring many souls to God, especially those souls enveloped in the darkness of error and ignorance. Amen.

##### FOR SALE

- Over 100 **black plastic chairs** (like the ones in the meeting room) are housed in the presbytery garage. They no longer seem to be needed. Would you like some for your house/outdoor dining/or just to have spare? **\$5 each!**
  - The Rinnai Energysaver **gas heaters** in the church. These will no longer be needed when the air conditioners are operative. One parishioner has already expressed interest in one of them. The other is going for **\$100**.
  - 2 **pre-cut kitchen bench tops** - KABOODLE brand available at Bunnings - each 600mm wide, 38mm deep, 3380mm long - Oyster Swirl colour - selling at 50% of retail price - **\$300 each!**
- Sales Cash only. Contact Parish Office during office hours** for inspection and collection.