



Feast Day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - 8 September

God has to have two pictures of us: one is what we are, and the other is what we ought to be. He has the model, and He has the reality: the blueprint and the edifice, the score of the music and the way we play it. God has to have these two pictures because in each and every one of us there is some disproportion and want of

conformity between the original plan and the way we have worked it out. The image is blurred; the print is faded. For one thing, our personality is not complete in time; we need a renewed body. Then, too, our sins diminish our personality; our evil acts daub the canvas the Master Hand designed...We are in constant need of repairs; our free acts do not coincide with the law of our being; we fall short of all God wants us to be.

There is, actually, only one person in all humanity of whom God has one picture and in whom there is a perfect conformity between what He wanted her to be and what she is, and that is His Own Mother. Most of us are a minus sign, in the sense that we do not fulfil the high hopes the Heavenly Father has for us. But Mary is the equal sign. The Ideal that God had of her, that she is, and in the flesh. The model and the copy are perfect; she is all that was foreseen, planned, and dreamed. The melody of her life is played just as it was written. Mary was thought, conceived, and planned as the equal sign between ideal and history, thought and reality, hope and realisation.

That is why, through the centuries, Christian Liturgy has applied to her the words of the Book of Proverbs (Prov 8:22-35). Because she is what God wanted us all to be, she speaks of herself as the Eternal blueprint in the Mind of God, the one whom God loved before she was a creature. She is even pictured as being with Him not only at creation but also before creation. She existed in the Divine Mind as an Eternal Thought before there were any mothers. She is the Mother of mothers - she is the world's first love.

(The World's First Love, Venerable Fulton J Sheen)

Prayer: O Virgin immaculate, you who by a singular privilege of grace was preserved from original sin, look in pity upon our separated brethren, who are nevertheless your children, and call them back to the centre of unity. Not a few of them, although separated from the Church, have kept a certain veneration for you; and do, generous as you are, reward them for it, by obtaining for them the grace of conversion. You were conqueror of the infernal serpent from the first instant of your existence; renew even now, for it is now more necessary than ever before, your ancient

triumphs; glorify your divine Son, bring back to Him the sheep that have strayed from the one fold and place them once more under the guidance of the universal Shepherd who holds the place of your Son on earth; let it be your glory, O Virgin who destroys all heresies, to restore unity and peace once more to all the Christian people. Amen.



First Holy Communion: We pray for all those who will be making their First Holy Communion this Sunday. May they be nourished body and soul by this Most Blessed Sacrament.

Prayer: My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to possess You within my soul. I believe it because You have said it. Grant me the grace to maintain this truth and the courage to give my life to defend it. Amen.

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

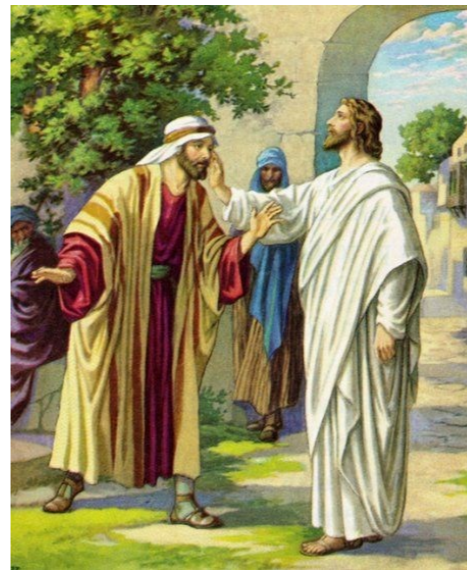
When God with His divine nature came down to this world and took upon Himself the human nature from the womb of His Blessed Mother, He took upon Himself an instrument. Once God took upon Himself our human nature, He could act in our name. And every one of the actions of that human nature would have an infinite value. Not a sigh, a word, a tear, a step of that human nature was inseparable from the Person of God. That is why one breath of God-made-man would have been enough to have redeemed the world. Why? Because it was the breath of God, and therefore had an infinite value. Why then did God suffer so much when He took upon Himself our human nature? God's love knows no limits. The only way to prove perfect love is by surrender of all that one has in oneself. God took upon Himself our human nature, and He said that He loved us unto the end, even to death.

He took upon Himself our sicknesses and our illnesses. What does sacred scripture mean by that? For about two years I pondered that passage. The answer came in reading the work of a famous Swiss psychiatrist. He tells the story of two doctors, both of whom had healing hands. One of the doctors stated that whenever he healed anyone, something of the sickness of that other person passed to himself. The other doctor stated that he often cured patients of angina, but he had to give up healing because he suffered so many attacks of angina. Is not this the key? Now let us go into some of the cures of our Lord. We often read in the gospels that when He cured the deaf, the dumb, and the blind, He sighed. We read that when He raised Lazarus from the dead, He groaned. I believe that at that moment our Lord took upon Himself the ills and the sicknesses of others. When He cured a blind man, I think that He felt inside Himself not just the blindness of that one man, but all the blindness of men that have ever lived.

(Through the Year with Fulton Sheen)



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B 8 SEPTEMBER 2024 - THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY



“This little word, ‘Ephphatha – Be opened,’ sums up Christ’s entire mission. He became man so that man, made inwardly deaf and dumb by sin, would become able to hear the voice of God, the voice of love speaking to his heart, and learn to speak in the language of love, to communicate with God and with others.” - Pope Benedict XVI, 9 Sept 2012

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and Your judgement is right; treat Your servant in accord with Your merciful love.

First Reading Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Say to all faint hearts, ‘Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; He is coming to save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lamb shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:7-10

R: Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord Who keeps faith for ever, Who is just to those who are oppressed. It is He Who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, Who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord Who gives sight to the blind, Who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord Who loves the just, the Lord, Who protects the stranger. **R.**

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion’s God, from age to age. **R.**

Second Reading James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, ‘Come this way to the best seats;’ then you tell the poor man, ‘Stand over there’ or ‘You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.’ Can’t you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him.

◆ **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought Him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked Him to lay His hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put His fingers into the man’s ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven He sighed; and He said to him, ‘Ephphatha,’ this is, ‘Be opened.’ And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more He insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. ‘He has done all things well,’ they said, ‘He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.’

◆ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Communion Antiphon: Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for You, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible





Sacred Heart Parish Church

Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

September 8, 2024 - The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Church Inverell
Holy Trinity School Ph: 02 6722 4066
Parish Office Hours:
Monday 9 Sept & Friday 13 Sept - 8am to 1pm
Tuesday 10 Sept - 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 those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially Bishop Henry Kennedy, 7th Bishop of Armidale (d.2013), Bishop Timothy O'Mahony, 1st Bishop of Armidale (d.1892); repose of all souls in Purgatory; the health and recovery of Craig Johnston.

the Recently Deceased:

Sr Agnes Sasagawa (visionary of Our Lady of Akita in Japan), Helen Baldwin, Valerie Coggan, Val Mallise.

the sick:

Craig Johnston, Brenda McPhee, Danielle Irwin, Sue Barwick, Bob McGuire, Peter Moroney, Christopher Pay, 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.

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.

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

MONDAY 9th

Feast Day of St Peter Claver

No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm

TUESDAY 10th

Feast Day of St Nicholas of Tolentino

No Mass - Church open from 8am to 12 Noon

WEDNESDAY 11th

Feast Day of St Daniel

No Mass

THURSDAY 12th

Feast Day of the Most Holy Name of Mary

No Mass - Church open from 11am to 12 Noon

FRIDAY 13th

Feast Day of St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor

No Mass - Church open from 8am to 1pm

SATURDAY 14th

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

No Mass at Bundarra

Rosary - 5.30pm

Holy Mass of Sunday - 6.00pm

SUNDAY 15th

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rosary - 8.30am

Holy Mass - 9.00am

Sacrament of Confession

Sunday: 8.00am to 8.30am

Saturday: 5.15pm to 5.45pm

(and at any time upon request)

OTHER MASSES:

McLean Village Each 4th Thursday - 10.00am

2nd Saturday - *Bundarra*, St Mary of the Angels - 3.30pm

3rd Saturday - *Ashford*, St Patrick's Church - 3.30pm

4th Saturday - *Tingha*, St. Francis' Church - 3.30pm

5th Saturday - *Yetman*, St Joseph the Worker - 3.00pm

Baptism - Saturdays & Sundays at 10.30am

Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

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

Poor Boxes: Don't forget you can help our local St Vincent de Paul ministry by making a donation to the Poor Boxes in the Church. All donations will be used to assist the poor in our community.

The St Vincent de Paul Inverell Store is in **urgent** need of volunteers to assist inside the shop as shop assistants. The hours are between 9am to 2.30pm on weekdays. If you can volunteer for any day during the week please contact Marea on 0487 913 900 for more information.

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 SEPTEMBER

Pat Mather, Judy Harris & Yvonne Campbell

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 11 September at 4.30pm

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sunday Morning Tea - Sun 8 Sept 2024, after Mass

Liturgy Committee - Sat 21 Sept 2024, 9.00am

Finance Committee - Wed 9 Oct 2024, 5.00pm

Pastoral Council - Thurs TBA 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.

FOR SALE

- **38 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.

MASS ROSTER	7Sept-Sat 6.00pm	8Sept-Sun 9am	14Sept-Sat 6pm	15Sept-Sun 9am
Projector	N Turner	H Rossel	J Kelly	P Girle
Readers	P Mather & S O'Brien	HTS	J Harris & S Szumowski	D McMahon & J Thivakon
Commentator	J Harris	HTS	J Monie	MJ Guest
Offertory	Volunteer	HTS	Volunteer	Volunteer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Michael	HTS	M Gaukroger	B McGrath
Counters		L MacDonald & P Girle		G Chie & G Fleming

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary for her Seven Sorrows

O Blessed Mother Mary, your Immaculate Heart was afflicted seven times with a deep anguish. In your great sorrow you never doubted God's Divine Wisdom, but joined your Will to His. We beseech you to stand by us in our trials and teach us to follow your example of patience, love, and charity. Pray for us, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Seven Sorrows: The Prophecy of Simeon, The Flight into Egypt, The Loss of the child Jesus in the Temple, Mary meets Jesus on the way to Calvary, Mary stands at the foot of the Cross, Mary receives the dead body of Jesus, Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Devotion to the Sorrows of Our Lady

In the 14th century, Our Lady revealed to St. Bridget of Sweden seven special graces that she would grant to those devoted to her Sorrows. She spoke at length to St. Bridget about the Passion of her Son and her own Sorrows, and made these promises to those who would say seven Hail Marys daily while meditating on her tears and sufferings:

"I will grant peace to their families."

"They will be enlightened about the divine Mysteries."

"I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work."

"I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my divine Son or the sanctification of their souls."

"I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives."

"I will visibly help them at the moment of their death—they will see the face of their mother."

"I have obtained this grace from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolours will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness, since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son will be their eternal consolation and joy."

Sick Visit / Last Rites: A reminder that if you have a Catholic relative in hospital or aged care who is in need of a priest, please inform the parish office or Fr Paul so he may visit them.