

First Holy Communion



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

27 August 2023 at 3.00 pm

St Michael's Catholic Church, Hurstville

Parish Priest: Rev Dr Janusz Bieniek CSMA
Parish Administrator: Rev George Gorzkowski CSMA
Priest in Residence: Rev Thomas Lasen CSMA

Prayer before Mass (St Thomas Aquinas)

Almighty and everlasting God, behold I come to the Sacrament of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: I come as one infirm to the physician of life, as one unclean to the fountain of mercy, as one blind to the light of everlasting brightness, as one poor and needy to the Lord of heaven and earth. Therefore I implore the abundance of Thy measureless bounty that Thou wouldst vouchsafe to heal my infirmity, wash my uncleanness, enlighten my blindness, enrich my poverty and clothe my nakedness, that I may receive the Bread of Angels, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, with such reverence and humility, with such sorrow and devotion, with such purity and faith, with such purpose and intention as may be profitable to my soul's salvation. Grant unto me, I pray, the grace of receiving not only the Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood, but also the grace and power of the Sacrament. O most gracious God, grant me so to receive the Body of Thine only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, which He took from the Virgin Mary, as to merit to be incorporated into His mystical Body, and to be numbered amongst His members. O most loving Father, give me grace to behold forever Thy beloved Son with His face at last unveiled, whom I now purpose to receive under the sacramental veil here below. Amen.

Prayer after Mass (St Thomas Aquinas)

I give thanks to Thee, O Lord, most holy, Father almighty, eternal God, that Thou hast vouchsafed, for no merit of mine own, but out of Thy pure mercy, to appease the hunger of my soul with the precious body and blood of Thy Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Humbly I implore Thee, let not this holy communion be to me an increase of guilt unto my punishment, but an availing plea unto pardon and salvation. Let it be to me the armour of faith and the shield of good will. May it root out from my heart all vice; may it utterly subdue my evil passions and all my unruly desires. May it perfect me in charity and patience; in humility and obedience; and in all other virtues. May it be my sure defence against the snares laid for me by my enemies, visible and invisible. May it restrain and quiet all my evil impulses, and make me ever cleave to Thee Who art the one true God. May I owe to it a happy ending of my life. And do Thou, O heavenly Father, vouchsafe one day to call me, a sinner, to that ineffable banquet, where Thou, together with Thy Son and the Holy Ghost, art to Thy saints true and unfailing light, fullness of content, joy for evermore, gladness without alloy, consummate and everlasting happiness. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession

Crucifix: **Kenneth**; Candle: **Austin**; Candle: **Maximus**

Entrance Hymn

Sign of the Cross and Greeting

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

Blessing of the Children

Priest: Almighty Father, you are with us every time we gather to celebrate the Eucharist and your Holy Spirit fills us with grace. We thank you for the way we meet Jesus in your word. We praise you for his presence in our brethren who worship with us. We bless you for revealing Jesus to us in the words and actions of every priest during Mass. We thank you, we praise you, and we bless you, Father, as we recognise Jesus in the consecrated Bread and Wine.

All: Amen.

Priest: Parents, continue to encourage your children to live the way of the Gospel. Offer them your love, understanding and guidance; but above all, be good models of Christian living so that by your example they may grow deeper in the Faith of the Church.

All: Amen.

Priest: I invite the congregation to pray with me for these children.

God, our Father, look with kindness upon these children whom the Church commends to your tender care. Your Son gladly welcomed children. He took them in his arms, blessed them, and held them up as an example for all. We pray, Father, that you will

bestow your blessing upon them, so that they may grow in Christian maturity and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's witnesses in the world, spreading and defending the Faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Priest: May the Lord Jesus Christ, bless you and keep you all in his love, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Penitential Act

Priest: Brothers and sisters let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, **(strike breast 3x)** through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Kyrie

Priest: Kyrie eleison.

All: Kyrie eleison.

Priest: Christe eleison.

All: Christe eleison.

Priest: Kyrie eleison.

All: Kyrie eleison.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,

*We give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Collect

Priest: Let us pray.

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Is 22:19-23

Jason: **A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

Declan: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Declan: I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Evelyn: I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Cean: The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

All: Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading Rom 11:33-36

William: **A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

William: Alleluia, Alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 16:13-20

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Priest: When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith (Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and

was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

Priest: When we appear before the judgement seat of God, we will have to account for our use or misuse of the gifts he entrusted to us. In prayer, we seek the help of our Creator and Redeemer.

Emma: For the Holy Catholic Church. May she always stand for the truth and resist all error, and may all who claim her guidance humbly submit to the Divine Will. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Jordan: For Pope Francis, our bishops Anthony, Richard, Daniel, Fr Janusz, Fr George, Fr Thomas and all priests. May our loving Mother Mary be their joy and consolation as they persevere in their efforts for the salvation of souls. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Norinne: For all parents. May they honour their role as first teachers and models of the Catholic Faith to their children within the loving embrace of the family. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Maximilian: For our catechists and religion teachers. May they seek to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and grant them the grace to be faithful heralds of your Word so that hearts will be converted and ever rejoice in the love of Jesus our Redeemer. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Emily: For the children receiving Holy Communion for the first time today. May they truly believe in the Real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist and seek to receive this healing gift as regularly as possible. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Mason: Grant patience, healing and comfort to those who are sick and suffering. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Niamh: Grant eternal rest to our recently departed relatives and friends. Lord hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God our Father, you invite us to know, love and serve you through your Son, who comes to us as spiritual food and drink. We pray that we may all grow into faithful disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Host: **Elle**; Wine : **Sky**; Candle: **Salvatore**; Candle: **Leon**

Offertory Hymn

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your

goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.

Priest: Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

Priest: O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your Spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Preface | of the Most Holy Eucharist

Priest: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For he is the true and eternal Priest, who instituted the pattern of an everlasting sacrifice, and was the first to offer himself as

the saving Victim, commanding us to make this offering as his memorial. As we eat his flesh that was sacrificed for us, we are made strong, and, as we drink his Blood that was poured out for us, we are washed clean.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

Sanctus

*Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Eucharistic Prayer III

Priest: You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the ✠ Body and Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,

FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

Priest: The mystery of faith.

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

Priest: Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs, with Saint Michael the Archangel, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Francis our Pope and Anthony our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind

admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Priest: Through him, and with him and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer

Priest: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching we dare to say:

All: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may always be free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign forever and ever.

All: Amen.

Sign of Peace

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Breaking of the Bread

Priest: (quietly) May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Priest: May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgement and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me protection in mind and body and a healing remedy.

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him, who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Priest: May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

Priest: May the Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

Communion

Who may receive Holy Communion? Catholics who are in a state of Sanctifying Grace and having fasted for an hour prior may receive Holy Communion. Everyone else including children who have not received the Sacrament of Reconciliation may receive a blessing by coming up with arms crossed over their breast. If you are receiving Holy Communion, please show reverence by bowing before reception. Those receiving by hand should consume the Sacred Host while still in front of the Minister or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn

Thanksgiving Hymn

Prayer after Communion

Priest: Let us pray.

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your

mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Concluding Rites

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: May God the Father, who called us together bless you, protect you and keep you faithful.

All: Amen.

Priest: May Christ the Lord, the High King of Heaven, be near you at all times and shield you from all evil.

All: Amen.

Priest: May the Holy Spirit, who is the source of all holiness, make you rich in the love of God's people.

All: Amen.

Priest: And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All: Amen.

Priest: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer to St Michael the Archangel

St Michael the Archangel, defend us in the hour of battle, be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl around the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Procession

Crucifix: **Kenneth**; Candle: **Liam**; Candle: **Joseph**

[Certificate presentation and picture taking](#)

BANARIA Brayden Christopher
BEVANDA Jason Can
CELLI Salvatore
DANKHA Daniel Joseph
DHARMAWAN Emily Suyi
DIETZ Louie James
ESPEHON Cean Dane de Padua
FU Isaac Declan
IOVANNELLA Austin Adrian
JO Kenneth Gerald
JOVANOVIC Maximus Dominik
KAZZI Leon Hudson
KOK Emily Jane
LAGOUDAKIS Addison Therese
LAM Cassandra
LEE Joseph Yong Qiang
LO Verna
McSHANE Evelyn
MOGUS Elle Marie
NAVARRO Rylie Sky
PAGANO Maximilian
PROVINO Caleb Jackson
ROWE Emma De Vere
SAVANAH William
SEKULCESKI Christian
TAIAROA Angelina Bella
TAKAU Milah Lee
TORRES Mason Gabriel
VALENZUELA Norinne Emanuelle
WHATSON Liam Daniel
WHATSON Niamh Emily
WHYMARK Elyse
WONG Olivia Jing Yin
ZANGARI Antonia
ZANGARI Jordan

Sacramental Team
Fr Janusz, Fr George
Carmela, Elizabeth, Jana, Meliani, Pinky, Therese, Tom, Valerie
Our Lady, Gate of Heaven. Pray for us.
LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI, LEX VIVENDI