

Carmel Bulletin

Sunday 14 January 2024

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B



Reflections

Jn 1:35-42

Called by Name

We now begin what the Church calls "Ordinary Time." Christmas season is over, and we begin to see Jesus at work. We begin with a significant story, found in the First Reading for this Sunday. Must it always be God or Jesus who calls our name in order for us to become ourselves?

A young man named Samuel is sleeping in the temple. He wakes up instantly when he hears his name spoken out loud. He cries out, "Here I am!" and runs to his master, Eli, who is sleeping in another place in the temple. "You called me, what do you want?"

"I didn't call you," Eli rasps. "Go back to sleep."

But the same thing happened again. Samuel runs to Eli, with the same result.

On the third time, the old man at last understands. Wisely, he says "Samuel if this happens again, say these words: 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'"

Samuel goes back to sleep. He hears his name again, "Samuel, Samuel"! Following instructions, he says, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening!" God speaks, and Samuel grows up accompanied by the Lord's presence.

So much for the First Reading. Another naming is represented in the Gospel. John the Baptist points to Jesus. Jesus is waiting for standers-by to notice him and get interested. They follow and Jesus says bluntly, "What are you looking for?"

There are several layers to this question. The plain meaning is, "What's up? Why are you following me?" But the depth charge is there too, the same one that finally shook Samuel loose: "Are you looking for God? Is that your hunger? Is there something about me that answers the deep desire of your heart?"

They stammer. They give some kind of reply. "Well, uh, well, um, where, where are you staying?" Jesus replied as he does to you and me: "Come and see."

They do go and see, spending the day with him. One of them, Andrew, runs to get his brother Simon, shouting, "we have found the Messiah"! They run back to Jesus and the most important event in Simon's life takes place: Jesus gives him the name Cephas (Peter), a new deep identity for him. The word Cephas' base meaning is "the rock." Jesus must have seen innermost stability in him.

Peter could never have become fully himself if someone had not named him all the way to his depths. The same goes for Samuel. God can call any of us by a name that reaches all the way down into our souls, to a place that we do not even know about! Our job is to begin hearing and to grow.

Must it always be God or Jesus who calls our name in order for us to become ourselves? Couldn't a psychologist do it, or a spouse, or a dear friend who believes in us? Yes, of course, each of these know us and beckon us to be ourselves.

But only God can know our very deepest desires, and only God can satisfy the one that is the most precious in each of us: the reaching out for that person we want most and for whose sake we love others. Jesus God.

Do you sense in your insides a kind voice whispering such an invitation, calling you by your real name, calling you to be an ally of the Christ of God?

John Foley, SJ

Parish News

THANK YOU

On behalf of all our parishioners and visitors, I would like to thank our ministers for the wonderful efforts they put into making our Christmas and New Year celebrations the outstanding celebrations they were.

We received lots of good feedback especially from visitors to the parish about the celebrations, music and about feeling welcomed.

Thanks especially to those ministers who came prepared to proclaim the Word of God, to all musicians and singers who provided us with deeply moving and joyful sounds, to our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who paid particular attention to those with mobility issues, to our wardens who saw what was needed and immediately volunteered, to those who cleaned and decorated the church and made our celebrations the beautiful and welcoming events that they were.

Thank you all so much for your dedication to our parish community and our sacred spaces, and for your loving friendship to one another and the Carmelite Fathers.

Welcome to our community

This weekend, we welcome Preston into the community of the Faithful. Preston's parents, Chevon and Sylvan, along with big brother, Caden, are well known to our community, and we wish them all the best.

Funeral notice

The funeral for the late **Anthony 'Tony' Campton** will be held here at OLMC at 11am on Thursday 17 January 2024

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

Getting to know you Parish Dinner



Ticket sales are going well. So far, we have 93 people who have confirmed and paid for tickets.

We encourage those who have been considering attending to obtain their tickets early.

Please note that this function is open to everyone, even non-Catholics.

You will not be disappointed!

If you have a special dietary request for this event, please use the form provided in the Parish Centre to list your requests.

Thank you for your generosity

Last week's donation to the Parish: \$2821

Planned Giving (cash): \$ 635
Planned Giving (credit cards): \$ Loose cash: \$ 681
Direct Deposits: \$ 890
Tap & Go: \$ 615

Parish Online Banking: If you would like to pay fees or are able to make a donation, our online banking details are:

BSB: 067 950

Account Number: 00602

Account Name: Wentworthville Catholic Church **Reference:** [YourSurname]DONATION NAME

Fees for special Services

Please see below, a simplified guide to our fees for special

Services:

Wedding: \$700 Funeral: \$700

Baptism: \$50 **Memorial service:** \$400

What is Planned Giving?

Planned Giving is a pledge you make to assist the parish with their finances. Your contributions would go toward staff salaries, insurance, maintenance, loan repayments, liturgical resources, etc. You can choose to set-up an automated deposit from your bank account with the amount and frequency you would like to donate. Just make sure to use the banking details above. Planned Giving is a very convenient and practical method of contributing to the parish, even if it's just \$5 a week.

If you would like to receive a receipt for your Planned Giving please contact Gennie, our Finance Officer, on ocarmswentyaccts@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Please pray for

Those who are sick, especially Rita Ientile, Vivian Sultana, Roseline Fernandez, Yolanda Gonzales, Edwin Macwan, Sharon Dolan.

Recently deceased, Matthew Spiteri, Tony Campton, Thea Flynn, Robert Howe, Joanne Tabone, Charlie Bonnici, Duyen Tran.

Our special intentions, especially the Clivin family, Spiteri & Tabone families, Marina & family, Joyce Cini, Mary & Frank Teuma, Tony & Antonia Cini, Mary & Frank Camilleri, Doreen Camilleri, Joseph Teuma, Joe & Maria Vella, Rosa Titian, Sonia Spittle, Jesse & Kevin McManus, Joseph Calleja, Celedonia Biason Bautista, Carmelo Sultana, and in honour of St Anthony.

Names published with permission from families.

Coming events

17 January: St Anthony the Great (abbot)

20 January: St Sebastian

21 January: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Rosters for 20 and 21 January 2024

| MASS | ROLE | VOLUNTEER |
|----------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 6pm (Vigil) | Reader Commentator Communion | Anne-Marie Torrens Trish Maldigri Charlie Felice (Assembly) Caz Learmonth |
| 8am | Reader Commentator Communion | Michelle Rodrigues David Rodrigues Cecilia Cotter (Assembly) David Rodrigues |
| 10am | Reader Commentator Communion | Jay Dass Clyde Fernandes Mary Vijila (Assembly) Rosemary Chung |
| 6pm | Reader Commentator Communion | Volunteer needed Mark Attwood Jovan Titus |

Next week's readings

20 and 21 January – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:29-31
Gospel: Mk 1:14-20

Around the Diocese and beyond

NEW Diocesan website launched

The new parracatholic.org website is now here with a comprehensive 'Find a Mass' function which includes Daily and Weekend Masses, Reconciliation and Adoration times; a centralised event calendar; Daily Mass readings and different ways you can contribute to the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. Check it out today!

Liturgical Ministry Course returns in 2024

The Liturgical Ministry Formation Courses will recommence in February 2024. This is formation for anyone interested in serving within the Liturgical Ministries either as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Communion to the Sick and Dying and Ministers at the Altar. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Office for Worship on 0460 037 795 or mary.gale@parracatholic.org or visit our website to download an enrolment form at https://officeforworship.org.au/

Marriage Preparation Courses in 2024

Getting married in 2024? Let the Diocese of Parramatta help you prepare. Visit www.parracatholic.org/pmp to view weekend course dates in the New Year, to book and pay. An

online preparation called *SmartLoving* can also be booked via the website. For more information, email met@parracatholic.org or phone Karin on 0419 242 435 or Marisa on 0412 280 017.

Soul Food Podcast

Do you find life & faith inspiration by listening to the experiences of others? The Mission Enhancement Team's Soul Food Podcast features life & faith stories of people from our diocesan family. Listen now for FREE via our website pfparra.org.au/soulfood/ or on Spotify.

Free English and Citizenship Classes

Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains are offering English and Citizenship classes at Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd, Orchard Hills, on a Tuesday and Wednesday from 10am to 2pm during school terms. Free childcare is available. If you are interested in enrolling, please contact Mamre Crèche on (02) 8843 2506 or Nepean Community College (02) 4724 9000.

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Connect with us

Online at www.olmcwenty.org.au
On Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @olmcwenty
Email ocarmswenty@gmail.com

Parish Office

Open Monday to Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm Parish Office is closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday Phone 9631 8302

Parish Priest: Fr. Januario Pinto, O.Carm Assistant Priest: Fr. Christian Marave, O.Carm In Community: Fr. Anthony Scerri, O.Carm, Fr. Paul Gurr, O.Carm (Carmelite Prior), Fr. Wayne Stanhope, O.Carm (at Jamberoo), Fr. John Powell, O.Carm (in Aged Care)

Parish Secretary: Paola Yévenes **Finance Officer:** Gennie Cosgrove

Our Lady of Mt Carmel Primary School

Principal: Olimpia Pirovic

Phone: 8832 1100

Liturgy times

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 6pm (Vigil) Sunday: 8am, 10am, 6pm

Weekday Masses

Monday - Thursday and Saturday: 9am

Friday: 9:15am (except on the first Friday of the month)

Reconciliation

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday: 8am Rosary Group

Monday - Friday: 8am

Saturday: after the 9am Mass

Anointing within Mass

First Friday of the month at 9am Mass followed by a shared Morning Tea

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

On request

We acknowledge the Darug people as the original custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders; past, present and emerging.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, together with the Diocese of Parramatta and the Carmelite Friars, are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults in our care and ensuring that they feel and are safe.