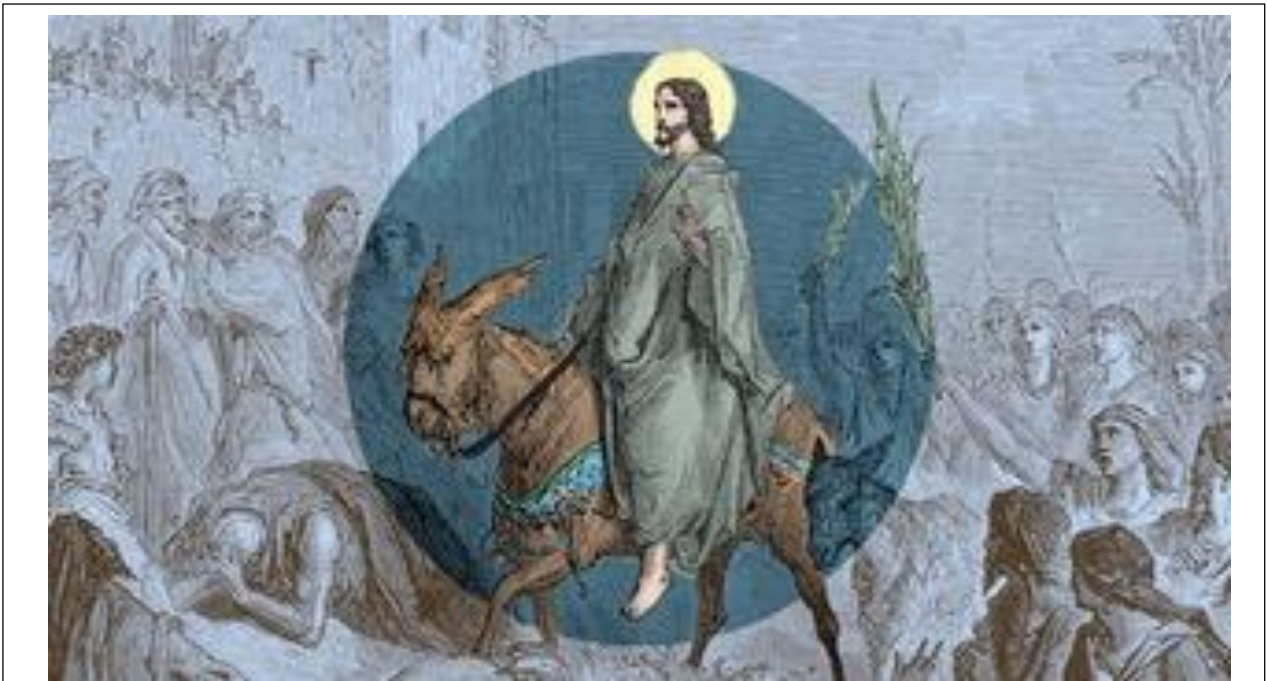


Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest
Monsignor Patrick H. Daly

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Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 5 July 2020

“Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the
mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.”

Matthew 11, 25

PRIVATE PRAYER OPENING – NOTE CHANGE OF TIME

Our Lady & St. Anne Church will be open for personal/private prayer each Friday, from **18.00 to 19.00 hrs.**

- Entry to the church is through the double doors next to the Cenacle.
- Visitors are asked to carefully read the statements displayed on the doors, before entering.
- On entry, visitors will be greeted by a steward and will need to register their contact details for track and trace purposes.
- Visitors are asked to wear a face covering during their time in church.
- Visitors must apply hand sanitiser on entry and departure.
- Visitors will be escorted to a seat by a steward. We ask visitors to sit at the end of the designated bench and keep movement along the bench to an absolute minimum.
- A one-way system has been introduced with movement forwards along the central aisle and back down the side aisles. Visitors are requested not to slide along a bench in the centre aisle to reach a side aisle on exit, but to continue forward along the central aisle, similar to the “Communion route”.
- Visitors will either exit through the doors opposite the sanctuary.
- The current capacity is 26 visitors.
- If we have reached capacity, visitors will be asked to wait outside (or in their car) until a place becomes available.
- Pews and kneelers will be disinfected by stewards as each visitor vacates their seat.

All the above measures are designed to ensure the health, safety and well being of all our parishioners and visitors and we thank you for your cooperation.

OPENING FOR MASS

We will return to the celebration of public Mass on **Tuesday 7 July**, and then on **Thursday 9th July** only. Various restrictions apply; it is vital that volunteers, members of the congregation and the celebrant feel comfortable with the new arrangements. The return to regular weekday and Sunday Mass will thus have to be gradual. It is important that those who come to Mass bring a mask or face covering. Holy Communion will be distributed at the end of Mass and practical instructions will be given at each Mass. A very helpful list of practical guidelines for social distancing has been posted alongside this message and at the entrance of church: please take time to read it, you will find it very helpful. **Father Patrick**

IN HOSPITAL DURING COVID-19

Priests are still willing and able to go to hospital to visit patients in an emergency. It is vital that family members let the staff know that their loved ones would like to see a Priest if they are in danger of death.

Tel: 01183225111

If you or a member of your family becomes ill, please ring Fr Patrick on the parish number to let him know.

THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY

team is continuing to run sessions via Zoom every Sunday at 10am. Any parish families who would like to join the sessions should contact the team at childrensliturgy.stannes@gmail.com

Fourteenth Sunday of the Year (Year A – Matthew): When speaking about God we frequently use superlatives: almighty, omnipotent and ubiquitous. The emotions which God evokes are wonder, awe and *fear of the Lord*. And yet throughout salvation history when God has visited his people he has done so discreetly. Moreover he revealed himself primarily to the humblest of people: the elderly Abraham and Sarah, the shepherds on the first Christmas night, the *anawim* of Galilee, and as today's Gospel teaches us, *mere children*. When he entered into our world, the Son of God came in the form of a servant. We have been living for three months now without access to our parish church and yet God has never been absent from us or our families. Many have discovered, through creative family prayer or through following simplified liturgies on-line, how accessible God is. I can only imagine that many of you who are parents or grandparents have learned a lot about God through how your children and grandchildren have kept their faith alive during lockdown. God is omnipotent, he reigns in the majesty of heaven, he is the creative genius of our world – all that is true. But he cares for each of us with infinite love and his desire to be close to us, to approach us in such a way that we recognise him without fear means that he *humbles* himself so as to enter our lives. That is the key mystery of God's identity that today's liturgy makes us aware of.

First Reading (OT): Zechariah 9, 9 – 10: People will immediately recognise in this reading from the OT prophet Zechariah that scene which we act out in our procession which each year opens Holy Week (and which we had to sacrifice this year!), the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem riding on an ass's colt. The OT people were used to war and civil unrest, they lived in fear of the armoury and military strength of both their own king and his adversaries. The prophet looked forward to the messianic age when a king would come but who would demonstrate his power in his very weakness. He was a king who would conquer hearts rather than territory, he would come to unite rather than divide, he would come to serve rather than dominate. It is easy to understand how the evangelists in describing the events of the first Palm Sunday saw Jesus fulfilling the words of the prophet Zechariah.

Second Reading (NT): Romans 8, 9. 11 – 13: During the lockdown we have all got used to living without so many of the material possessions we took for granted and so many of the costly pleasures that all of us felt we legitimately enjoyed. We have got very used to doing without. Many have rediscovered music, have read books, have taken an interest in the nature on display in their gardens. And many too have discovered the joy our spiritual lives can give us. We may be urged to go out and *shop, shop, shop!* yet many will take the advice Paul here gives to the Romans.

Gospel: Matthew 11, 25 – 30: Most of our children have missed several months of school and it is obvious that we should be concerned for their education. Today's Gospel comes as a consolation: when it comes to the things of God, they know more than the clever and the learned. God comes very close to our children.

[Sunday readings](#)

Masses and Intentions Week Fourteen of the Year

Fr Patrick will celebrate most of these Masses on his own but the Tuesday and Wednesday Masses will be open for up to 26 people to attend.

Saturday 4 th July	10.00	Father David Barry [JF]
<i>St. Elizabeth of Portugal</i>	(Exposition)	
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time		Year A
Sunday 5 th July	10.00	People of the parish
Monday 6 th July 09.15		Our Lady & St Anne Intention
<i>St. Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr</i>		
Tuesday 7 th July	09.15	John Barratt
<i>Weekday Feria</i>	[church open for public Mass]	
Wednesday 8 th July	09.15	Margaret McCarthy
<i>Weekday Feria</i>		
Thursday 9 th July	08.00	Brian McAllister
<i>Weekday Feria</i>	[church open for public Mass]	
Friday 10 th July	12.30	Canon Christopher Tuckwell
<i>Weekday Feria</i>	18.00-19.00	[Open for private prayer]
Saturday 11 th July	10.00	Zygmunt Powiecki
<i>St. Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe</i>	(Exposition)	
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time		Year A
Sunday 12 th July	10.00	James O'Rourke