

INSPIRED TO HOPE & LOVE
20th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME – 14 AUGUST 2022



Inspired to Hope & Love

Father Gerry Hefferan

JUDITH & OLIVIA

At Friday morning Mass, we included in our prayer, two iconic Australian entertainers who died recently, Judith Durham and Olivia Newton-John.

Such memories for many music lovers of their music and performances.

Remembering the inspiration of Olivia for those with cancer and how she promoted breast cancer research.

Remembering the inspiration of Judith for those with bronchiectasis and caring for her husband Ron with motor neuron disease. So many memories.

Let us pause and name some of them quietly.

So many songs coming to mind, including Judith singing [*The Carnival is Over*](#).

THREE SAINTS

Mary MacKillop, Edith and Clare.

During the week we have celebrated three incredible saints –

[*St Mary of the Cross \(Mary MacKillop\)*](#),

[*St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross \(Edith Stein\)*](#) and

[*St Clare of Assisi*](#).

They have been a part of my prayer journey this week.

The courage, perseverance and love of God in each of them.

The challenges they faced, their conviction, their love of Eucharist, their hope, their love.

PARISH VISITATION BY DEACON ANDREW O'BRIEN

The inspiration of the Plenary Council in daily life.

Last Monday Deacon Andrew visited our parish for interviews and concluded with a joint meeting of our Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Council.

In following up on the consultation, we will now move to preparing a five-year parish plan.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN

At our weekend Masses, we listen to Archbishop Mark Coleridge in his presentation of the [Catholic Campaign](#). The presentation is about 8 minutes.

FIRST EUCHARIST

There is an extra Mass each Sunday for three weeks for our children receiving their First Eucharist.

Let us pause and remember when we received our First Communion. **[pause]**

Let us pray for the children in our parish family, as they prepare for their First Eucharist.

[pause and pray]

GOSPEL OF LUKE 12: 49-53

Today's passage from Luke is a difficult Gospel passage to take in.

It can be tempting to water it down, but it is meant to be challenging.

By the time that Luke's Gospel was written –

it was a time in which some families had one or more family members disowned, or reported to the Roman authorities by a parent or child, for being a disciple of Jesus.

Let us hear it together.

'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!

Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth?

No, I tell you, but rather division!

From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three;

they will be divided: father against son and son against father,

mother against daughter and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

In different passages in the Gospels, we hear about love, joy, peace, hope, gentleness, commitment, sharing, almsgiving, urgency, carrying the cross, inclusive family, community.

And in the passage above, we hear about the reality of those family relationships that divide some of us.

God's love is inclusive. God loves us all.

We love God while loving our family. Being Inclusive.

We love God, even if a family member tries to prevent us from loving God.

We love God unconditionally,

even if a family member tries to put conditions on our love for God,

or tells us not to believe in God.

HOPE

There is always hope.

We reflect on the commitment of Jesus, and recall how some deserted him in his time of suffering, in the carrying of the cross, and at the foot of the cross.

Peter denied Jesus three times.

After Jesus rose from death, he reached out to Peter, forgave him and healed their relationship.

There is always hope.

Inspired by the lives of Mary MacKillop, Edith Stein and Clare of Assisi, we share the love of God in our lives, and we express our love for God. We commit to God.

We declare our love for God with a love even stronger than the deep love for a particular parent or sibling of child.

God entered into a covenant of love with us.

We are called to respond in love to God's love for us.

We are called to experience the fire of God's love.

We are called to carry the cross in love.

We are called to work in love, for a more just and peaceful world.

We are called to pray in love, being honest with God.

We are called to seek the truth in our world, in our workplace, in our families.

We are called to hope and to love.

We thank God for the people in our lives who inspire us to hope and to love.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/081422.cfm>



St Clare of Assisi, St Mary of the Cross (Mary MacKillop) St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

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