

THE PROPHETS IN OUR MIDST
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 4 JULY 2021



THANK YOU TO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

Thank you to all community members for your patience over the past weeks as COVID testing continues in many parts of Australia.

Thank you for as your patience as we continue to adapt and implement changing COVID restrictions.

A FOCUS ON PROPHETS

We begin by remembering a quote from the parish homily last week.

SAINT EDITH STEIN 1891-1942

“a Jewish woman, Edith Stein, who was one of millions of Jewish people killed by the Nazis in the horrendous death camps.

Edith was a brilliant academic and philosopher who did her doctoral thesis on Empathy. She dedicated her life to the search for truth.

When she became a Carmelite Sister, she chose the name Sr Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Her courage inspired others, to love and learn, and to seek justice.

God graced her to forgive and to share the gift of peace with others.”

With this weekend’s Gospel focus on prophets, we remember that St Edith Stein was a prophet as well as a saint.

In 1933 she wrote to Pope Pius XI about Hitler’s treatment of Jewish people. It was not until 2003 that the letter was released so that we could all read it.

Let us read together part of her plea to the Church.

“As a child of the Jewish people who, by the grace of God, for the past eleven years has also been a child of the Catholic Church, I dare to speak to the Father of Christianity about that which oppresses millions of Germans.

For weeks we have seen deeds perpetrated in Germany which mock any sense of justice and humanity, not to mention love of neighbor.

For years the leaders of National Socialism have been preaching hatred of the Jews.

Now that they have seized the power of government and armed their followers, among them proven criminal elements, this seed of hatred has germinated.

... But through boycott measures--by robbing people of their livelihood, civic honor and fatherland—

it drives many to desperation; within the last week, through private reports

I was informed of five cases of suicide as a consequence of these hostilities.

I am convinced that this is a general condition which will claim many more victims

... But the responsibility must fall, after all, on those who brought them to this point and it also falls on those who keep silent in the face of such happenings.

Everything that happened and continues to happen on a daily basis originates with a government that calls itself "Christian."

For weeks not only Jews but also thousands of faithful Catholics in Germany, and, I believe, all over the world, have been waiting and hoping for the Church of Christ to raise its voice to put a stop to this abuse of Christ's name.

Is not this idolization of race and governmental power which is being pounded into the public consciousness by the radio open heresy?

Isn't the effort to destroy Jewish blood an abuse of the holiest humanity of our Savior, of the most blessed Virgin and the apostles? ...”

She signed the letter

‘Dr. Edith Stein, Instructor at the German Institute for Scientific Pedagogy, Münster in Westphalia, Collegium Marianum.’

[This translation from German to English, by Mrs. Suzanne Batzdorff, Sr Josephine Koepfel, and Rev. Dr. John Sullivan]

The Catholic Leader on the 2nd of March 2003 carried an article on the letter, available [here](#).

GOSPEL OF MARK 6:1-6

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus returned to his home town, accompanied by his disciples. On the Sabbath he taught in the synagogue. The Passage continues:

“and many who heard him were astounded.

They said, ‘Where did this man get all this?

What is this wisdom that has been given to him?

What deeds of power are being done by his hands!

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary

and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon,

and are not his sisters here with us?’

And they took offence at him.”

The Gospel continues:

“Then Jesus said to them,

'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.'

*And he could do no deed of power there,
except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.
And he was amazed at their unbelief.' "*

God continues to call prophets to speak His words.

The Holy Spirit is continually at work.

And so often, people take offence at what the Holy Spirit says through prophetic words.

And so often, people reject what the Holy Spirit says through prophetic words.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUNDAY

Today we celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday.

We remember First Nations' prophets and other Australian prophets who have spoken God's Word in our history. **[we are invited to pause and name some of them]**

We acknowledge First Nations' prophets and other Australian prophets who speak God's Word today. **[we are invited to pause and name some of them]**

'HEAL COUNTRY' IS THE THEME

The theme this Sunday is 'Heal Country'.

Bishop Columba Macbeth-Green,

as chairperson of the Bishops Commission for Relations with aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, says today

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics number over 130,000 and are a growing demographic in our Church today.

We must continue to reach out and provide opportunities

where we may be enriched and nourished by their deep spirituality, culture and love for Jesus Christ by opening the doors to our hearts and our homes."

GOD CALLS PROPHETS – IN CARE FOR THE EARTH, OUR COMMON HOME

One of the areas where God calls prophets, is in care for the earth, our common home.

God continues the process of creation over billions of years.

As 2021 Senior Australian of the Year and Ngangiwumirr Elder, Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann explains:

'My people have been so aware of Nature.

It is natural that we will feel close to the Creator.'

WE GIVE THANKS

Today we give thanks to three First Nations' members of our parish community in particular.

We thank [David Miller](#) for his inspiration in the parish,

and his current role as Queensland delegate to the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council \(NATSICC\)](#). Thank you David.

We thank [Cynthia Rowan](#) for her inspiration in the parish, and as a member of our [Care for Creation group](#), and as Manager of the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane Reconciliation Action Plan. Thank you Cynthia.

We thank [Clint McGoldrick](#) for his inspiration and for his diaconal formation journey.

Clint has been awarded an ACU scholarship to assist him in his future Doctorate studies. Over the years ahead, Clint will help us understand more deeply the importance of Truth-Telling in Australia. Thank you Clint.

A NATSICC homily is available [here](#) under HOMILY NOTES

Let us pray now for the prophets in our midst in Australia.
And pray the special prayer intentions for National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday.

Fr Gerry

readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/070421.cfm>



~ THE PROPHETS IN OUR MIDST ~

HOMILY 4 JULY, 2021 BY FR GERRY HEFFERAN

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Painting of St. Edith Stein, artist unknown

NATSICC image for NAIDOC, 2021 <https://www.natsicc.org.au>