



**The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner**  
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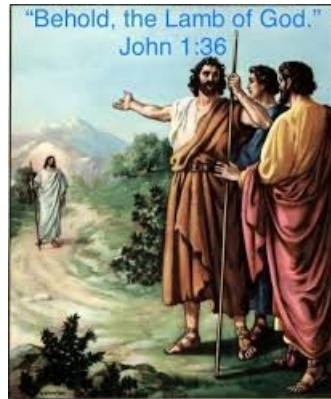


Parish Priest: Fr. Florentino (Boy) Y Galdo: 9359 2369

School Principal: Bob Brown: 9359 5423

Deputy Principal: Rachael Spooner: 9359 5423

## January 15 — 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)



"Behold, the Lamb of God."  
John 1:36

In the Gospel John the Baptist is carrying out his role of witness. This has, of course, already been mentioned in the Prologue to the Gospel (1:1-18; see esp. vv 6-7, 15). He makes clear his own status vis-à-vis Jesus. The usual understanding was that figures who came later in the scheme of salvation ranked lower than those who had preceded them. But the Prologue has established that Jesus, the embodiment of God's creative Word, has a priority in eternity that completely transcends the human history of John. Hence the One who comes 'after' him actually 'ranks before' him.

Besides this, there is the vast difference in what each has to give. John's water baptism is a simple preparatory rite of conversion, disposing people for salvation. Jesus, upon whom John has seen the Spirit come down and rest, is going to 'baptise with the Holy Spirit'. He is going to impart the Spirit of God.

To understand the full significance of what John is saying we have to look forward to the climax of the Fourth Gospel. The moment of Jesus' death upon the cross is not simply a final expiration of

breath; it involves a majestic imparting of the Spirit (19:30).

In the person of his Mother and the Beloved Disciple, the Church comes to birth at this moment through the gift of the Spirit and then in the hint of the sacraments (Baptism and Eucharist) in the flow of water and blood from his pierced side (19:33-34). Because his legs are not broken, Jesus dies as the Paschal Lamb.

(*Australian Catholics*)

### II Domenica del Tempo Ordinario (ANNO A)

Il Dio che viene ad incontrarci nella Bibbia non regna, indifferente alla sofferenza umana, in una lontananza beata. E' un Dio che, al contrario, si prende a cuore tutta questa sofferenza. Lui la conosce (Es 3,7). La notizia di Dio che si fa uomo in Gesù non ci lascia di sasso: Dio viene nel cuore della nostra vita, si lascia toccare dalla nostra sofferenza umana, si pone con noi le nostre domande, si compenetra della nostra disperazione: "Mio Dio, perché mi hai abbandonato?" (Mc 15,34). Giovanni Battista dice di Gesù: "Ecco l'Agnello di Dio, che toglie il peccato del mondo". Ecco questo Dio che si lascia ferire dalla cattiveria dell'uomo, che si lascia commuovere dalla sofferenza di questa terra.

Egli ha voluto avvicinarsi il più possibile a noi, è nel seno della nostra vita, con i suoi dolori e le sue contraddizioni, le sue falle e i suoi abissi.

È in questo che la nostra fede cristiana si distingue da qualsiasi altra religione. Gesù sulla croce - Dio nel mezzo della sofferenza umana: questa notizia è per noi un'incredibile consolazione. È vicino al mio dolore, egli mi capisce, sa come mi sento. Questa notizia implica allo stesso tempo un'esistenza scomoda: impegnati per coloro che, nel nostro mondo, stanno affondando, che naufragano nell'anonimato, che sono torturati, che vengono assassinati, che muoiono di fame o deperiscono... Sono tutti tuoi fratelli e tue sorelle!

(*LaChiesa*)



"It is with great sadness that I have learned that Cardinal George Pell, the seventh Archbishop of Melbourne, has died overnight from heart complications following hip surgery in Rome, Italy. Cardinal Pell was a very significant and influential Church leader, both in Australia and internationally, deeply committed to Christian discipleship.

Cardinal Pell led the local Church of Melbourne from 1996 to 2001 with strong leadership in the Catholic faith and with good governance, before being transferred to Sydney and then to Rome.

At this immediate moment, let our prayers go out to the God of Jesus Christ, whom Cardinal Pell wholeheartedly believed in and followed, that he may be welcomed into eternal life."  
 (Archbishop Peter A Comensoli)

**The sick in our parish:** Teresa & Con Lamonaca, Nola, John Markis, Miriam Markis, Elda Taranto, Panfilo Ambrosini, Carmela Renda, Krys Herrmann, Bob Brown, Angela Barto, Diana Nash, Patrick Brennan, Sonia Taranto, Norm McDonough, Evelyn McDonough, Laurence, Amelia Testa, Floriano Pivetta, Margherita Costa, Bruna Zando, Rita Paladino, Joe and Monica Zahra, Cathy Taviane, John Privitera, Emma and Tony Mallozzi, Nina Garoffolo, Giovanna Gamberale, Gin,

**Upcoming funerals:** **Pietro Paolo Falcone**, Monday 16th January. Rosary at 10.00 followed by mass.

**Recently deceased:** Cardinal George Pell, Pope Benedict XVI, Maria Lanci, Peter Corcoran, Harold French, Immacolata Cesare, Antonio Del Ciotto, Salvatore Mazzarella

**Anniversaries:** Paolo D'Angelo, Loretta Di Curzio, Angelina Markis, Amalia Massimi, Alex Attard, Caterina Costa, Giovanni and Teofila Stefani, Michele Di Guglielmo, Ellen Flood, Willie Robinson, Theresa Edwards, Fr. Phillip De-Zilva, Rochelle Silva, Erminia Van Gayzel, Blossom and Aaron Weerasinghe, Niza Noor

*We especially pray for all the deceased St. Matthews parishioners, those whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel.*

### Rosters for weekend masses (Jan 21/22)

#### Lectors:

Saturday 5.30 pm: J. George

Sunday 9.00 am: J. Butera

Sunday 10.30 am: G. Gamberale

Bus driver: B. Tajhano

### Mass times

#### Weekday:

Tuesday-Friday 9.30 am

Wednesday: **Novena masses will recommence on February 8, 2023**

#### Weekend:

Saturday Vigil mass 5.30 pm

Sunday 9.00 am ; Sunday 10.30 (Italian mass)

Confessions are available on Saturday 5.00 pm—bookings are essential. Contact the Parish Office.

### Pope Benedict XVI mass



There will be an opportunity for St. Matthew's parishioners to remember Pope Benedict XVI at a mass which will be celebrated on Monday the 16th of January at 7.00 pm.

### Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI

Father, eternal shepherd, hear the prayers of your people for your servant Benedict, who governed your Church with love. In your mercy, bring him with the flock once entrusted to his care to the reward you have promised your faithful servants.

May he who faithfully administered the mysteries of your forgiveness and love on earth, rejoice with you for ever in heaven. In your wise and loving care, you made your servant teacher of all your Church. He did the work of Christ on earth. May your Son welcome him into eternal glory.

May your servant whom you appointed high priest of your flock be counted now among the priests in the life of your kingdom. Give your servant the reward of eternal happiness and let your mercy win for us the gift of your life and love.

We entrust your servant to your mercy with faith and confidence. In the human family he was an instrument of your peace and love.

May he rejoice in those gifts for ever with your saints.

**St. Matthew's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.**

The electronic version of the Parish bulletin is available on the Parish website @ <http://stmatthewsparish.org.au/>