

Sunday Readings

Year A

First Reading - Is 49:3. 5-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Second Reading - 1 Cor 1:1-3

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

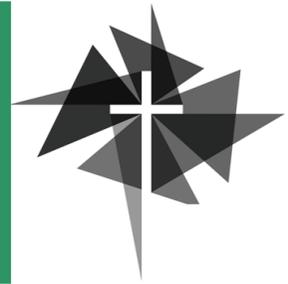
Gospel - Jn 1:29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

Saint Thomas More Catholic Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday (9.00am to 2.00pm)



A house of welcome to all and a place of service to all

2nd Sunday, Year A

January 15, 2017

Lamb of God

Some people may be puzzled by John the Baptist referring to Jesus in today's gospel as the "lamb of God", since for most of us the lambs we see in the paddocks are cute, but weak and vulnerable to predators. You don't hear of nations, or even sporting teams, adopting 'lambs' as their emblem. Why should John identify "the Chosen One of God" as the "lamb of God"?

The people for whom John was writing would have heard the "lamb of God" very differently to us. For those familiar with the Old Testament, the term "lamb of God" had extremely powerful resonances, especially in the suffering servant passages in Isaiah, as well as in the Exodus from Egypt.

Recall how Isaiah gives an astonishing account of the suffering servant who is beaten, arrested and put to death: "Like a lamb about to be slaughtered, like a sheep about to be sheared, he never said a word." Yet by his endurance we are saved and forgiven by God (53:7).

Again at the Exodus from Egypt, we read of God sending a destroying angel to kill all the first born in the land, of people and animals, to force Pharaoh to release the Israelites from their bondage. Moses instructs the Israelites to take the blood of a lamb or kid and put it on the doorpost overnight to protect them from the angel of death (Ex. 12). This Passover became a defining feast for the Jewish people ever after, and it resonates in our Christian Eucharist as well.

Weekly Mass Times:

Monday:	7.00 am	Tuesday:	5.30 pm	Wednesday:	8.00 am
Thursday:	7.00 am	Friday:	5.30 pm	Saturday:	8.30 am
Saturday:	Vigil 6.30 pm (Novena 6.00 pm)				
Sunday:	8.00 am, 9.30 am, 11.00 am & 6.00 pm				

Reconciliation: Saturday: 11.00am - 12.00 noon **and** 5.00pm - 6.00pm



Fr. Phong Nguyen
Parish Priest



Fr. Garner Vergara
Assistant Priest



Fr. Cyprian Shikokoti
Priest in Residence



Deacon Bruce
Parish Deacon

So for us the “lamb of God” is indeed a term of great honour, not one of weakness but of incredible endurance and commitment by God in Jesus to our wellbeing and salvation. The symbol of the lamb is not one of threat or violence, but of innocence and solidarity with those in suffering.

Curiously in John’s Gospel, there is no mention of him baptising Jesus. John even says he did not know Jesus, but recognised him from the sign of the Spirit descending on him. John speaks as a prophet witnessing to the true identity of Jesus as the Chosen One who takes away “the sin of the world”, the primordial disorder in all creation and in us.

John witnesses the Holy Spirit coming down on Jesus, but the Spirit is not for Jesus alone. Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit, and so the Spirit will be alive in all the followers of Jesus.

John is intent on showing how the same Holy Spirit in Jesus is the very same Spirit animating the small and seemingly insignificant Christian communities of his day. He is urging the followers of Jesus to allow God’s Spirit to nudge them to be good news, with the ‘lamb of God’ as their emblem, capturing God’s intense personal commitment to our wellbeing, and calling us to a similar commitment to others.

Bruce Duncan CSSR
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ROSTERS CO-ORDINATORS—ROSTERS FOR 2017

All Roster Co-ordinators, please take note that all new rosters for Readers, Altar Servers, Special Ministers and Children’s Liturgy need to be sent to the Parish Office by 17th January 2017 as we will start the full bulletin on the 22th of January. Thank you.

Following the verbal announcement last weekend, we would like to inform you that the new Priest in Residence at our Parish is **Fr. Thi Lam**, who has been appointed by the Archbishop as **Chaplain to St. John of God’s Hospital, Murdoch**. He will be coming to our parish and commence his ministry on **15th February**. Please keep Fr. Thi and other priests in your prayers as they prepare to take up their new appointments. God bless, Fr. Phong.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Anniversaries:

Please pray for Maria Coelho, Maria Aquiar, Antonio Correia, Jose Correia, Francisco, Joao’, Eva & Abrao, Bernada, Sandra Sgherza, Errol D’ Monte, Jerson Moniz, Clinton Franks, Julie Walton, whose anniversaries occur around this time.

R O S T E R S

for 22ND JANUARY

	NEXT WEEK				
Bulletin:	Juliana Doss				
Flowers :	Geneveve Cornejo				
Counter:	1. S Lau	2. B Galipo	3. A Chong		
	Saturday 6.30pm	Sunday 8.00am	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 11.00am	Sunday 6.00pm
Acolytes	D Ng	P McManus	C Dowsett	M Tloczek	
Special Ministers	C Craggs M Craggs A Mourad L Morzenti V Ng	C Cox B D’ Cruz C Price P Price J Scioril	A Faleiro C Derries G Mo J Moeljad J Moeljad	F May A Loo J Loo G Tedjaku R Truinta	A Phoon S Chauveau D Gan M Gan S Eng
Altar Servers and Readers – Please come up as required – NO ROSTERS for January 2017.					

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2017—FREE CHURCH COMMUNITY EVENT

All are invited to come together at our church to pray and celebrate the start of the Chinese New Year 2017—The year of the Rooster! The celebratory Mass is on Sunday 5th February 2017 at 11.00am followed immediately by an exciting dance performed by the legendary and auspicious Chinese dragon and lion in our church courtyard. Please bring a plate of savoury or sweet finger foods to share.

Sacramental dates for 2017: St Thomas More, Bateman

Reconciliation: 14th/21st October 2017

First Holy Communion: 24th /25th June 2017

Confirmation: 19th/20th August 2017

All children (from pre-school age on) from within the Parish boundaries who attend Government schools are warmly welcomed to attend the Religious Education after school program. Special arrangements can be made for High School children and Catholic School children who may not have celebrated their age relevant Sacrament.

Please note that Confirmation is a 2 year program.

For further info, please contact Jenny Figliomeni on 93101747 (Tues/Wed) or 0435695399

Safeguarding Officer: Fatima Basilio (fatima.safeguarding@gmail.com)

MORE CARE

Do you need help or know someone who does?

† Geraldine	9332 8795	(Visiting)
† Monica	9364 9358	(Meals)
† Caroline	9313 5452	(Transport/Meals)
† Silvia	9417 7131	(Transport)
† Juliana	9310 1747	(General-office hrs)

Rose Garden
January 2017

Section A
Sharon Vong

Section B
Craig Mclver

