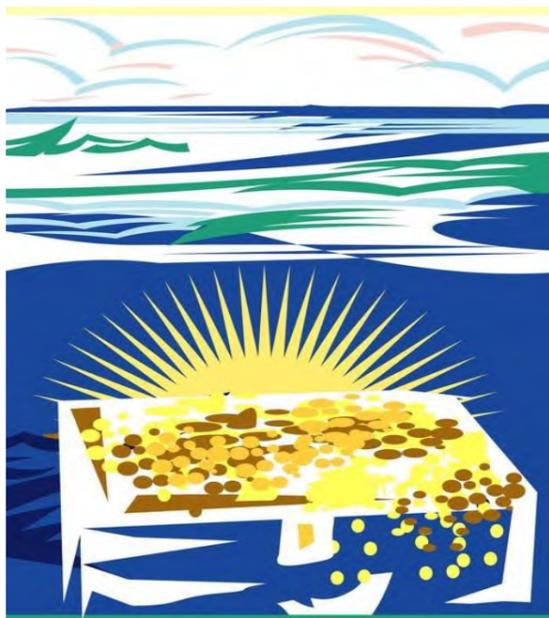


SECOND READING: Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*He predestined us to become true images of his Son.*  
We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: cf Matthew 11:25  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.  
Alleluia!



GOSPEL: Matthew 13:44-46  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*He sells everything he owns and buys the field.*  
Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.  
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:**  
Is 55: 1-3;  
Rom 8: 35, 37-39;  
Mt 14: 13-21.

Prayer to Our Lady during the pandemic:

Mary, Help of Christians,  
we fly to you today as your beloved children.  
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,  
as you did at the wedding in Cana.  
Pray for us, loving Mother,  
and gain for our nation and world,  
and for all our families and  
loved ones,  
the protection of God's holy  
angels,  
that we may be spared the  
worst of this illness.  
For those already afflicted,  
we ask you to obtain the  
grace of  
healing and deliverance.  
Hear the cries of those who  
are  
vulnerable and fearful,  
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.  
In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the Church  
to love one another and to be patient and kind.  
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus  
to our land and to our hearts.  
We come to you with confidence,  
Knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,  
health of the sick and cause of our joy.  
Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,  
keep us in the embrace of your arms,  
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus,  
Amen.



**A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney.**  
Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org) or by calling (02) 9390 5810

## PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE



Presbytery and Office  
8 Inkerman Rd, Denistone 2114 Tel: 9809 2925  
Website: [www.sttherese.org.au](http://www.sttherese.org.au)  
Parish Priest: Fr Roberto Castillo  
Deacon: Rev Mr Aruna Perera  
Parish Secretary: Gayle White [admin@sttherese.org.au](mailto:admin@sttherese.org.au)  
Office hours Tues-Fri 9am-3pm  
St Therese's School  
448 Blaxland Rd, Denistone 2114 (02) 9874 0412



### MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 pm.  
SUNDAY: 8:00 am and 9.30am (changed to 10 am till further notice)  
MONDAY: No Mass.  
TUESDAY through to SATURDAY: 9.00 am Mass.  
FRIDAY: 9.00 am Mass.  
Exposition & Benediction every Friday after Mass.  
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.  
Baptism: Every Sunday at 11am or 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.  
Marriage: By appointment.  
Anointing of the sick: Please give names to Father Roberto Castillo.

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A) 25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020

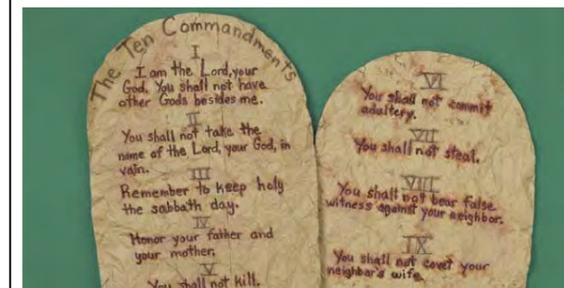
### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5. 7-12  
A reading from the first book of the Kings  
*You have asked for wisdom.*

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 118:57.72. 76-77. 127-130

RESPONSE: Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.  
The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. Response.

Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.  
Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. Response.

That is why I love your commands more than finest gold.  
That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. Response.

Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.  
The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. Response.

(continued on back page)

## From Father Roberto.

Hope you are well brothers and sisters. This year 2020 began in a bad way with all the destructive bushfires and later on with the horror of the pandemic the year got even worse - and we are not yet out of the woods. But I don't think we should focus on these negative things; instead we should spend some time counting our blessings; e.g. that we are in Australia, a very good country and so far we have not being hit so hard like many other countries. We should be thankful to our leaders who have been looking after us and doing whatever they can to ease the blow of these terrible situations. The financial distress of course has been one of the worse consequences of the pandemic and the effects and consequences will be lasting. But as I said, we have to count our blessings and being in Australia where we enjoy many resources and plenty of good things, I am sure it will ease the blow of the economic recession. Let us pray that the leaders be guided properly through these uncharted waters that they have been sailing on. After all, pandemics usually are a 100 year occurrence. Keep in your prayers all those affected either medically or financially. And pay attention to those who might be hurting and see if you can assist them in some way, whether they are relatives, friends, neighbours or the poor here or overseas etc.

As you know our church's restrictions have been eased, and at the moment we can safely sit 65 parishioners in our community in each of our 3 weekend masses. This hasn't changed. That is 195 parishioners can come to church over the weekend. At these weekend Masses we have had on average around 70% attendance (approximately) in relation to our limit capacity. So, those who think that they are not going to get in, don't worry because we still have some room for another 58 people especially at the 8 am and 10 am Masses. Our Vigil Mass is usually the most popular and we usually reach 60 people not counting some of our ministers (acolytes, altar servers, readers etc.) who are usually not counted among the 65 because they are considered workers and essential to the celebration according to guidelines. Also don't forget that there has been a time change to one of our weekend masses. The 9:30 am Mass now begins at 10am. So we have enough time to clean up and disinfect the church for the next mass.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our terrific volunteers who resumed their ministry. You really make a difference to our community and this community spirit lifts our hopes up, as we imagine a return to a more normal times. This normalcy won't be for quite a while but hopefully in the near future.

Keep praying of course for those working at the front line of the pandemic. Pray for the dead, and keep worshipping the Lord at home every day. Don't forget your faith! We need to keep nourished with the Word of the Lord, prayers; acts of charity, attendance to mass (if possible on Sunday) or on a weekday mass or you can tune in with a live-streaming Mass on the internet. Don't forget the words of the Lord who said that we have to persevere and be constant in prayer, so let us not neglect that important part of our Christian life.

Thank you to everybody who have been coming to church and have been very respectful of the rules. Always keeping their distance, using hand sanitizer, helping with the clean-up at the end of the mass, staying home if one doesn't feel well, and very importantly writing their names on the book and leaving their contact details. Also ticking the column stating in this way that they are well.

As the numbers of Covid19 infections are having a slight and worrying increase in NSW, I encourage you to take extra precautions. Avoid going out too often and putting yourself at risk unnecessarily, if you can use a mask you are most welcome in the Church, and also after the mass or before the mass don't spend too much time talking and mingling with others. We want to keep you safe.

I believe that if we all follow the rules, we will be pretty safe. We have already been open for more than 2 months and everything has been good, thanks be to God.

Stay safe then, and God bless you all, Fr Roberto

## PARISH NEWS & NOTICES:

### Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died especially Ines Ghinzel, Elizabetta Gambino, Joseph Bencina, Olga Mamo and Elizabeth Handover.



Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries at this time.

### Planned Giving Envelopes.

RECEIPTS and ENVELOPES are available from the front foyer.

Please take care not to touch all the envelopes as you are taking yours.

Also please take a copy of a letter near the envelopes as it also shows that you can make your donations via credit cards.



For all those parishioners, who **opted not to claim a tax refund**, you have a letter and that advises you how much you have donated over the past financial year.

Thanks so much for your generous contributions.

## Sacraments at St Therese Denistone.

We are scheduling Reconciliation and FIRST HOLY COMMUNION for Term 3 and Term 4 respectively. Please spread the word.

### SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION:

#### Formation Sessions:

Session no 1 - Wed 12th August 7pm

Session no 2 - Wed 19th August 7pm

Session no 3 - Wed 26th August 7pm

#### Sacrament of First Reconciliation:

Friday 4th September at 5pm in the Church.



### SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

#### Formation Sessions:

Session no 1 - Wed 14th October 7pm

Session no 2 - Wed 21<sup>st</sup> October 7pm

Session no 3 - Wed 28th October 7pm

#### Sacrament of First Holy Communion Mass:

Sunday 15th November at 11:15am in the Church.



## Parish Safeguarding Support Officer needed for our parish.

As part of the Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office's safeguarding strategy, we are currently seeking people who will support the Parish Priest in providing our volunteers and parishioners a greater understanding of what safeguarding means and how it can be implemented with our parish. Please speak with Fr Roberto after Mass to discuss this further if you think you could help us with this.

## Restrictions update.

**Currently our church can safely sit 65 parishioners. At the moment the following rules apply in the church:**

- People should sit at least 1½m apart and stand 1½m from each other. This rule applies not only to Mass but to private prayer, Confessions, Baptisms, Weddings, Eucharistic Adoration, The Divine Office, Rosary in common, Bible study etc.
- Hand sanitiser is available and should be used when you enter the church.
- Parishioners who are unwell or in high risk categories must stay home.
- Dispensation to attend Sunday Mass still applies.
- The faithful who cannot attend Mass should keep Sunday holy by setting aside some time for prayer at home and they might attend Mass on a weekday where possible.
- Our church is being disinfected after each use.
- Congregational singing is suspended.
- Receiving Holy Communion by "making a throne for the king with our hands" (*St Cyril of Jerusalem*) remains normative in Australia.
- Contact details of all those entering the church (*name & phone number or email address*) must be recorded.

## The Catholic Weekly is now available.

Please support this catholic newspaper as like all newspapers it is struggling to survive.

So please make sure to buy a copy after Mass each week. OR if you have enjoyed reading the digital flipbook each week then it will remain online from 12th July for an annual subscription of just \$50 at <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/>