

During my seminary and academic training, I took three major courses on the Eucharist. After all those lectures and books on the Eucharist, I concluded that I didn't understand the Eucharist and that I was happy enough with that because what those courses did teach me was how important it is that I celebrate and participate in the Eucharist. For all the intellectuality in those courses, their true value was that they ultimately said to me what Christian de Cherge's mother said to him on the day of his first communion: You don't have to understand now, later you will understand. Contained in that, of course, is the fact that there is something profound here that is worth understanding, but that it's too deep to be fully grasped right now.

Perhaps this can be helpful in our search for what to say to some of our own children and young people who no longer go to church and who tell us that the reason they don't go is that they don't find the Eucharist meaningful. We hear that lament all the time today: Why should go to church, it doesn't mean anything to me?" That objection is simply another way of saying what young Christian de Cherge said to his mother at his first communion: I don't understand this. Perhaps our answer then could be along the lines of the response of his mother: You don't have to understand now, later you will understand.

The British theologian, Ronald Knox, speaking about the Eucharist, submits this: We have never, he claims, as Christians, been truly faithful to Jesus, no matter our denomination. In the end, none of us have truly followed those teachings which most characterize Jesus: We haven't turned the other cheek. We haven't forgiven our enemies. We haven't purified our thoughts. We haven't seen God in the poor. We haven't kept our hearts pure and free from the things of this world. But we have, he submits, been faithful in one very important way; we have kept the Eucharist going. The last thing Jesus asked us to do before he died was to keep celebrating the Eucharist. And that we've done, despite the fact that we have never really grasped rationally what in fact we are doing. But we've been faithful in doing it because we grasped the wisdom in what Christian de Cherge's mother to her son: You don't have to understand this; you just have to do it.

July Parish Events

Weekend 1 and 2 July Catholic Mission Appeal
Thursday 13 July @ 6.30pm Our Lady of Fatima Rosary and Mass
Friday 21 July @ 10am Notre Dame University Graduation Mass
Friday 28 July @ 9am St Patrick's Primary School Mass
Saturday 29 July @ 6pm CBC Family Mass

Sacred Heart Sodality

We wish to invite all friends of the Sacred Heart Sodality to join us at Mass every 4th Sunday of the month at 8:30am. Next Mass will be held on **Sunday 23 July 2017**. New members are always welcome. For further information, please contact the Parish Office.

Parishioner Morning Tea



Come along and enjoy the morning tea with fellow parishioners
after 8.30am Mass on Sunday 9 July 2017
ALL WELCOME!

Children's Liturgy



Children's Liturgy is held every First and Third Sundays of the Month at the 8:30am Mass in the Children's Chapel, located just inside the side foyer of the Basilica. All Children Welcome!
Liturgy will be held on Sunday 2 July and 16 July, 2017.

Novena in Honour of Our Lady of Fatima

Pope Francis has asked that we continue a monthly novena to our Lady of Fatima during this 100th anniversary year. The Basilica will have Rosary and Mass on the 13th of each month until October. Dates below.

Thursday 13 July: 6.30pm Rosary and 7pm Mass
Sunday 13 August: 4.30pm Rosary and 5pm Mass
Wednesday 13 September: 6.30pm Rosary and 7pm Mass
Friday 13 October: 6.30pm Rosary and 7pm Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



Would you like to spend some time with Jesus in prayer?

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held in the Basilica every Thursday 8am to 12noon, First Fridays 11am to 12noon and every Saturday 10.30am to 12noon.

Youth Survey

YOUTH SURVEY - POPE FRANCIS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

As part of the upcoming Synod on Youth to be held in October 2018, all 16-29 year olds are being invited to be part of an international conversation with Pope Francis.

The 2018 Synod will provide a concrete opportunity for young people across Australia (and the world) to share their thoughts with Pope Francis. Those aged 16-29 do not have to be active or connected with the Church to answer the survey. All who complete the survey can go in the running to win one of three Dr Dre Solo 2.0 on-ear headphones.

Complete the survey here by 2 July, 2017 www.catholic.org.au/youthsurvey.

As Pope Francis said, 'Every young person has something to say to others...all of us need to listen to you!', and he added 'even young people who consider themselves agnostics, even young people whose faith is lukewarm; even young people who no longer go to Church; even young people who consider themselves atheists'.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact CYM Director Anita Parker on 08 9422 7912 or via email anita.parker@perthcatholic.org.au

Weekly Services

Masses during the week

St Patrick's Basilica Monday to Saturday: 12:10pm
Wednesday and Friday evenings: 7pm
Convent Weekdays (except Public Holidays): 7am

Weekend Masses

St Patrick's Basilica Saturday Vigil: 6pm; Sunday: 7am,
8:30am, 9:45am (Italian), 11am, 5pm
St Anne's, North Fremantle Sunday: 8:15am
Holy Spirit Chapel, Notre Dame Sunday: 6pm
First Sunday of every month 12.15pm Polish Mass

For Vocations and World Peace

St Patrick's Basilica Novena to Our Lady every
Wednesday after the 7pm Mass

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

St Patrick's Basilica
Thursday: 8am – 12noon
First Friday: 11am – 12noon
Saturday: 10:30am – 12noon

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

St Patrick's Basilica Saturday: 9:30am – 10:30am,
11am – 12noon, 4:30pm – 5:30pm
First Friday: 11am – 12noon

Devotion to the Divine Mercy

St Patrick's Basilica Friday: 6:30pm

**for enquiries regarding Baptisms and Weddings
please phone the Parish Office**



Rosters for July 2017

If you are unable to attend on your rostered day please find a replacement. If you see a problem with the roster then please contact the Parish Office on 9335 2268 and ask that the information be passed on to Angie Emanuele.

Readers

Date	Saturday Vigil 6:00pm	Sunday 7:00am	Sunday 8:30am	Sunday 11:00am	Sunday 5:00pm
1/2 July (1)	Joan Swindells Tonia Petrucci	Gabriel Newman	Pamela Cattalini Danielle Cattalini	Mary Jardine-Clarke Doratheia Randazzo	Sr Lynn Chua
8/9 July (2)	Position Vacant John Gilmour	Chris Banasik Nola Banasik	Monica Lacey C Brown	Position Vacant M Sticca	Position Vacant Lyn Tomlinson
15/16 July (3)	Lyn Jensen John Gilmour	Gabriel Newman	Mary Ann Yeats Phillipa Colgan	Margaret Sheridan Lani Lanzara	Anne Greenwood Sr Lynn Chua
22/23 July (4)	P Pettigrew Tonia Petrucci	Beatrice Yong	Susanne Sutton Ultan Stephenson	K Pacyne Position Vacant	Bill Sands Sr Lynn Chua
29/30 July (5)	Joan Swindells Tonia Petrucci	Gabriel Newman	Pamela Cattalini Danielle Cattalini	Mary Jardine-Clarke Doratheia Randazzo	Sr Lynn Chua

Communion Ministers

Date	Saturday Vigil 6:00pm	Sunday 7:00am	Sunday 8:30am	Sunday 11:00am	Sunday 5:00pm
1/2 July (1)	Tonia Petrucci Frances Gilmour John Gilmour	Sarah Bottoli	Position Vacant Pauline Ivandich Brian Tuana Anne-Marie Cross	Position Vacant Max Thompson Mark De Klyver Mary Smith	L Seal Lyn Tomlinson Sr Fely
8/9 July (2)	John Gilmour Marlene Dullard Position Vacant	Sarah Bottoli	Mary-Ann Yeats C Brown Pamela Cattalini Teresa Ducali	Doratheia Randazzo P Grootelaar M Sheridan Max Thompson	L Seal Anne Greenwood Sr Melanie
15/16 July (3)	John Gilmour Frances Gilmour Marlene Dullard	Sarah Bottoli	Mary-Ann Yeats Position Vacant Pamela Cattalini Anne-Marie Cross	Position Vacant Brenda Earl Max Thompson Mark De Klyver	Lyn Tomlinson Sr Lynn Chua
22/23 July (4)	John Gilmour Marlene Dullard Tonia Petrucci	Beatrice Yong	Teresa Ducali Pauline Ivandich Anne-Marie Cross L Seal	Position Vacant P Grootelaar Doratheia Randazzo M Sheridan	Sr Lynn Chua Anne Greenwood
29/30 July (5)	Tonia Petrucci Frances Gilmour John Gilmour	Sarah Bottoli	Position Vacant Pauline Ivandich Brian Tuana Anne-Marie Cross	Position Vacant Max Thompson Mark De Klyver Mary Smith	L Seal Lyn Tomlinson Sr Fely

Music Ministry

Dominic Perissinotto – Organist and Director of Music

Date	Liturgy	Saturday 6.00pm	Sunday 8.30am	Sunday 11.00am	Sunday 5.00pm
1/2 July (1)	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Emma Adele Ashton Andrew Brown (organ)	Gilbert Rodgers Annaliese Eames (organ)	Gilbert Rodgers Annaliese Eames (organ)	Emma Adele Ashton Andrew Brown (organ)
8/9 July (2)	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Grace Feltoe Andrew Brown (organ)	Gilbert Rodgers Andrew Brown (organ)	Gilbert Rodgers Andrew Brown (organ)	Grace Feltoe Andrew Brown (organ)
15/16 July (3)	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Theodore Murphy Annaliese Eames (organ)	Theodore Murphy Annaliese Eames (organ)	The Basilica Choir (men) Annaliese Eames (organ)	Theodore Murphy Annaliese Eames (organ)
22/23 July (4)	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Delia Price	Aria Roy	The Basilica Choir	Delia Price
29/30 July (5)	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Grace Feltoe	Laura Pitts	The Chapel Choir Dir Paul Sealey	Laura Pitts



Fremantle Catholic Community
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A PRIMAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE EUCHARIST

JUNE 8, 2015

Christian de Cherge, the Trappist Abbott who was martyred in Algeria in 1996, tells this story of his first communion. He grew up in a Roman Catholic family in France and on the day of his first communion he said to his mother: "I don't understand what I'm doing." She answered simply: "It's okay, you don't have to understand it now, later you will understand."

Jesus, no doubt, must have given his disciples the exact same advice at the Last Supper, at their first communion. When he offered them bread and said, "This is my body", and then offered them wine and said, "This is my blood", they would not have understood. There would have been considerable confusion and bewilderment: How are we supposed to understand this? What does it mean to eat someone's body and drink someone's blood? I suspect that in the face of their non-understanding, like Christian de Cherge's mother, Jesus would have also said: You don't have to understand it now, later you will understand.

Indeed in instituting the Eucharist at Last Supper, Jesus didn't ask his disciples to understand what they were doing, he only asked them to faithfully celebrate it until he returned. Their understanding of what they were doing in celebrating the Eucharist only developed as they grew in their faith. But initially, Jesus didn't ask for much of an understanding, nor did he give them much of an explanation for what he was celebrating with them. He simply asked them to eat his body and drink his blood.

Jesus didn't give a theological discourse on the Eucharist at the Last Supper. He simply gave us a ritual and asked us to celebrate it regularly, irrespective of our intellectual understanding of it. One of his more-explicit explanations of the meaning of the Eucharist was his symbolic action of washing his disciples' feet.

Little has changed. We too aren't asked to fully or even adequately understand the Eucharist. Our faith only asks that we are faithful in participating in it. In fact, as is the case for all deep mysteries, there is no satisfactory, rational explanation of the Eucharist. Nobody, not a single theologian in the world, can to anyone's intellectual satisfaction, adequately lay out the phenomenology, psychology, or even spirituality of eating someone else's body and drinking his blood. How is this to be understood? The mind comes up short. We need instead to rely upon metaphors and icons and an inchoate, intuitive understanding. We can truly know this mystery, even as we can't fully understand it.

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Parish Office



Basilica of St Patrick
47 Adelaide St, Fremantle WA 6160
Phone: (08) 9335 2268 Fax: (08) 9430 6076
Parish Office email: parishoffice@oblates.com.au
Parish Web Page: fremantlestpatricks.org.au
Office Hours: Monday to Friday: 9:00am – 3:00pm
Closed Weekends and Public Holidays