LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:  Is 49:3. 5-6
I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach the
ends of the earth. .

Responsorial Psalm:  Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. v.v.8. 9. 
(R.) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading:  1 Cor 1:1-3
The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with
you. .

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He
enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL:  Jn 1:29-34
This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. .

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:
We proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come
again.

Reflection by Richard Leonard SJ

Some of us remember the provocative and frightening 1991 film Silence of the
Lambs.

The image in the title refers to a childhood memory of CIA agent, Clarice
Starling. In her interviews with the psychopath Dr Lecter, he gets her to talk
about how she still wakes at night hearing the cry of the lambs as they were
led to slaughter on her uncle’s farm. This is a pivotal moment in Thomas
Harris’ book and the film. It is the leverage Dr Lecter needs to unsettle and
unravel Clarice’s well-formed defenses. Clarice is revealed as vulnerable,
because of the grief she carries from the violent deaths she has seen.

I remember empathising with Clarice’s memory of the lambs. When I was a
child I saw many sheep slaughtered on my family’s properties. I can still see
my uncle selecting one of them, holding it in the pen before its execution and
then watching him do the deed. The scene should have been enough to turn
me into a vegetarian! Alas, I got over my pity for the animal and enjoyed roast
lamb a few nights later.

John’s use of the metaphor of the sacrificial lamb in reference to Jesus in
today’s Gospel is meant to engender a similar empathy to that of the childhood memories of Clarice Starling. While there are many
jokes about the stupidity of sheep, lambs still claim a spot in the hardest heart. They are pure, white, fluffy and defenseless. They
demand nurture. And like their parents they don’t seem able to smell danger very easily. They follow where they’re led, even to
execution.

For the agrarian Jews of Jesus’ time the sacrifice of a lamb demonstrated how serious they were about atoning for their sins. Jewish
law dictated that a lamb had to be killed at least once a year, at Passover. Such a sacrifice cost the shepherd big time. Lambs were
currency. This was tithing writ large.

Saying Jesus is the Lamb of God is a shorthand way of telling us two things. The first is that Jesus is God’s most precious gift; God’s
own self, given to the world that we might know how serious God is about us. God can give us nothing more than Jesus. As a result of
Jesus’ innocent suffering and death there is no need for any lambs to be religiously slaughtered ever again. We need to keep hearing
this message because some Christians get caught into glorifying Jesus’ suffering so much they get trapped in their own world of pain
and go looking for more. Jesus never sought out sufferings. He bore what came his way. And the same must be true for us. Christians
are not meant to be smiling masochists. Most of us don’t need to look for more suffering in our lives because we share in the Lamb of
God’s sacrifice in the ordinary downs of our lives.

Secondly, John would have known that ‘talya’, the Aramaic word for sheep, is the same word used for servant. The first hearers of this
Gospel would have known it too. Jesus, then, is the servant who brings us the truth we need for life, who answers our deepest desires
to know that our existence has meaning and purpose and he opens up for us the life beyond this one, where there will be no more
weeping or sadness.

Jesus shows us that when we are baptised into his death and enter his service we also share in his resurrection and glory because he
bears, and bears away, the sins of the world.
MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATOR

Celebrations for Australia Day will be held on Monday 27 January at St Francis Xavier, Railway Estate, beginning with Mass at 8am and to be followed by a free barbecue, cricket and games for the children. All are welcome to drop in any time during the morning.

Training for new Readers is planned for Tuesday 25 February and for new Extraordinary Ministers of Communion on Tuesday 24 March 2020. Both will commence at 6pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to attend.

Training for Altar Servers will be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral commencing 11.30am on Sunday 23 February 2020. Lunch will be provided. New servers should book with Fr Rod or the Parish Office. This training is available for Servers from all of the Parish churches.

A special collection will be taken up as you leave the church at Masses on the weekend 25/26 January to support those affected by the current bushfires.

FATHER ROD WARD, ADMINISTRATOR - SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH

PARISH NOTICES

BAPTISMS: Baptisms are held every Sunday in Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Churches. A one month notice is required for booking the date. For further information please contact the Parish office on 4771 4461.

WEDDINGS: Arrangements for wedding bookings should be made 6 months before the date. For further information please contact the Parish Office on 4771 4461.

CHURCH BULLETIN DEADLINE: The deadline for the submission of articles for the parish bulletin is 4pm Wednesday for the following weekend.

PARISH HOY: We need helpers for our Parish Hoy, every 2nd Friday mornings each month at St Patrick’s, South Townsville. Any help is welcome - men and women.

CATHEDRAL PARISH WOMEN’S GROUP: The next meeting for the Cathedral Parish Women’s Group to be announce later.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Offered at the 7am Mass at St Francis Xavier on the first Friday of each month.

RECONCILIATION: Reconciliation is provided each Saturday morning after the 7am Mass at St Mary’s Church, West End and is available before or after other Parish Masses on request.

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL WEEKLY SCRIPTURE STUDY AND PRAYER GROUP: Parishioners and other people interested in deepening their faith are warmly invited to join the Cathedral’s weekly scripture study and prayer group. People who are readers will find this particularly helpful. The sessions will commenced on the 7th February 2020 from 10:00 – 11:30 am on Thursday mornings at the Parish office next to St Mary’s. If you are interested please contact the parish office: 47714461; Jackie Crocker: 47263266 or email: jcrocker@tsv.catholic.org.au or simply turn up.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for:
Polly Betts; Brian Keoh; John Mehedy; Brian Burke; Susan Alexander, Rosa Maria Santos, Chase Rafael Payne, Mary Ann Marcelo, Kevin Coyne, Fr Colin Mason, Frauke Knobi, Sarah Barbagello, Nilo & Emilia Bulaga.

O Almighty, everlasting God, eternal salvation of those who believe, hear our prayers on behalf of your ailing servants for whom we implore the aid of your mercy, that with health restored to them, they may offer thanksgiving to you. Amen

* Please be advised that the parish office requires individual and/or family permission for inclusion in the public prayer list under the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012.
All Churches of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish
Sunday mass collections from 11/12 January 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday Mass Collections</th>
<th>Cathedral 10am</th>
<th>Cathedral 5pm</th>
<th>St Mary’s</th>
<th>St Francis</th>
<th>St Joan of Arc</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>$333.10</td>
<td>$129.05</td>
<td>$171.15</td>
<td>$250.60</td>
<td>$138.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second</td>
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<td>$88.10</td>
<td>$87.60</td>
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<td>$284.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>P/Giving Cash / DD</td>
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<td>$375.00</td>
<td>$232.00</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total collections</td>
<td>$414.00</td>
<td>$157.25</td>
<td>$634.25</td>
<td>$570.20</td>
<td>$143.40</td>
<td>$1,919.10</td>
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**Thank you** to all parishioners for your ongoing financial support of our parish and its good works. Your generosity helps continue the important ministries and services provided across the many worshipping communities in our Parish - Centred in Christ. Missions – Maintenance – Ministries

**Plenary Council Call for Delegates:** The Diocese and Plenary Council are seeking expressions of interest from people who feel they would like to be Delegates at the Plenary Council in 2020. The Townsville Diocese will be represented by Bishop Tim Harris and Fr Mick Lowcock VG. We will also have two other representatives. Delegates will be required to attend the Plenary Council sessions in 2020 and 2021. The 1st session will be held in Adelaide between the 4th and 11th of October 2020 and the 2nd session will be held in the 1st half of 2021. For an information pack, please send an expression of interest to plenarycouncil@tsv.catholic.org.au. The selection process will take place in February 2020.

**ALPHA Catholic Training Event:** Alpha is a program which is proving fruitful in evangelisation by inviting people into spiritual conversations. Catholic Parishes and schools have run over 300 Alphas this year. Holy Spirit Parish has been able to secure a date with Lorraine McCarthy for live Alpha Training. This date is Saturday 1st February 2020 from 9am - 4.30pm at Holy Spirit Parish Centre. This training is ideal for Alpha Teams whether they have run Alpha previously or not, but individuals are more than welcome to attend. There is no cost and anyone interested in attending is invited to contact Premo Bonato (pbonato@bigpond.com) or Blanche Crisp (blanchecrisp@gmail.com) to register.

**Bushfire Response:** Australia is currently facing an unprecedented bushfire crisis in many parts of the country. The Australian Bishops have announced that special collections will be taken at Masses on Australia Day weekend to support affected communities. They have also urged Catholics to pray constantly for those affected, for those fighting the fires and for an end to the bushfires. To access prayer resources or for more information, visit www.catholic.org.au/bushfires.

**Items Needed by Vinnies:** Do you have old towels in your linen cupboard taking up much needed space? Vinnies is in need of good disused towels. There is a massive demand for businesses for toweling material. Please drop your donations to a Vinnies store.
Next Week’s Parish Roster:
25 / 26 January 2020: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINISTRIES</th>
<th>ST JOAN ARC</th>
<th>ST FRANCIS XAVIER</th>
<th>ST MARY'S</th>
<th>CATHEDRAL 10AM</th>
<th>CATHEDRAL 5PM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commentator/Leader</td>
<td>Dot</td>
<td>Nila Crossan</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Mary McAuliffe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Reader</td>
<td>Em</td>
<td>Ruby Franklin</td>
<td>Marie McAuliffe</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Enrico Flores</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Reader</td>
<td>John W</td>
<td>Ray Nicholls</td>
<td>Margaret Thomas</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Mary McAuliffe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayers of Faithful</td>
<td>Terry McAuliffe</td>
<td>Nila Crossan</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Mary McAuliffe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Collection</td>
<td>John W</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Cess &amp; Carlos Marcello</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Communion 1</td>
<td>Kristin</td>
<td>Valmai O’Dwyer</td>
<td>Warren Northey</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Wilan Tangelon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communion 2</td>
<td>Lena Williamson</td>
<td>Losa Guise</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communion 3</td>
<td>Claire Turpin</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communion 4</td>
<td></td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communion 5</td>
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<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musician/organist</td>
<td>Cathy G</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pickup/ Drop Off Fr</td>
<td>Joanne H</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Counters: Tuesday, 21 January 2020  Terry McAuliffe and Elizabeth Shinnick

| Children’s Liturgy | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Piety Stall        | - | - | - | Pam & Tom | Pam & Tom Rush | - |

ST SEBASTIAN was a Roman martyr from the late third century. He was a victim of the Christian persecution by Emperor Diocletian and there is little factual information about his life other than this. According to legends, Sebastian was a soldier who was made a captain of the praetorian guard by Diocletian, who did not know he was a Christian. He ministered to Christian prisoners, but was eventually found out by the Emperor, who then ordered him to be shot to death with arrows. Sebastian recovered from his wounds and confronted Diocletian, but was set upon and bludgeoned to death with clubs. This tale of Sebastian’s life gave rise to him being, amongst others things, the patron of archers and arrow smiths.