



August 8 & 9, 2020 - NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A

Issue Number 844

## Today's Readings

### Entrance Antiphon:

Look to your covenant, O Lord,  
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.  
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,  
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

### First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9,11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

### Responsorial Psalm:

**(R.) Lord, show us your mercy and love,  
and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)

Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)

The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

### Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I hope in the Lord,  
I trust in his word. Alleluia!



### Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

### Communion Antiphon:

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,  
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.



### VINNIES WINTER APPEAL

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the Vinnies Winter Appeal over the past two weekends. Donations are particularly essential at this time to enable Vinnies to help the needy and those impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Feast Days this Week

Monday 10 August - St Lawrence  
Tuesday 11 August - St Clare  
Friday 14 August - St Maximilian Kolbe  
Saturday 15 August - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

## SUNDAY MASSES

Social distancing rules apply in our Church and the number of participants is currently 100. You must register your details when you enter the Church, use the hand sanitiser provided and maintain social distancing of 4 square metres. Mass times are:

**Vigil Masses:** 5:00 and 6:00pm

**Sunday Masses:** 7:00, 8:00; 9:00 and 10:00am

**Sunday Night Masses:** 5:00 and 6:00pm.

If you cannot attend Sunday Masses a dispensation is granted by the Bishop and you can still follow the live streamed Mass at 9:00am. The Church will be disinfected after each Mass and we welcome volunteers who can help with the sanitising.

### WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:

Monday to Friday 6.45am and 9.15am.

Saturday and Public Holidays: 8.00am.

The number of participants at Mass is currently 100 and we apply social distancing in our Church.

**HOLY HOUR:** Parishioners and visitors are invited to Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this Thursday evening from 8 to 9pm.

**VISITING THE CHURCH:** The church is open for private prayer from 7.30 every morning. Please take a disinfectant wipe into the church with you and wipe down your immediate area before you leave. While you are inside please respect social distancing and do not touch the images in the church. If you are feeling unwell please stay home.

**THE REPARATION PRAYER GROUP** meets in the Parish Basement from 8.00 to 9.00pm on Tuesday evenings for Rosary and prayer. All welcome.

**THE INSTITUTE FOR MISSION REFLECTIVE MINISTRY PROGRAM** (Word and Mission) is going ahead ONLINE starting from 18th August. To participate register at <https://www.ifm.org.au/reflective-ministry> or contact Sr Grace on [grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au](mailto:grace.roclawska@ifm.org.au).

**THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY** has resumed publication of its printed edition and is available from the Church foyer for \$2 a copy. All profits from the sale of the Catholic Weekly goes directly to our St Vincent de Paul Conference.

**VINNIES** has launched a Mini Vinnies Formation Program (MVFP) for students in Years 4 – 6 who wish to undertake Social Justice Formation in their own time. For more information please go to <https://bit.ly/MVFPinfo>.

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR LEBANON:** In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut on August 4th, the Australian office of the international Catholic Charity, Aid to the Church in Need, has launched a national emergency appeal to raise funds to support the people of Lebanon. To read more about the appeal, and to make a donation, please visit: [www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon](http://www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon) or call 1800 101 201 during business hours: 8am-5pm.

### CREDIT CARD DETAILS

Have you changed your credit card or been given a new expiry date? Please phone the parish office on 9634 2622 to update our records.



**SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION 2020:** 'Tours of the Church' will be held this Monday 10th August at 7pm and Saturday 15th August at 3pm for parents and children. A reminder that our rehearsal will be held at allocated times on Saturday 22nd August. Children will receive the sacrament for the first time at four special celebrations taking place on 29th August and 5th September. Please continue to pray for all our participating families at this time

### SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION 2020

Parish families who would like their child to commence preparation to receive the sacrament of confirmation are invited to attend an information evening being held this Tuesday, 11th August at 7pm in the Church. This preparation process is suitable for children who are in year 6 or above and have already received the sacraments of baptism, reconciliation and eucharist. The evening should last approximately one hour and, under current restrictions, we ask that only parents attend. For more information, contact Alice at the parish office on 9634 2622 or [sacraments@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:sacraments@stbernadette.org.au) (Monday & Tuesday).

### BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL FOR RETIRED PRIESTS - FATHER'S DAY APPEAL 2020

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic and its social and financial impact on families, communities and churches, the Clergy Support Foundation of the Diocese of Parramatta will not be holding its Annual Bishop's Collection for Retired Priests (the Father's Day Appeal) this September. Like many other organisations, the CSF will use its own resources to support the retired priests in this financial year. Donations will always be accepted, however, via our BPoint portal at [www.parracatholic.org/csf](http://www.parracatholic.org/csf) or electronic funds transfer to BSB 067950 Account No 00001691 Account Name CSF No 1 with Reference your name. If you would like a tax deductible receipt for your donation, please send an email to [csf@parracatholic.org](mailto:csf@parracatholic.org) with your name and address.

### ROSTERS:

**Altar Linen:** Tess De Santo

**Church Cleaning:** Andrea Tomic, Krystyna Graczyk, Pauline Home, Myra Tan (8 August)  
Bernadette Logue, Robyn Morgan, Bernadette Ingold, Marjorie Anderson (15 August)

**Flowers:** Maria Gobbo (15 August)

**SOCIAL JUSTICE COVID-19 FOOD & TOILETRIES DRIVE:** Jesuit Refugee Service and House of Welcome are dealing with a 400% increase in emergency assistance calls and are needing to feed over 1,000 people facing destitution each week. You can help by running a food and toiletry drive or donating yourself. For more information, contact Patrice Moriarty 0409 399 505 or House of Welcome at [office@houseofwelcome.com.au](mailto:office@houseofwelcome.com.au).

**SAINT PHILOMENA MASS** is at 12pm midday on Saturday 29th August with Confession from 11.30am at St John Vianney Church, 17 Cameron Street, Doonside. Please bring a snack to share. Contact Elizabeth on 0423 15 44 63, [epeoples9@gmail.com](mailto:epeoples9@gmail.com).

**St Bernadette's Parish Community**  
**Parish House, 367 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill, NSW 2154**

Telephone 9634 2622 Email: [admin@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:admin@stbernadette.org.au)  
Web page: <http://www.stbernadette.org.au>

**ST BERNADETTE'S PARISH APP**

In order to comply with Government regulations to register a person's details when entering the Church, a special App, St Bernadette's Parish Application, has been developed to make it easier and faster to register. The Parish App will be a better and quicker way to handle the number of registrations, especially over the weekend.

If you download the app on your phone, it will ask you to register your details and contact number and will then create a QR code, which is an optical label containing the information we need. A volunteer at the Church can scan that code and then you are ready to go inside, once you sanitise your hands and flip the number card to let people know how many people are in the Church.

The registration is only valid once the QR code has been scanned by the volunteers at the door. Hopefully this will reduce your waiting time and also make it easy to keep the lines of people in the foyer flowing more quickly.



If you choose not to download the app you can still register by signing the sheet at the door.

The app is available at the Apple Store or download from <http://rasonchia.space/app>. For Android users you can download it from <http://rasonchia.space/app>.

Livestreamed Masses from across the Diocese of Parramatta are available on the Diocesan site <https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#online>.



**IntoLife Online - Yr 5-8: Friday August 14th.**  
Catholic Role Models: St Maximillian.  
ONLINE 7:00-8:00pm.

**LifeNight Online -Yr 9-12: Sunday August 9th**  
Stories worth Sharing: Chris and Raph.  
6:45-7:45 (to follow 6pm Mass).  
Bring a gold coin donation for dinner.

For more information please contact Laura on 0433 259 234 or at [ym@stbernadette.org.au](mailto:ym@stbernadette.org.au).

Find us on Facebook and Instagram at St Bernadette's Youth Castle Hill to keep up with the latest info.

**ENTERTAINMENT MEMBERSHIP** is now digital only. Check out the new restaurant and café offers available. Single city membership \$69.99. Multi-city (Australia, NZ & Bali) \$119.99. Order at <https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/21y5021>.

**HOLY HOUR WITH BENEDICTION:** Parishioners and visitors are invited to Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction this Thursday evening from 8 to 9pm.

**VALE BRIAN D'ARCY:** A funeral was held on Thursday for long-time parishioner, Brian D'Arcy, celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long Van Nguyen. On the following pages is a tribute to Brian and his wife Nanette (who died earlier this year) from some of the many refugees who they helped to resettle into the Australian community.

**Parish Staff**

Very Rev Fernando Montano, Parish Priest  
Rev Shinto Francis, Assistant Priest  
Mrs Nancy Eberhaut, Pastoral Associate  
Ms Laura Burton, Youth Minister Youth Mass  
Mrs Alice Bradshaw JP, Sacramental Co-ordinator  
Mrs Frances Gallagher, Office Manager  
Mrs Monica Rubic, Parish Secretary (Finance: Mon-Thu)  
Mr Darren Edwards, Maintenance

St Bernadette's Parish School: 9407 6600  
Mrs Bianca Cooke (Principal)

**Baptisms:** By appointment only. Contact Frances Gallagher at the Parish Office. Please note the Church law. Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptised in the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth or even before it, they are to go to the pastor to request the sacrament for their child and to be prepared properly for it. [Can. 867 §1]

**MASS TIMES**

**Sunday:** Saturday 5.00pm & 6.00pm  
7.00am, 8.00am, 9.00am, 10.00am  
5.00pm, 6.00pm

**Monday to Friday:** 6.45am & 9.15am

**Saturdays and Public Holidays:** 8.00am

**Reconciliation:** Saturdays 8.30am to 9.00am  
4.00pm to 4.30pm

**Please pray for** Brian D'Arcy, Cosima Di Quattro, Adele Small and Neville Duffy who have died recently and for the anniversaries of Francesco Agostino, Kevin McCann, Joby Jacob, Margaret Burns, Felice Zadro, Severo Yu and Maria Victoria Fava and in remembrance of P E Joseph and Rina Zadro.

**Prayers for the Sick:** Bob Redmond, Joe Borg, Michael Hope, Klaus Hahn, Kym Holden, Michelle McLoughlin, Victoria Rix, Maria Robayo, Frank Ardizzi, John Reynolds, Christina McAuley, Betty Granata, Xander Ranieri, Robert Waddell, Yvonne Hill, June Phelan, Helen Shaw, Grace Boitano, Josephine Robayo, Carmen Moreno, Victoria Tranilla, Ederlina Badiola, Daniel David, Helen Tarlinton, Julianne Edmilao, Michael Kennedy and Pam Appathurai.

## The Story of Nanette and Brian D’Arcy and the Boat People

by Madeleine Hoang

This past year has been one of the most difficult in living memory for many Australians. While recovering from crippling drought, many communities have suffered record bushfires, only now to find themselves confronted with an unprecedented pandemic. In the midst of the of chaos, this year our community lost two of its most beloved and cherished members.

In 1958, Nanette and Brian D’Arcy happened upon the community of Castle Hill. They arrived with two girls and would continue to have six more children to form a family of ten. Brian built their home and in the years that followed, their family would become permanent fixtures in the community of St Bernadette’s Parish, where their children attended school.



Our story with the D’Arcy family begins in 1979. Fleeing in leaky, rotting fishing boats, over one million Vietnamese refugees were forced by a war to leave their homeland, with no fixed destination but for the hope of future freedom. Swept along in this tide was my family of six. My parents were barely thirty and my cousin, brothers and I were twelve, three, five, and six years old.

Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser had recently opened Australia’s doors to the “boat people” and in response, Archbishop Clancy appealed for Catholics to open their hearts and lend their hands to resettle these Vietnamese refugees. Answering his call, Nanette and Brian D’Arcy found their way to Westbridge Hostel in Villawood to meet the Hoang family – my family. I know not what was said between Uncle Brian, Aunt Nanette and my parents on that day, only that within the month, we were being driven in Uncle Brian’s van to our new home in West Pennant Hills. Not long after that, my cousin started at Oakhill College and my brothers and I enrolled in St Bernadette’s Primary School. We were the first family resettled by Brian and Nanette D’Arcy via the St Bernadette’s Refugee Resettlement Committee and over 200 families would follow.

Strangers in a strange land, completely isolated from our customs, our language, our family and our friends, it was Nanette and Brian D’Arcy who extended their friendship, opened their hearts, and shared their home in welcoming us to this foreign land.

From 1979, up until the early nineties, the caravan in the backyard, the flat downstairs beneath the D’Arcy home, and even the rooms of the D’Arcy children contained a constant flow of Vietnamese refugees. They were families, single mothers, young couples, old couples, lovers, brothers and sisters, and even orphans who had managed the treacherous boat trip on their own. Some stayed a few weeks as they sought assistance or a temporary abode whilst finding their feet. Others stayed for months and even years, choosing to raise their children within the safety, security and warmth of the D’Arcy home.

Uncle Brian would come home from a long, hard day of building, and Aunt Nanette would immediately send him, with van and trailer, to pick up an old bed, refrigerator or furniture for the new refugee family. It was not uncommon for the D’Arcy boys to find themselves exiled to sleep in the family room, making way for the latest refugee family. Their youngest child, Naomi, often spent holidays playing and teaching English to her new friends, myself included.

When sleeping over at the D’Arcys, my favourite meal quickly became Aunt Nanette’s beef mince. Then, each Sunday on the drive home after mass, Uncle Brian routinely dropped by the petrol station to fill up the van. I relished in the sheer delight of being allowed to choose a treat as he paid for his tank. In the early days my parents could not afford to spoil us with such treats! Playing hide and seek, I grew to know every nook and cranny of the D’Arcy home, including the hidden laundry chute in the ensuite, which enabled a quick escape to the ground floor. It did not occur to me that I was different from any of Naomi’s friends. In the D’Arcy home it was easy to forget that one had been a refugee.

Aunty Nanette would constantly be up at the local school office, challenging principals into enrolling the resettled refugee children, despite being repeatedly told that the schools were at capacity. She would stand in at parent teacher evenings for those unable to speak English. At the tennis club she would collect old uniforms and hand-me-downs to clothe these new arrivals. She'd arrange cleaning jobs for many of the women and factory jobs for the men, easing the way for those eager to make a start in their new life. Uncle Brian's van was continually in service of refugee families moving from the hostel to their new homes. Being in the building trade allowed him to provide many of these men jobs, though more than a few found it difficult to keep up with his blistering pace. Some families were very quick to integrate into the Australian way of life and find their community. For others, resettlement and integration was a challenge, but Nanette and Brian were always patient and would hold their hands for as long as it took. They would accompany visits to doctors, dentists, hospitals, schools, universities, banks, Medicare, Centrelink, airports and many more besides.

Born from these countless resettlements, are now farmers, artists, musicians, designers, nurses, doctors, engineers, bankers, accountants, writers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, academics and small business owners. Spanning the country from Perth to Adelaide and Tasmania to Darwin, all of these families are now actively contributing to a culturally diverse Australia. Brian and Nanette's generosity, compassion and empathy have allowed three generations of Vietnamese refugees to successfully adopt the Australian way of life. In uncountable acts of kindness, they shared their home with perfect strangers and in doing so, have enabled those displaced to call this lucky country their home. On behalf of the hundreds of us, whose lives have been enriched because you both have lived, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your boundless generosity and constant compassion.

This pandemic has robbed many of us the chance to properly bid you both farewell. But instead of letting death silently steal you away, we have chosen to celebrate your legacy by sharing stories of how you've touched our lives and influenced us all so profoundly.

### ***Ai Minh***

*Brian and Nanette were among the first Australians who made us feel warmly welcomed and respected, despite our being refugees. They both had their individual personalities that added something special to our lives.*

*It was Nanette who taught me how to hand-wash a second hand dress, without knowing that it was going to be my wedding dress a week later. It was Nanette who comforted me when I had difficulties handling my teenage daughters because of cultural differences. It was Nanette who taught me to stand firm amidst challenges. In many ways, Nanette shaped the person I am today.*

*Whilst Nanette was a leader, a natural "instructor", Brian was a wonderful supporter. He did not talk much and he rarely told us what to do, instead he did it together with us.*

*It was Brian who drove my husband Tien from Castle Hill to Kensington to sit entrance exams to resume Medical studies. It was Brian who drove me to the Conservatorium for my entrance exam and sat patiently in his big working van waiting for me. Hours later, I came out to be greeted by a big smile, winking eyes and two thumbs up. Brian was a passionate classical music lover. He was my best friend, my supporter and my surrogate father.*

*To our children they are Pop and Nan, because they are family. We have thoroughly cherished their friendship throughout the years, and will forever remember the many memories that we shared with them.*

### **Hao**

One of the pivotal moments of my life was when I discovered I was pregnant with my fourth child. I was barely recovered from five years of constant trauma in post war Vietnam. My husband had been taken to re-education camp; I was isolated, my mother, brother and sisters all scattered across the globe; I had three children and a nephew under my care with no means of survival after our property was confiscated. Finally, after the months in a refugee camp, we were re-settled and it was time to build a new life. Nanette had helped me find my first job as a kitchen hand at the Mowll Village (Aged Care facility). This would temporarily support our family as my husband completed his Engineering studies. My children were in a loving school environment and we were on the way to a new life. The news of pregnancy filled me with concern and anxiety. How would our family live if I could not earn money to supplement my husband's part time work? Would my husband need to stop his studies? How could we provide for our children and

support my in-laws still in Vietnam? I came to Brian and Nanette not knowing what to do, full of uncertainty and trepidation. Brian held my hands and said “God creates and God will provide. Nanette and I will be there to support you”. I could see tears well in his eyes, full of empathy and understanding. In that moment I knew that everything would be okay.

Brian was one of the most gentle souls I have ever known. He was a true gentleman, always ready with a handkerchief, whether in his work overalls or his Sunday best. And even in death he was a gentleman... he waited for his dear wife Nanette to go first and gently followed her thereafter.

### **Dom**

*On a cold cold day in the June of 1979 Mr D’Arcy picked us up in his van from Westbridge hostel and took us to the flat beneath his home. We were a family of five, my wife, my son, niece and nephew. In the weeks after our arrival, another refugee couple would come and live in the caravan outback. To this day I do not know how the D’Arcys could have been so trusting. To embrace strangers like us, from a foreign land, into their home and share their lives, without reservation. For a man, like me, who had just escaped the cruelty of war and the darkness of humanity, their trust in us gave hope, that this might be a country for us to call home.*

*When we first arrived, my wife and I spoke very little English. Often Mr D’Arcy would come down to our flat in the evenings and watch television with us. He would try to speak with us. I later realised this was his way of teaching and encouraging us to speak English. On one of these evenings we watched a documentary about refugees together. There were scenes of an overcrowded fishing boat being flooded with water, on the verge of sinking as those on board panicked in horror. Mr D’Arcy shook his head in sadness and could not stop the flow of tears. I realised that here was a man with a gentle heart and kindness like no other.*

*We came to Nanette and Brian with our complex stories, oftentimes complicated but also unfamiliar and humorous to a white Australian, and they welcomed us. From them was never judgement, only the warmth of their generosity, the wisdom of their counsel and the support to guide us through whatever challenges we faced.*

*Nanette and Brian were happily married for over 60 years. No one who felt their touch could avoid the inspiration of their shared faith and unity. They will always remind us that despite society’s continuing and sometimes disruptive changes, faith, love, and compassion remain our foundation.*

If I can stop one heart from breaking,  
I shall not live in vain;  
If I can ease one life the aching,  
Or cool one pain,  
Or help one fainting robin  
Unto his nest again,  
I shall not live in vain.

*Emily Dickinson*