

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH: 21 TWENTIETH AVE. HOXTON PARK

**PARISH PRIEST:** BROTHER PAT HURLEY

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**OFFICE:** Monday, to Friday (8.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.)

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## TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

**FIRST READING THIS SUNDAY.** *Numbers* is the 4<sup>th</sup> Book of the Jewish Law, and so of the Bible. Its name comes from its interest in statistical information, while it describes Israel's wandering in the Sinai desert for 40 years after the Exodus. Today's passage follows Moses' lament that he could not govern the Israelites on his own. We note the similarity with one part of the Gospel today.

**SECOND READING:** St. James does **not** just advise poor people to be patient and long-suffering. He is a fierce prophet of social justice.

**GOSPEL:** This is a collection of a number of different sayings of Jesus, from urbanity and gentle encouragement to vivid warning, even threats.

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**SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2020-21** by Australian Bishops is entitled "To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today". This is now available online at: <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

**SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2021-22** by Australian Bishops is entitled "Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor". Introduction and Audio available : <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au>

**ROSARY VIA ZOOM** Good Shepherd Church invites you to come together virtually via zoom to pray the Rosary, starting, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 5 p.m. and then continuing each Saturday. Please click the link below to join.

<https://scscatholic.zoom.us/j/65976217312?pwd=bnZNZTRwbDkvMkIMY0NqOGZGemhodz09>

Meeting ID: 659 7621 7312

Password: 934837

**MASS FOR THE OPENING OF THE FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA NEXT SUNDAY: 3RD OCTOBER 2021.** The First Session will begin formally with this Mass led by Archbishop Costelloe, Plenary Council President, in **St Mary's Cathedral, Perth**. It will be livestreamed at 11 a.m. Perth time (**2 p.m. Sydney time**) on the website: [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au) It will invoke the Holy Spirit upon the Council and replace the prayers for the Ordinary Sunday. Bishops will celebrate special Masses that day in their cathedrals: Archbishop Anthony Fisher in Sydney at 10.30 a.m.

### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN NSW REACHES THE 70% DOUBLE VACCINATIONS MILESTONE?**

NSW Deputy Premier said that **only fully vaccinated people** will "have access to the freedoms allowed" once the State reaches 70 per cent. Our Archbishop has put the view that when Churches are allowed to re-open for worship, a person's lack of vaccination should not be a barrier to entry. We don't exclude people from Church. I discussed this with our Good Shepherd Parish Council and also in a Zoom with all the Sydney priests (when the Archbishop invited us to write our views to the Conference Host). I wrote that I believe we should begin Masses whenever the Government permits this **even if** this means turning away those who are not vaccinated (for safety's sake) as well as turning away those who are in excess of the number permitted (for we can only have 80 in the body of the Church under the 4 sq. metre rule.) The only other option I can see is to wait until the virus is a thing of the past; which could be well into next year, too far away for my liking. I also asked if we could seek permission from the State to celebrate Masses **outdoors** if it meant greater numbers.