

We are the Community. We are the Church.

*Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the First Mass
at Sacred Heart Church at Nelthorpe Street
on September 5, 2015*

41

June 13-14, 2015

Did you know?

Liturgy of the Word 101

When proclaimers [from a pool of 25 Sacred Heart parishioners] and priests go up to the ambo [Greek origin, signifying a mountain] to proclaim the first and second readings and the Gospel, **how much of the Bible is proclaimed? Not as much as you think.**

The 46 *Books of the Old Testament* have 25,044 verses in total while the 27 *Books of the New Testament* have 7,957 verses.

According to data from a recent study by a Jesuit:

- the first reading, usually from the *Old Testament* — except during Easter season when it is from the *Acts of the Apostles* — **for Sundays and major feasts** [three-year cycle] accounts for only 3.7 per cent [932 verses] of the *Old Testament*, while for **Sundays and weekdays** [two-year cycle] it is 13.5 per cent [3,378 verses].
- the second reading and the Gospel from the *New Testament* for **Sundays and major feasts** [three-year cycle] accounts for 40.8 per cent [3,247 verses] while for **Sundays and weekdays** [two-year cycle] it is 71.5 per cent [5,689 verses].

Which five Books in the Old Testament have the most verses for the first reading on Sundays and feast days?

1. *Isaiah* [166v]; 2. *Genesis* [138v]; 3. *Exodus* [112v]; 4. *Deuteronomy* [52v]; and, 5. *Sirach/Ecclesiasticus* and *Ezekiel* [tied at 48v each]. Thirteen *Books* are not included at all: *Judges, Ruth, 1 Chronicles, Ezra, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 Maccabees, Song of Solomon, Lamentations, Obadiah, Nahum* and *Haggai*.

Which five Books in the New Testament that have the most verses included for the second reading — from an apostle [either from a Letter or from the Book of Revelation, depending on the season] — and Gospel for Sundays and feast days?

1. *Luke* [650 verses]; 2. *Matthew* [594 verses]; 3. *John* [526 v]; 4. *Mark* [414 v]; and 5. *Acts of the Apostles* [165 v]. Three *Books* are not used at all: 2 *John*, 3 *John*, and *Jude*. However, if the seven undisputed *Letters of St. Paul* [1 *Thessalonians*, 1 *Corinthians*, 2 *Corinthians*, *Philippians*, *Philemon*, *Galatians* and *Romans*] are taken as one, they would jump to the fourth spot with a total of 460 verses. The so-called 'disputed letters' or "Deutero-Pauline Epistles," where **St. Paul** is not confirmed as the writer are 2 *Thessalonians*, *Colossians*, *Ephesians*, 1 *Timothy*, 2 *Timothy* and *Titus*.

The readings provide knowledge of the whole of God's word with an element of teaching.

Sundays and feast days have the more important biblical passages. Weekdays' texts complement the messages of Sundays and feast days, but neither is dependent on the other. The readings for



Sundays and feast days extends over three years; for weekdays, over two. Thus each runs independently of the other.

The three readings for each Mass on Sundays and feast days bring out the unity of the *Old Testament* and *New Testament*. The three-year cycle enables a more varied and richer reading on Sundays and feast days because the same texts are read only every fourth year.

The years are designated A, B, or C. Each yearly cycle begins on the first Sunday of Advent. Year B follows year A, year C follows year B, then back again to A.

- *Year A: Gospel of Matthew* [November 2013 through 2014]
- *Year B: Gospel of Mark* [December 2014 through 2015]
- *Year C: Gospel of Luke* [December 2015 through 2016]

Harmony exists between texts of the readings for each Mass during Advent, Lent, and Easter, the seasons that have a distinctive importance or character.

In contrast, the Sundays in Ordinary Time do not have a distinctive character. Thus the text of both the apostolic and Gospel readings are arranged in semi-continuous order, whereas the *Old Testament* reading is harmonized with the Gospel.

The weekday Mass has two readings: the first is from the *Old Testament* or from an apostle [either from a *Letter* or from the *Book of Revelation*], and, during the Easter season, from the *Acts of the Apostles*; the second, from the Gospels.

The Jews put together the Old Testament and the Catholic Church put together the New Testament and it took several centuries to do so. It was not until the Council of Carthage, 397 years after Jesus death and subsequent approval by **Pope Innocent I**, that the *New Testament* was put together. Before that date, there were hundreds of gospels and "apostolic" writings in many different languages, some not so good or some even controverted.

It was the Catholic Magisterium, guided by the Holy Spirit, which separated the good writings from the bad and selected the 27 *Books* that make up the *New Testament* today.

So far as we know, Jesus himself never wrote a word [except on sand]. Nor did he command the apostles to write anything.

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Year-long 50th Anniversary celebration continues



May 19, 2015: Newcombe Singers' performance



June 7, 2015: Tea service, strawberries and ice-cream



Catholicism in the continents

Oceania

Continued from bulletin #40

In 1833, **Fr. John McEncroe** arrived and moulded the Catholic Church, now 16,000 strong, along Irish lines. This Irishness was put to question in 1835 when the English Benedictines were granted control of the mission and English Benedictine **Bishop Bede Polding** became Australia's first Catholic bishop. He established a Benedictine monastery in 1852 to be the centre and form of Catholic life in Australia. However, the Benedictine's influence dissipated when the Vatican appointed six Irish bishops from 1859 to 1867 to newly established dioceses Australia. Irish clergy dominated Australian Catholic life until fairly recently, and it was only in the '30s that Australian-born priests outnumbered them.

Irish priests continued to come to Australia throughout the 20th century, a few arriving even in recent years.

Besides Australia, Oceania includes three regions:

Melanesia: includes West Papua, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, New Caledonia and Maluku Island;

Micronesia: includes Federated States of Micronesia, Caroline Islands, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Palau, Nauru, and the U.S. territories of Guam, Northern Marianas Island and Wake Island;

Polynesia: includes New Zealand, Tonga, Hawaii, Fiji, Cook Islands and Tuvalu.

Papua New Guinea is on the eastern half of the Island of New Guinea and includes the Bismarck Islands archipelago, Solomon Islands' northern part and some other very small islands. The first explorers to the Island of New Guinea were the Portuguese in 1521, who explored the coast and named it 'Papua' from its inhabitants. In 1528 and 1545, the Spanish explorers explored the islands and called it 'New Guinea', because the inhabitants' skin color that was similar to Africans.

Various colonial powers occupied the Island of New Guinea during the 19th century. In 1818, the Dutch occupied the island's western part. Later, the English occupied the southeast and, in 1884, the Germans occupied the northeast. Australia colonized it in 1906 and Papua New Guinea gained independence in '75. Its population is 6.5 million and 1.75 million are Catholics.

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Series on "Our Pastors" will continue in bulletin #42

50th Anniversary bulletins can be viewed at: <http://www.sacredheartvictoria.com/anniversary>