

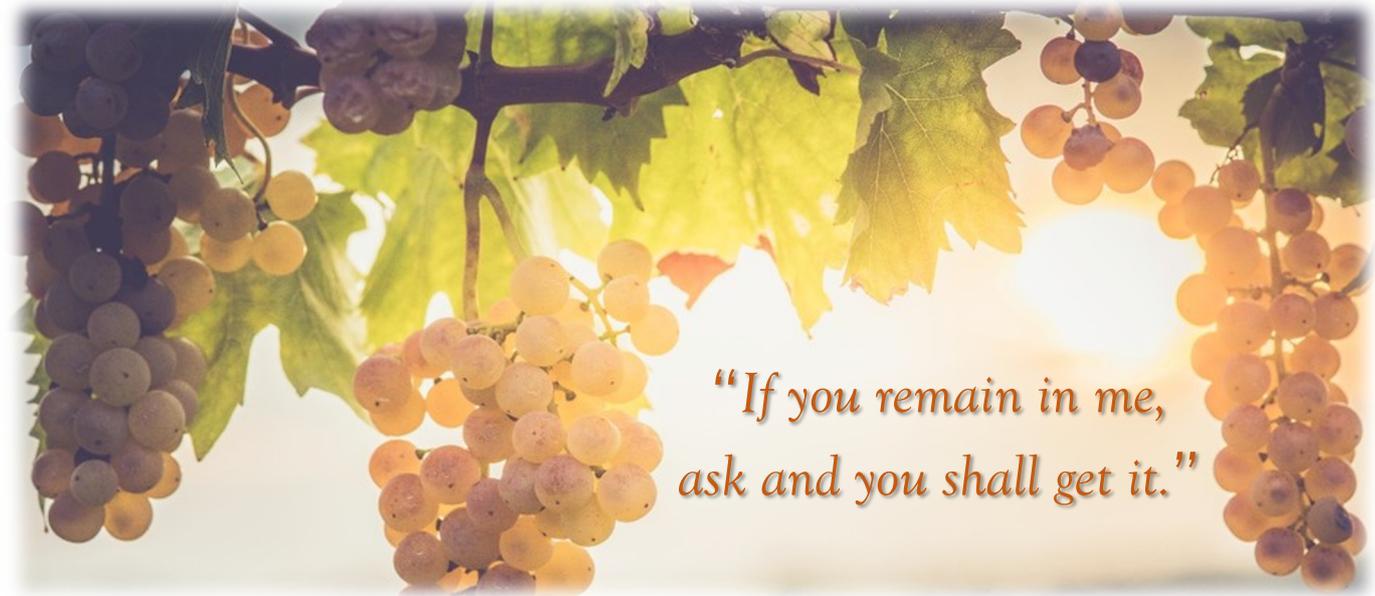


# DEAN'S LIST



Rev. Fr. Pierangelo C. Repuyan, PhD | dean.cathedral@bunburycatholic.org.au | 28 April 2024 | 5th Sunday of Easter | Year B, Cycle II

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of country throughout the South West and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



*“If you remain in me, ask and you shall get it.”*

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTION.** “**GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR CONSCIENCE**” reveals John in the second reading. The text alludes to conscience as some form of ‘internal tribunal’ where our actions are judged by God. In this ‘internal tribunal’, our conscience may play the role of ‘plaintiff’ accusing us of transgression. We may have experienced this already when we felt we had a ‘guilty conscience’ after doing something we realise *post facto* as immoral or sinful. As accused, we play the role of ‘defendant’ either pleading guilty or vigorously justifying our actions contrary to conscience’s accusations levelled against us. In this instance, we sometimes use the expression, “my conscience is bugging me” because internally, we are going through some form of ‘moral upheaval.’ When this happens, all we wish is to know the truth that will somehow pacify us and some peace of mind to calm us down. When we are ‘at peace,’ we feel our conscience is in harmony with our whole being.

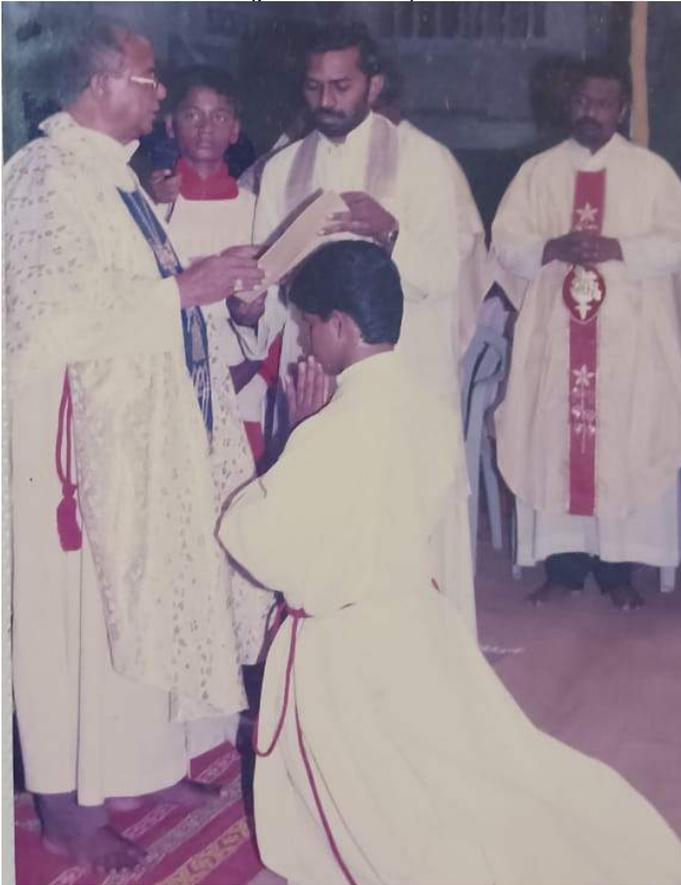
John implicitly points to this human experience and reminds us that while our conscience may be the ‘voice of God’ within us, there might still be vagueness and incoherence in the realm of decision making or moral discernment. The Church acknowledges that this may happen and that is why it always emphasises the necessity to form our conscience. The lack or absence of conscience formation may result into our inability to seek the truth that affects our moral discernment.

**‘IF YOU REMAIN IN ME, ASK AND YOU SHALL GET IT’** is the confident statement of the author of the fourth Gospel. Using the metaphor of the ‘vine-branches,’ Christ stresses that for us to live a flourishing life, we need to be continually ‘attached’ to Christ. He makes it crystal clear that if we cut ourselves off from God, ‘we can do nothing.’ This relationship that we are called to as exemplified by the above metaphor underlines the need for an appropriate conscience formation that opens up the reality of drawing wisdom and prudence from God. If we cut ourselves off from God, we should persistently ask the question wherefrom do we actually draw moral guidance for our moral decision making and spiritual discernment. The lack or absence of conscience formation is the manifestation of a life where God is not sought. This experience is saddening since the human self has become numb to the ‘begging’ of one’s conscience. Truth is lost. Eternal life drifts away. Heaven forbids.

**GOLDEN JUBILEE.** Let us congratulate and pray for Fr Victor Lobo who celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> priestly ordination anniversary last Thursday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Please join the parish celebration this Sunday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of April at the 10am Concelebrated Mass. There will be morning tea to celebrate Fr Victor’s anniversary in the parish hall. Everyone’s welcome.



We join Fr Victor in giving thanks to his parents, Francis (dec.) and Fatima, who brought him into this world. He is the middle child in the family of 5 children. We remember too, Fr Victor's Bishop who ordained him 25 years ago, Most. Rev. Amalanather, Bishop of Thoothkudi in India (photo below).



Fr Victor is blessed to have his older brother around, Joe, and his family, Joel, Jordy and Josh who live in Perth. His cousin from Queensland, Galvin, joined him in Bunbury to celebrate his anniversary (photo below).



Let us keep Fr Victor in our prayers that he may continue to serve the Lord faithfully and lovingly.

**ALTAR SERVERS.** Thank you to all those who have responded to this advertisement last weekend. We are still calling for more interested school children. If you are interested in becoming an altar server, please contact the Parish Office. Please watch this space for the details of the meeting and training of new altar servers.

**2024 WINTER REFLECTION SERIES.** The cool winter season invites us to embrace a genuine time to reflect on our discipleship. Cathedral parishioner and spiritual writer,

Patricia Greene PhD, will be running a Winter Reflection Series on the life and works of St. Teresa of Avila. The series will be held bi-monthly over three months during winter: 1 and 15 June; 6 and 20 July; and 3 and 17 August. To be held in the Parish Hall, it will start at 10am and finish by 12noon. For expressions of interest, please call the Parish Office.

**BAPTISM.** Welcome to God's family. Baptism is that wonderful gift from Christ which gives us the opportunity to live a new life in Him.



**HAROLD SEAN BYRNE** was baptised on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. His parents are Richard Byrne and Hermarie Cabrera Guerzon. Godparents are Sherlyn Octubre, Elizabeth Waddell, Jamie Batrick and Jella Bernados.



**LOUISE ANDREW HUGHES** was baptised on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. His parents are Martin Lee Hughes and Kira Jo Hough-Hughes. Caroline Ryan and Kristoffer Cumming are the godparents.



**OLIVIA ARIA LUCAS** was baptised last 21<sup>st</sup> of April. Her parents are Moses and Cassandra Lucas. Katrina Fisher, Michael Fisher and Carmel Stevens are Olivia's godparents.