



The newsletter of the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter, Southern Cross Region – Christmas 2020



From the Regional Superior...

2020 has been a year like few others. The world is not as it was 12 months ago. It has been a year of numerous challenges, many of which will continue in to 2021 and no doubt beyond. We are all too aware of the fallout caused by Covid-19 and our response to it, difficulties which are far from over in many parts of the world.

In the midst of this uncertainty, we have just begun Advent, which means that we are starting a new Liturgical Year. And as we begin this New Year, the Church in her wisdom gives us the opportunity to shift our focus from earthly realities to eternal ones. The

Gospel accounts of the second coming of Our Lord remind us that we should not be overly preoccupied nor disturbed by the events in the society which surrounds us. They may be unsettling, but they too shall pass. Rather our eyes should be firmly fixed on the person of Our Lord, come in history as a baby, present here now on our altars, and who will come again in glory. This should give us consolation and hope in the diverse circumstances of our lives.

During this time of Advent, we would also do well to spend some time in prayer with St John the Baptist and Our Lady. They too lived in tumultuous times. They too faced social upheaval and individual persecution, as a consequence of their commitment to Christ. And yet they stood firm, and in doing so gave a prophetic

Fr Thomas Sofatzis was ordained to the priesthood on August 8th at St Mary's Cathedral by Bishop Richard Umbers auxiliary bishop of Sydney. (Sydney photos by Rofe Photography)



witness to the transient nature of this world, the necessity of following Christ, and the kingdom which the coming of this child establishes.

We are grateful for your continued support for the work of the FSSP in Australia and New Zealand. This year we have been graced with the ordination of Frs Sofatzis and Gilbride to the priesthood and Rev Mr Boyce to the diaconate. This would not have been possible without your help. You and your loved ones

will be remembered at our masses this Christmas.

May the examples of St John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin inspire us, may their prayers help sustain us, and may the coming of the Christ child bring us consolation and hope.

Sancta Maria – ora pro nobis!

God bless,

Fr. Michael McCaffrey,
Regional Superior.

Fr Roger Gilbride and Deacon Brendan Boyce were ordained on October 3rd in Auckland, New Zealand by Bishop Denis Browne emeritus bishop of Hamilton.



Below & Right: The newly ordained priests, Fr Sofatzis and Fr Gilbride, give their parents First Blessings.

