

St Cecilia's Catholic Church
37 Hillside Parade
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Parish Priest:
Fr Kevin McGovern



Sunday Masses:
Sun. 10 a.m.
Sun. 5:30 p.m.
Weekday Masses:
Mon. 9:15 a.m.
Wed. 9:15 a.m.
Fri. 9:15 a.m.
Confessions:
By arrangement

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

3 August 2025

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

ANNIVERSARIES: Michael Francis Brown, Jack (John William) McNaughtan, Barbara Spencer



In today's homily, Fr Kevin will speak about Mr Eternity Arthur Stace.

For about 35 years from 1932 until his death in 1967, Arthur Stace used either yellow chalk or yellow crayon to write the word 'Eternity' in copperplate script on the footpaths and doorways of Sydney. The first photograph here shows his message.

For most of that time, no one knew who 'Mr Eternity' was. From time to time, the Sydney newspapers speculated about his identity.

He was found out in 1956 when a minister of religion who knew him saw him write 'Eternity' on a footpath. Stace agreed to be interviewed by a reporter. The interview was published in the Sunday Telegraph on 21 June 1956. The second photograph is from that story. It shows Arthur Stace writing his message.

For the first 45 years of his life, Stace was an alcoholic and petty criminal. He became a Christian at a church meeting in 1930, and found that he was then able to give up alcohol and crime.

In 1932, he heard another preacher declare, "I wish I could shout ETERNITY through the streets of Sydney." Stace was moved to tears, and felt a powerful call from God to write 'Eternity'. For the next 35 years – anywhere between Sydney and Parramatta – Stace wrote 'Eternity' at least 50 times a day. All up, he wrote his message about half a million times.

Today, we've made 6 copies of Arthur's message, and placed them around our church. Two are on the verandah; two are in the narthex or foyer; and

two more are in the nave or main room of our church. Are you able to find all 6 copies of 'Eternity'?

Why did Arthur Stace write 'Eternity' so many times? What message was he communicating?

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN: Until last year, we took up three or four collections each year to support various Archdiocesan initiatives. These collections ceased in 2024 with the introduction of the Archbishop's Campaign. It is the one, major campaign each year whereby we support many Archdiocesan initiatives. Tax-deductible gifts to the Archbishop's Campaign support the Priests Retirement Foundation, the John Pierce Centre for the Deaf, the Melbourne Overseas Mission, Corpus Christi College Building Fund, and the University of Divinity Building Fund. Non-deductible gifts support the formation of seminarians, evangelisation, life-changing experiences such as Australian Catholic Youth Festival and World Youth Day, and university chaplaincy which invites tertiary students into an encounter with Christ.

Our collection for the Archbishop's Campaign will be taken up three weeks from now on **Sunday 24th August**. As we prepare for this important collection, I ask you to prayerfully consider what you might be able to contribute. One option – which Fr Kevin uses and recommends – is to set up a recurring monthly contribution. Even a small amount each month can make a big difference.

WEEKDAY MASSES this week are at 9:15 am on Monday 4th August, Wednesday 6th August, and Friday 8th August. Friday's Mass is a School Mass for the feast day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. All are welcome to attend.