

A difficulty with dividing each synoptic gospel into sequential pericopes for a year's reading from January through to November is that the feasts of the Lord's birth and death, along with their preparatory periods, are then always read out of sequence. Mark's account of blind Bartimaeus that was read last Sunday is the immediate prelude to Jesus entering Jerusalem that we read also on Palm Sunday. So from last Sunday the Lectionary leaps over the whole of chapter 11, which includes the account of the cleansing of the temple, itself framed by the story of the fig tree that portends the end. We take up again half way through chapter 12.

Mark's scene for the question about the first or greatest commandment of the Law differs in one significant way from Matthew's (read on the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A) and Luke's (read on the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C). While all three locate it in the midst of contentions with various Jewish parties, Matthew and Luke have it arise as challenge to test Jesus. Mark, in a detail unfortunately omitted from the opening verse in the Lectionary's pericope, has the scribe observe Jesus arguing with the Sadducees and he admires how well Jesus answers them. This context suggests simply that he appreciates what Jesus says, and his question lacks any sense of challenge; he is presented as one honestly seeking an opinion for its hoped for insight. Moreover, after Jesus answers the scribe approvingly repeats it and adds that this double commandment is more important than any holocaust or sacrifice – an observation that would put him at odds also with the Sadducees, a sect associated with the Temple and its priesthood and sacrifices. Jesus in turn notes that the scribe has spoken wisely. We have here in a context of contention a peaceful episode of mutual recognition and appreciation that is quite fitting for the nature of the commandment to love God and others; these two have found a common ground.

By coincidence that gospel episode is linked now in our Lectionary to the Christian rejection of the Temple and its worship as testified to in the second reading, Hebrews 7:23-28. Hebrews does not, however, completely reject priesthood and sacrifice, but rather makes the case for the temporary earthly forms now being replaced by the real thing, Christ the eternal and only sinless priest whose self-offering is therefore incomparably more effective than any of the former dispensation. This association allows us to read the two-fold first of the commandments in a new way: loving the neighbour as one's very self and offering one's whole self in love to God is the sacrifice par excellence and the fulfilment of the Law. This Christ does, and since we too easily fail in it ourselves, it is accomplished for us in him.

In the Eucharist the ordained priest and the people together offer the sacrifice of praise because they are the body of him who offers himself perfectly.

Text: Homily Help - Rev Dr Barry Craig - 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



RIP

Fr Renato Paras, Pastor Emeritus of St Aidan's Parish, Rooty Hill and chaplain to the Filipino Catholic community in Australia, died the morning of 26th October at Melva McDonald Lodge, Rooty Hill.

A Pontifical concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial Funeral will be celebrated on Thursday 4th November at 11am at St Patricks Blacktown. There will be a viewing from 9.30am to 10.30am, which will be organised in accordance with health regulations.

Following the Mass, the cortege will proceed to Pinegrove Cemetery, Kington St, Minchinbury.

Sat Vigil 6pm Sun 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 6pm						
Weekday Mass Times						
Mon 8.30am Tues-Fri 9:15am Sat 9.00am						
Masses for Special Occasions 1st Tues 7.30pm Novena Mass Our Lady of Perpetual Help 1st Fri 7pm Novena Mass Sacred Heart of Jesus						
 1st Fri after 9.15am Mass 1st Sat after 9am Mass after the Novena Masses 						
Reconciliation						
After any of the weekday masses Sat: after the 9am mass until 10am 5:15 - 5:45pm before the Vigil Mass						
Sacraments						
1st Sat9am Mass for the SickSun12pm Baptism by appointment						
Devotions & Prayers						
 Mon 7.30pm Christian Meditation via Zoom Frances Pegram 0417 406715 Tues 7pm Rosary and Novena Prayer in the church except for 1st Tues Fri 6.30pm Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group Pauline Camilleri 0407 417039 						
0417 406715 Tues 7pm Rosary and Novena Prayer <i>in the church</i> <i>except for 1st Tues</i> Fri 6.30pm Christ Catholic Community Prayer Group						

the life and faith of our

community by sharing their gifts and talents."

Entrance Antiphon

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

First Reading

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51*

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. **R**.

Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. **R**.

Second Reading

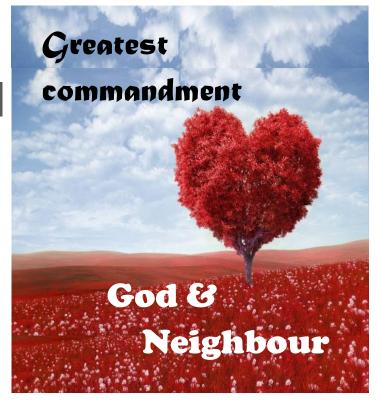
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Gospel Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

Gospel 1ark 12:28-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark *This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.*

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more..

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon

Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me shall have life because of me, says the Lord.

Special Intentions

Recently Deceased:

Fr Renato Paras, Jean-Lucien Pouzet, Esprella Alvarez, Mary Goldfinch

Deceased:

Anniversary:

Kathy Kovac, Amante Bueno

Sick: Names published with permission.

Fr Kevin Walsh, Rev Fr Jeffrey Fernandes, Natividad Reyes, Pat Doyle, Maria Romeo, Kristy Arceo, Iyrika D'Cruz, Tony Muscat, Elizabeth Candame, Colleen McCunnie, Raymond Lanzona, Geoffrey Robinson, Anshu Mala Nand, Florentina Elisura, Elizabeth Newnes, Christina Properzi, Owen Rogers, Gloria Bueno, Dragica Julich, Deidre Thomson, Mavie Dela Cruz, Perla Magculang, Sophie De Leon, Greg Marcellana, Isagani Ocampo, Zenira D'Souza, Virginia Santos

Thanksgiving:

Father Jeffrey Fernandes



Welcome to the community of the Catholic Parish of St John 23rd Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens where the love of Christ is shining in so many ways.

COVID-19 NOTICES

Please check out the following sites for any and all updates:

NSW Health COVID site https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pageslatest-updates.aspx

NSW Government site https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19

Check in and help keep everyone safe



By law, some businesses, venues and events need you to check-in. For ease on contact tracing, as per NSW COVID regulation, a OR Code is displayed

COVID regulation, a QR Code is displayed at both church doors for scanning purposes.



NSW reaches 80% full vaccination

It is with great joy that we prepare ourselves to open the doors of the churches to celebrate the Eucharist as a community.

It is mandatory to wear the mask and the 4sq metre rule will be applied.

To accommodate everyone for the weekend masses, booking is essential.

We welcome everyone of you. May Christ open our spiritual eyes, to see our call to love others in action and worship.

Stage 2: When 80% of the double dose vaccination target is achieved by the state

Weddings and religious services

- Wedding ceremonies permitted with no person limit (5-person limit for people who are not fully vaccinated), density limit still applies.
- Wedding receptions permitted with no person limits (not permitted for people who are not fully vaccinated), eating and drinking while standing, and dancing is permitted, density limit still apply.
- Funerals permitted with no person limit (10-person limit for people who are not fully vaccinated) and eating and drinking allowed while standing, density limits still apply.
- Places of worship reopen for people who are not fully vaccinated with density limits.
- Up to <u>10 fully vaccinated singers</u> may perform in places of worship and at religious services.

The full details of the 80% roadmap can be found here: <u>https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/easing-covid19-restrictions/80-percent</u>.

At this stage of the roadmap, our churches are to open to our entire community. There is no requirement from the Government to check the vaccination status of people attending our churches.

We are excited to welcome you back to church from this weekend. Registration for this weekend's masses can be accessed from the link below.

Registration capacity is currently up to 95. If you are unable to attend, please ensure you cancel your booking to allow other parishioners to attend. If you are unsure how to cancel please contact the parish office on 8883 5981 or email *eventbrite@john23rd.org.au*.



Accordingly, you are required to wear a face mask in order to enter the Church. Children under 12 are exempt but are highly encouraged to wear a face mask as well.

PARRAMATTA DIOCESE UPDATES ON COVID19 THE DIOCESE OF PARRAMATTA ENCOURAGES YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR LIFE OF PRAYER AND PARTICIPATION IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH DESPITE CHURCH BUILDING CLOSURES.

Church Calendar November Mon 1 All Saints (S) 9:15am - Mass 7:30pm - Mass Tues 2 The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed 9:15am - Mass 7:00pm - Novena prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual Help via Whatsapp 7:30pm - Mass Wed 3 9:15am - Mass Thurs 4 Saint Charles Borromeo (M) 9:15am - Mass Fri 9:15am - Mass 5 6 9:00am - Mass Sat 6:00pm - Mass Sun 7 7:30am 9:00am 10:30 - Mass 6:00pm - Mass

For more updates and useful resources visit <u>https://www.parracatholic.org/covid19/#faq</u>

Pastoral/Ministry Corn Parish

FAITH FORMATION

\Rightarrow Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Oh Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke your powerful name, the protection of the living and the salvation of the dying. Purest Mary, let your name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, Blessed Lady, to rescue me whenever I call on you. In my temptations, in my needs, I will never cease to call on you, ever repeating your sacred name, Mary, Mary. What a consolation, what sweetness, what confidence fills my soul when I utter your sacred name or even only think of you! I thank

the Lord for having given you so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name. But I will not be content with merely uttering your name. Let my love for you prompt me ever to hail you Mother of Perpetual Help. Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for me and grant me the favour I confidently ask of you. (Then say three Hail Marys).

"A family that prays together, stays together - Fr Patrick Peyton" If you want the opportunity of having the statue of Our Lady visit your home, please contact Bart Sarlabus via email bart.sarlabus@gmail.com or Melva Paguinto emcipi85@yahoo.com.au

Novena prayers 7pm every Tuesday except every First Tuesday it's a Novena mass 7:30pm

	/ Minisciy Coinci							
1	Rosary Statue Family Roster for Tuesday Nights							
	Nov	2	9	16	23	30		
		Gan	Barnouti	Ring	Jacob	Melva		
	Dec	7	14	21	28			
		Jacob	Richards	Richards	Richards			
	Jan	4	11	18	25			
		Deang	Lozada	Javelosa	Cano			
	Feb	1	8	15	22			
		Tangunan	available	Ring	Jacob			
T	Mar	1	8	15	22	29		
1 1		available	Paguinto	Richards	Shalini	Jacob		
2	Apr	5	12	19	26			
		available	Erasmo B	Ring	Shalini			

Families on the roster, if unable to pick up please don't hesitate to contact Bart or Melva.

"Mary joins us, she fights at our side. She supports Christians in the fight against the forces of evil. Especially through prayer, through the Rosary. Hear me out, the Rosary. ... Do you pray the Rosary each day?" Pope Francis

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Mahatma Gandhi We are in urgent need for volunteers to assist in the different pastoral ministries in our Parish.



\Rightarrow SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM FACILITATORS

We require assistance at the children's baptismal rites during Sundays 12pm. For interested parties please contact Deacon Andrew on andrew@john23rd.org.au or the Parish Office.

\Rightarrow GARDENERS AND CLEANERS

Garden Bees - our gardens look magnificent thanks to the work of our abled parishioners but more help is needed. The commitment would be whatever time you can spare - a few hours a fortnight to assist in the maintenance of the church's garden surrounds.

Cleaners - we have four teams of cleaners who clean the church on a monthly cycle and four teams who clean the votive candle stands every few months. Both groups needs more bodies to help out, urgently. The commitment would be a few month. hours each For more information contact maintenance@john23rd.org.au

\Rightarrow SRE Teachers

If you could spare an hour during weekdays to spread God's word teaching the scriptures to children, WE NEED YOU. We currently have 4 public primary schools and a high school in our parish where we hold scripture classes during school hours for 30 minutes during Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information call Asoki 0430 020265 or Renuka 0414 795814.

Training and resources will be provided.

\Rightarrow WEEKDAY WARRIORS

The church pews are undergoing refurbishment. We are looking for volunteers to help carry some pews down to the basement where they are being repaired. If you can assist, please let Fr Jolly know or call the parish office.

\Rightarrow VINNIES VAN

The Vinnies Van provides food, friendship, compassion and dignity to those experiencing homelessness and social isolation in the Mount Druitt and Parramatta areas. To become a volunteer of Vinnies Van you must be 16 years of age and over available to attend induction training and upon commencement.

For more information on joining the SJ23rd Vinnies Van team, please contact Naomi Reynolds at naomi1.rey@gmail.com



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Members Bing Catabas Chris Drummond Margaret Harrison Nanette Gamboa



Parking Reminder

Please make sure when you come to Mass, let us consider our neighbours. Do not block the neighbours' driveway.

Paying our debt together

FIRST COLLECTION - for the support of the priests and deacons of the Diocese.

SECOND COLLECTION – used to meet our parish running costs of the church and provide for ministry expenses; it is also needed to pay off our church mortgage.

Planned Giving Program as part of the second collection

A Planned giving Program is in place to help us with the planning/budgeting for the church expenses. To register, an SJ23rd form is available at the church foyer or the website.

The Parish Finance Committee encourages all parishioners to register for direct debit or credit card deductions instead of the envelope system.

We encourage everyone to contribute financially as you leave by using the *TapnGo* machines or online via BPoint. We have *TapnGo* at both the doors.

Parish Notices

SACRAMENTAL NOTICE

First Reconciliation and Confirmation will not be celebrated this year.

First Holy Communion

Commencing from the 9th - 12th November *and* from 16th - 19th November WE PRAY FOR ALL THE CHILDREN PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrating

ALL SAINTS DAY 1st November

9:15am and 7:30pm

ALL SOULS DAY 2nd November 9:15am and 7:30pm

SPONSOR A PEW



WE are refurbishing our church pews, as a cheaper alternative, to make mass attendance more comfortable and safe for everyone in the parish.

On this note, we would like to invite parishioners, if able, to sponsor a pew. It can be in memory of a deceased loved ones and wish to be

remembered or it could be your family's gift to the parish community. It could also be a way of thanking God for the graces of a lovely family you have and the blessings you received from the Lord. Each pew will cost from \$2,500 each.

To remember the donor family and their loved ones, a small memorial plaque or Donated by plaque will be placed on each Pew, upon request. If you are interested please contact the Parish office on 8883 5981

Are you looking for answers to infertility?

Come and see! Be amazed! Women's health science that has the potential for you to unravel the mystery of your cycle

Husbands, you're welcome too!

7.30pm | Wednesday 17 November 2021

TO REGISTER CONTACT: catherine.bourne@parracatholic.org or call 0400 427 605 Vinetta Lobo crce

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For more events please go to *parracatholic.org/events* or *https://catholicoutlook.org/*



Pastoral letter to the People of Parramatta on the return to worship

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Praised be to our God who as St Paul says is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him (Romans 8:28).

Next, I want to say a big thank you to all the families and parish communities in our Diocese of Parramatta!

During the long months of necessary lockdown, you have all risen to the challenge of sustaining one another through times of great isolation, loneliness, and grief in an impressive variety of ways, spiritual, emotional and practical. Thank you for bearing all these things with patience and for promoting the common good so responsibly.

I especially thank all who have worked tirelessly, in hospitals, aged care homes and across the nursing and medical profession for giving of yourselves so generously.

I thank all who have worked valiantly in our schools, facing unforeseen demands, and meeting them with characteristic professionalism, a sense of duty and dedication.

So many laity, consecrated persons, deacons, and priests have given so generously of their time and energy to keep open our churches here in the Diocese of Parramatta, as havens of peace and prayer.

In this pandemic crisis so many have creatively developed diverse new patterns of outreach - of prayer, catechesis, study, and spiritual solidarity; all who have made participation in the Mass possible through the internet. A special thanks to our Diocesan team who have provided us with The Well (thewell.org.au) which has nourished so many in these trying times, including those from far and wide.

Perhaps, some may be concerned that when things finally return to 'normal,' many Catholics will have grown accustomed to staying home and either watching Mass online or not participating at all.

But as we all know deep down, 'virtual' worship can never really replace the in-person celebration of Mass. Livestreamed liturgies should remain available for the sick and the elderly. But, even then, parishes should try to reach out to them in a personal way so that they remain connected to the community.

And how can we fail to thank all those in the outreach agencies of our Diocese who serve the Body of Christ in the poor, the refugees, the lonely and all on the 'peripheries'? They have contributed magnificently to the immense effort of providing food for those most in need. The generosity shown in the distribution of so very many meals and other acts of solidarity has given eloquent expression to the mercy, love and compassion which are at the very heart of the Gospel.

What will be the pace of our emerging from this pandemic remains as yet unclear. However, one challenge is certain.

Sometimes in times of stress like these, our work, shopping, sport, and entertainment media can capture our hearts. Let's all now take special care to recover a sense of sacred time as we emerge from this pandemic.

May we all, as the People of God in the Diocese of Parramatta, recommit ourselves to awaken in people a grateful love for the gift of the Eucharist as well as the Lord's Day.

When we go to Communion, we receive Christ in the most intimate way possible during our life — allowing him to become one with us — so that we actually become what we receive, the Body of Christ.

May we again devote ourselves to the grace and beauty of the Eucharist. Our Risen Lord is so close to us in the Eucharistic mystery.

Strengthened by His Body and Blood, our Saviour Jesus of Nazareth, constantly sends us out on mission, to live the Gospel afresh.

In Christ,

+ Myraulou

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv Bishop of Parramatta "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

BLAZE

BLAZE youth group is held every second Friday throughout the school term in the St John XXIII school hall. Youth runs from 7:15 to 9pm and accommodate a fun and engaging night of faith-based talks encouraging teens to walk with Christ in a nurturing community. If you would like to come along to one of our sessions, please contact the team at <u>blaze@john23rd.org.au</u>

Youth Coordinator Amanda Lee - 0413 545 318 Assistant Youth Coordinator Caitlin Green - 0425 579 594 *Youth Leaders* Anna Todhunter Taylor Coutinho Johnathan Soosaipillai Natasha Surjanto Charlotte Todhunter

For all youth ministry enquiries, ⊠ *blaze@john23rd.org.au* or visit our FB page https://www.facebook.com/blazeyouthsj23/ ♂



Come and Join !

MORE YOUTH GROUPS

CRL (*Community of the Risen Lord*) **CRL YOU'TH LEADERS** Rojith de Silva - 0405 956 3210 Nimeshi Fernando -0417 101009 YFC (Youth for Christ) YFC YOUTH LEADERS YFC International Vince Erasmo - 0406 253 698 YFC Australia Jonathan Montaos 0401 478 733

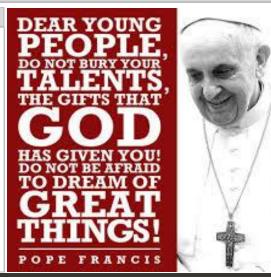
OUR PARISH SCHOOLS

Holy Cross Primary
49 Meurants Lane, Glenwood
Principal: Louise O'Donnell

(02) 8664 7100 *holycross@parra.catholic.edu.au*John XXIII & St Mark's College

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens
Principal: Dr Peter Webster
(02) 9852 0500 *stmarks@parra.catholic.edu.au*Catholic Early Learning Centre

160 Perfection Ave Stanhope Gardens
(02) 9852 0585
(02) 9852 0585 *celestanhope@parra.catholic.edu.au*



If you or a family member is homebound and would want to receive communion in your home please contact the parish office.

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours Tue - Fri 8.30 - 4.00pm **Office Contacts** (02) 8883 5981 ① 0423 160567 (AH Emergency) 160 Perfection Avenue, Stanhope Gardens, 2768 MAILING PO Box 23, Stanhope Gardens, NSW 2768 **CLERGY** Parish Priest: Fr Jolly Chacko 🖂 jolly@john23rd.org.au **()** 0417 541 637 (for emergency only) **Assistant Priest:** Fr Zvonimir Gavranovic Zvonimir@john23rd.org.au Deacon: Andrew Rooney Andrew@john23rd.org.au STAFF Secretary: Tanya Gatt 🖂 secretary@john23rd.org.au Finance: Renuka Soosaipillai 🖾 accounts@john23rd.org.au Sacramental Coordinator: Helen Zammit Sacramental@john23rd.org.au **Operations Manager:** Daphney Fernandes operations@john23rd.org.au **OTHER CONTACTS** Maintenance issues: David Gorkic 🖾 maintenance@john23rd.org.au Columbarium queries: Daphney Fernandes 🖾 columbarium@john23rd.org.au Communication queries: Techie Sarlabus

🖾 communications@john23rd.org.au

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

Welcome to our parish community!

Please take a welcome envelope pack from the front entrance. Visit our website <u>http://john23rd.com/</u> Like our Facebook page <u>www.facebook.com/john23rdparish</u> View our livestreams via YouTube https://www.youtube.com/c/StJohn%20 XXIIIGlenwood-StanhopeGardensParish

SUGGESTION BOX

We welcome your comments and constructive suggestions.

If you would like to advertise your business please contact the parish office. St John XXIII Parish cannot take responsibility if the service provided by an advertiser does not meet expectations.



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