



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

"BE STILL AND KNOW I AM GOD..."

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Parish Priest : Fr Peter Taylor

St Mel's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

11 October 2020

Readings for
this week:



Isaiah 25:6-10
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Matthew 22:1-14

Readings for
next Sunday:



Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5
Matthew 22:15-21



Liturgical Jottings

Names for the Eucharist

Three weeks ago this column gave nine titles for the Eucharist listed in the Catholic Catechism (1328-32). Here are ten more from Catholic Hymnody: The Body of the Lord, the Body of Christ, Bread of Heaven; Sweet Sacrament Divine; Blessed Sacrament; Heavenly Food, Living Bread the Life, Bread of Life Panis Angelicus (Bread of Angels), Living Bread of God, plus many more referring to the Last Supper, the heavenly banquet, Communion Cup and the Blood of Christ. These names and titles carry some the meaning and mystery of the sacrament as well as express our belief, spirituality and love of and devotion to the sacrament.

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Looking at the Readings

A wedding banquet or feast is a great image of the kingdom of heaven. Isaiah and Our Lord Jesus present this image as the eschatological event – that is the activity in heaven at the end of time. Preparations are made, the menu organised, the invitations are sent, and the experiences are anticipated: the end of sadness and death (Is 25:7), the place filled (Matt 22:10); and “we shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives.” (cf Ps 23:6)

Today's parable is the third in a row addressed to the chief priests of the Temple, the Pharisees and the elders of the community. Christ is warning his listeners then and now that all are invited, but not all respond accordingly. His warning adds the consequence the invitees may find themselves out in the cold and the dark. We need to make life choices based on what is good and right, physically, morally, socially, spiritually and finally. Jesus' invitation is in the form of his grace and love; our reply is by our life of integrity and love.

Prayer of the Week

God, of goodness and kindness, you invite all peoples to the banquet, and offer them a feast beyond compare. Give us your saving grace to keep unstained the robe of our baptism until that day when you welcome us to heaven's joyful table. (*Collect 28th Week of Ordinary Time ICEL 1995*)

Did You Know?

In the time of Christ a Jewish wedding celebration often lasted for as long as a week, which may explain why some guests were reluctant to attend. Like living in the Kingdom, it was demanding!

Quote of the Week

Sorrow can be alleviated by a good sleep, a hot bath and a glass of wine. *St Thomas Aquinas*

On the Lighter Side

Occasionally I ask children and adults what meals are you likely to find in heaven. The way of the question eliminates any theological debate but get straight to the issue. Answers range from the traditional Sunday roast with all the trimmings, favourite home cooked meals to the latest take-away fad. The connoisseur, young or old, would elaborate and include drinks, table settings and dinner companions. Then we move to the crux of the matter: “How?”



St Mel's Parish is

“A welcoming and caring community that helps all people grow stronger in our Catholic Faith.”

REFLECTION - From Fr Peter

Our first reading of this story of the wedding celebration and the events going on behind the scenes might suggest ... "What the 'hec' is going on"? Invitations sent out, excuses made for not coming, see if others can come not originally invited, ultimately those did come made presence for a celebration. It's worth noting, Matthew writing this account after the destruction of Jerusalem, so the parable's mentioning of the people being killed and the city burned quite literally happened when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in AD70. So coming back to the wedding celebration, suggests an invitation does not necessarily mean attendance, and attendance does not necessarily mean celebration.

In a story filled with such violence it might be easy to forget we are dealing here with a merciful God! God continually calls a people into a presence where God is on side with the outsider. As the parables over the past weeks have been relational to life's situations of work, and where wheat and weeds grow side by side, God's authority is on side with all. To bring this in connection from the first reading in Isaiah's thought, of God 's providing for all with fine wines and riches of food, these harken to the King's words from the gospel, of the banquet now ready. So at the heart of this is the issue of invitation ... 'Come to the feast'!

Even though this may be remote from our personal situations through this Pandemic time and where our Church is still closed from opening people to gatherings, holding a thought to the feast we are being drawn to is very real. Many have made themselves available to our live stream of Sunday Mass from St. Mel's during this lockdown time of absence from attending Church, others sought our other opportunities to watch Mass. The idea of being in the moment takes us into the realm of the feast from our homes and streets. Thankyou for taking this on and still remaining connected with your faith to our common identity as a community called to fullness of life spiritually through the Eucharist.

This month of October being a month of MISSION in the Church is one where through Mary, we seek her intercession through devotion in the rosary. We give honour to Mary as one who sees herself through the heavenly banquet and who makes cause for our participation through prayer and reflection upon the mysteries of the rosary. The prayer of the rosary is a 'main road' for us in this month of seeking Mary's protection and intercession.

Responsorial Psalm - Sunday 11th October - 'I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.'

NOVEMBER ... A MONTH TO REMEMBER ... Our annual Mass of remembrance, for parishioners who have died over the past year, and for our loved ones, will be held on Wednesday 18th November at 7.30pm in St Mel's Church. Hopefully we'll back into the Church!!! If not, I'm suggesting you have a bowl of water with some flower petals, as a prayer focus. During the Mass, live stream, you will be invited to simply remember. *More details to come.*

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE. As you know, Paul Roberts, who has been the chair person of our committee, has left our community and along with his wife Mim have relocated to Werribee. I have asked Chris Murdoch to join our parish finance committee.

Chris, I am grateful to you for accepting this.

Our Parish Finance committee, in support of myself, are intent on repairing the roof of the Church. We had a gathering last Friday week ago, along with Alistair Greenall from the chancery office, in going the next stage. We have one quote in place and seeking one other... It's all systems go.... Fr. Peter

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY... This year is next Sunday October 18th... more to come...

WOMEN'S GROUP gathering will be held on

Friday 16th October 7.00PM for 7.15 start on ZOOM.

Women's Group meet on every third Friday of each month. Everyone is welcomed.

For more detail contact: bozena59@yahoo.com or ph 0426 867 647.

Weekday Masses this coming week - 12th October to 18th October 2020

No Weekday Masses ... until advised.!!

No Sunday Masses... (only stream – lined)

The Parish Office remains closed. Please phone the office if you need to leave a message and we will get back to you. Fr Peter is available for calls or urgent visitation on 0409 521 039

We pray for all recently deceased.

Anniversaries: Michele (Mick) Villani, Giuseppe Primerano, Mavis and Ralph Stone, Antonio Manno, Fay & Rupert Whetton, Michelina & Giuseppe Latorre, Joseph Pungitore.

