



Christ the King Church

# ST MEL'S PARISH

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

18 Hamilton Street, Shepparton 3630  
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Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9:30am - 2:30pm  
Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm  
Parish Priest : Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ

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.

## Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 November 2023

Readings for  
this week:



Wisdom 6:12-16  
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Matthew 25:1-13

Readings for  
next Sunday:



Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6  
Matthew 25:14-30



### Liturgical Jottings

#### Eucharistic Prayer part 10

#### Origins

In the past nine weeks we looked at the different elements of the Eucharistic prayer. These nine elements evolved very early in the Church's liturgy with both scriptural evidence from the Gospels and the letters of Paul, particularly on the words of the institution narratives. Other early writings such as the Didache (pre 100AD), the Apostolic Constitutions the Anaphora of Addai and Mari, and the Apostolic Tradition contain other elements. The form and structure also their roots in Jewish table grace and synagogue prayers and blessings which in turn have origins in the writings of the psalms and the prophets. Before fixed written Eucharistic Prayers the celebrant prayed according to circumstances and his oratorical skills. One of the first fixed prayers was written for the purpose of con-celebration. It is now the basis of Second Eucharistic Prayer.

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### Looking at the Readings

What is Wisdom?. The reading from the book of wisdom gives some clues: Wisdom is bright, quick and readily available to those who seek it. From the book of Wisdom and the wisdom literature as a whole we learn that wisdom is not knowledge nor a science nor an exercise of judgement but a reflection of God's own wisdom, his desire, his purpose. The author personifies wisdom, it is an attribute or "person" of God.

To be a wise bridesmaid is more than to be careful with the lamp oil reserves. The parable of Jesus, as humorous as it is intriguing and full of symbolic meaning, highlights the difference between the wise and the foolish. The wise prepare and plan, keep watch and wait, recognise the Lord's coming and go out to meet him.

Jesus, later in his passion, asks his disciples to keep vigil, to pray. It is in the night that his betrayer and adversaries arrive, it is in darkness that he dies and in darkness that he rises to new life, He is the door that we must enter into life. In the rite of Baptism the newly baptised are given a lighted candle lit from the Paschal (Easter) Candle with the words: "... *this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly, so that ... enlightened by Christ, [you] may walk always as children of the light and, persevering in the faith, may run to meet the Lord when he comes.*"

### Quote for the Week

During the whole of this time in which this age, representing night, is running its course, the Church is keeping vigil, the eyes of her faith fixed upon the holy scriptures as upon lamps lit at night, until the Lord comes. When he will find his Church awake and watching with mind alight and alert, then he will rouse her even from her bodily sleep in the tombs. *St Augustine - sermon 223 D.*

### Pope Francis' Laudate Deum

2. A Growing Technocratic Paradigm: The mentality of maximum gain at minimal cost, disguised in terms of reasonableness, progress and illusory promises, makes impossible any sincere concern for our common home and any real preoccupation about assisting the poor and the needy discarded by our society. ... In conscience, and with an eye to the children who will pay for the harm done by their actions, the question of meaning inevitably arises: "What is the meaning of my life? What is the meaning of my time on this earth? And what is the ultimate meaning of all my work and effort?" (31,33)

### On the Lighter Side

What do you get when you cross a thought with a lightbulb? A bright idea!

*St Mel's Parish Is...*

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

## Reflection from Fr Rene

### **Saving Our Souls Is Our Primary Responsibility**

At first glance, we might think that the wise virgins in today's Gospel were selfish or mean. However, that's not the case. According to the customs of the time, their role in the wedding feast was to welcome the newlywed couple to the bridegroom's home after the wedding. This was their responsibility. Giving away their oil would have meant shirking their responsibility since there was simply not enough oil for ten lamps. In the same way, being unfaithful to Christ and his Church, regardless of the pretext, would be equally irresponsible.

The First Reading teaches us the same lesson. Ancient philosophers believed that wisdom was the key to a meaningful and fulfilling life. This was the object of the human person's greatest quest and must be sought after and desired beyond all other things. Everything else was secondary. In biblical terms, this is still true for us today. It is Wisdom, which is God Himself and God's love as experienced and grasped by the human heart, that is "resplendent and unfading." The rest of the goods of this world come to an end, wear out and do not fill our hearts.

We shouldn't ignore the most obvious lesson of Christ's parable. We all have the possibility of salvation, of entering into eternal life with God and the saints. However, we also face the possibility of damnation, of being excluded from heaven. Christ couldn't have made it clearer: "Then the door was locked." It all depends on what we choose to seek as our highest goal. Our primary responsibility in life, the best use of our freedom, consists of making our friendship with God into that highest goal, which is true wisdom. However, God won't force us to do that; if He did, it wouldn't be friendship.

**WE ARE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS** Do you have a talent, interest or gift you could share with us? Do you have a means for certain tasks? Or would you like to be involved more in our Parish? We are currently in need of assistance in various tasks. For example if you love content, you may be interested to assist as a social media monitor... Data entry coding, church set up or cleaning, gardening, special events, groups including liturgy, music, bereavement, baptism preparation or the sacramental program, office duties (filing/shredding), and so much more! We would love to hear from you. Please contact the office, by phoning during office hours or email anytime, with your details and we will be in touch. **Together we can!**

# Volunteers Needed!



**LIGHT OF JESUS – THE FEAST** Join us for an inspiring spiritual gathering! Date: Sunday 19th November 2023, 2PM onwards. Venue: St Kilian's Parsh Hall. We warmly invite you to be part of our "Pop-up Feast," an afternoon filled with faith, fellowship, and divine grace. The Feast is a prayer gathering of the Light of Jesus Family founded by a Catholic lay preacher and writer Bo Sanchez in the Philippines. MASS: Commence the gathering with a Holy Mass at 2PM. Experience the serenity and sacredness of the Eucharistic celebration. WORSHIP: Raise your hearts and voices in adoration during our Worship session. Let the music and prayers uplift you're your spirit! FELLOWSHIP: After nourishing your soul, join us far a time of fellowship. Connect with fellow believers, share stories, and create lasting bonds. Come and be a part of this blessed gathering. Let's share the Light of Jesus through prayer, worship, and community. Everyone is welcome!

**WORLD DIABETES DAY – 14 NOVEMBER** The 2023 theme, "Empowering Global Health" reminds us that by coming together, by understanding, caring and acting, we can create a world where diabetes does not dictate our lives. One hundred years ago, Frederick Banting and John MacLeod won a Nobel Prize for discovering the treatment which has gone on to save millions of lives around the world -- insulin. The focus is on delaying or preventing type 2 diabetes and diabetes-related complications, e.g., hearing loss. An early diagnosis can reduce your chance of living with a disability. Mary Pianta. Disability Contact Coordinator.

**St Mel's Parish would like to acknowledge the elders past and present of the Yorta Yorta Nation, and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our parish and church is situated.**

**Recently Deceased:** Tayla Barber, Mario Gallaci  
**Anniversaries:** Tony Cassise, Margaret Murdoch, Anne Cullen

**ANNUAL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE** Each November, a Mass of Remembrance is held to remember parishioners who have died over the past year and to remember all our loved ones who have died. This Mass will take place on Wednesday, November 22, at 7pm in St Mel's, Christ the King Church. All welcome. Please let others know.



The Catholic Community of  
St Mel's Parish

*cordially invites you to the  
Solemnity Mass of Christ the King  
and the Installation as Parish Priest of*

**Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ**

*to be presided by His Excellency*

**Most Rev Shane Mackinlay DD**  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst*

*on the 26th of November 2023 at 5:00 PM*

*at St Mel's Parish  
18 Hamilton St., Shepparton VIC 3630*



**SAVE THE DATE** All are welcome to join our Parish community on Sunday, November 26 at 5pm for Fr Rene's Installation Mass. Following the Mass there will be an opportunity to celebrate this great moment. More details to come in upcoming bulletins.

## Happenings!

### UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS AND OTHER HAPPENINGS IN NOVEMBER

- Thursday, November 16, St Mel's Parish Finance and Management Committee will meet at 7pm in Gathering Room of the Parish House. (Please note the change of date)
- Tuesday, November 20, the Parish office will close early at 1pm while Ainsley and Mel attend an online meeting.
- Wednesday, November 22, our Parish's annual Remembrance Mass will be held here at St Mel's, Christ the King Church at 7pm.
- Thursday, November 23, our Sacramental Candidates and their parents/guardians will meet for their second cluster session in St Mel's Parish Hall at 6:30pm.
- Sunday, November 26, the Solemnity Mass of Christ the King, and the Installation as Parish Priest of Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ at 5pm. Please see flyer for more information.
- Thursday, November 30, at 7pm, Second Rite of Reconciliation for our Candidates will take place here at St Mel's in Christ the King Church.

**Closing  
Early**

### ST MELS PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM CANDIDATES

Please pray for our candidates as they journey through the Steps in Faith program in the lead up to Reconciliation on Thursday, November 30, at 7pm.

Alessandro Turkovic, Angelina Tassoni, Archie Dainton, Carmelo Iaria, Darcy Lott, Estelle Papallo, Jazelle Etuale, Janelle Etuale, Lara Garner, Logan Barbary, Jack Barbary, Connor Barbary, Noah Kemp, Nyah Clarke, Oliver Kealey, Stella Campi, Toby Hawker.





## **READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19th 2023**

### **First Reading:** A reading from the book of Proverbs

*Give her a share in what she has worked for.*

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands.

She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.



**The Word of the Lord**

**Response: Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

### **Second Reading:** A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.*

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

**The Word of the Lord**

### **Weekday Masses this coming week** **November 13th to November 19th 2023**

Monday November 13th - No Mass

Tuesday November 14th - 9:15am

Wednesday November 15th - 9:15am

Thursday November 16th - 9:15am

Friday November 17th - 9:15am

Saturday November 18th - 9am

Sunday November 19th - 9:30am & 5pm



### **READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER** **Sunday, November 19th 2023**

9:30am - Sev Cortese (Commentator) Denis Muto (L1)

Jacqui Avard (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Lucy Ciancio &

Pauline Pettigrew

5:00pm - Tim Kelly (Commentator) Paul Bertoli (Lector)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Angie Knez & Helen May



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**Vincent Tassoni**  
Licensed Estate Agent & Auctioneer

