



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

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

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9:30am - 2:30pm

Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm

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.

First Sunday of Lent

26 February 2023

Readings for this week:



Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

Readings for next Sunday:



Genesis 12:1-4
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9



Liturgical Jottings

Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey

This year's Lenten Message of Pope Francis links the Gospel account of the transfiguration (Second Sunday of Lent) with the year's journey towards the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. He writes: "We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience. Excerpts from this year's message will be printed here during Lent. Pope Francis concludes his message with:

"Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations."

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Looking at the Readings

The Readings for this first Sunday of Lent carry several meanings. In the early Christian centuries Lent was the beginning of the year with reading of the beginning of the Bible (Genesis) and the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Matthew. It is the time also for preparation of Baptism for the Catechumens and a season of penitential acts for the Christian. It is a journey with Jesus, through the wilderness to the cross and resurrection.

The author(s) of the Book of Genesis present wise reflections on the origins of the universe and humankind and of sin. The readers are also invited to reflect wisely on these texts lest they dismiss them as naive stories containing primitive science and history. We must read and listen with attentiveness and astuteness. The excerpt is brief but set before us life and prosperity, death and disaster (Deut 30:15) and we become seekers of wisdom, faith, truth and life through God's word.

The tempter is crafty and persistent but basically a fundamentalist in his use of scripture to win points and in his misunderstanding on the true nature and mission of Christ as the new Adam (Romans 5) and the Son of God who anointed him and whom Jesus will not deny. Yet Jesus experienced these temptations and told the evangelists who recorded them for our benefit in our journey of self-discovery towards salvation.

Pope Francis Message for Lent 2023

Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. ... To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience.

Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus, sent by the Father, you came to fight in an immense combat to deliver Adam's children. Grant that we may be so close to you in battle and toil, that we may also share in your victory.

On the Lighter Side

"Have patience with all things, but first of all have patience with yourself." St Francis de Sales.

St Mel's Parish Is...

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

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

Nelson Mandela said that education was the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. There would be plenty who would agree with him. One who has agreed is Oprah Winfrey who has said, 'education is the way to move mountains, build bridges, and to change the world'. God's Word suggests the value reading brings.

The story from the Book of Genesis comes from pre-history. These ancient of accounts speak when human beings overstretch their boundaries, trouble follows and the experience of harmony and beauty is threatened. Choosing our best of teacher is evident... 'listening to God or the serpent?' The serpent in our day takes on many forms threatening our environmental awareness and other concerns known personally.

The temptations faced by Jesus show some lessons are difficult. Jesus actually teaches the devil! Saying to the devil... "God is in charge!" Jesus expands this, nothing substitutes for an honest and life – giving relationship with God.

Each week during Lent, Caritas Australia asks us to think about a special story. A story from someone who has benefited from generosity through Project Compassion. Lexi who is sixteen from a remote part of Nepal is with us. Our support for Lexi will see her having improved educational opportunities as she sees hope for her community in becoming an engineer. Like her it's the spirit of light showing us all that is possible from our listening and support of her and her Nepalese community.

Allow your generosity through Project Compassion to see young people like Lexi be signs of our monies going where support will be valued.

A STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM The thought of which conjures up many challenging thoughts in particular... How to see more becoming involved in a commitment like many of you who are so good, in keeping your commitment financially to St. Mel's Parish. As I mentioned at our parish finance and management committee meeting recently, "We need to reach out to many who are not with us", in a financial sense and commitment!

Having been part of stewardship programs in other places, and having organized the Archdiocese of Melbourne and their fundraising team, it's my firm belief we here at St Mel's can do something from within our means here. So saving ourselves heaps of money in costing a program!

So for this to happen in a local Parish sense, will require a collective effort in spreading the word to others and in support for a committed effort from all concerned.

I am putting a thought out in the wider realms of our Parish for a committee to help oversee the program in its undertaking

CAN YOU HELP? DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO CAN? A group of about 4 would be ideal...

When is this happening? The month of AUGUST 2023 has been suggested by the finance and management committee. It is anticipated August as a month will give time to get matters into place supporting, I believe to be an effective organized program. and it is proposed a speaker (parishioner) will speak at each of the four Sunday Masses in August that is both the 9.30am and 5pm Masses.

Could this be you??? No more than 5 – 10 minutes. A format can be provided in supporting the one who delivers a message for the particular Sunday Mass. (9.30am and 5pm).

BEFORE the month of AUGUST is upon us much needs to be done. Our next finance and management meeting is set down for THURSDAY 9TH MARCH. It is a collective hope we can achieve some goals of making the financial understanding of our Parish of St. Mel's financially stronger as a parish. Usually such a program will be focused under themes at this stage four words... PARISH, ABILITIES, STRENGTHS, VITALITY come to mind we could focus on. These four would give presence to each of the following Sundays in August being, the 6th, 13th, 20th, and 26th. The core values of undertaking a stewardship / planned giving program are:

- . Identity
- . Trust
- . Gratitude
- . Love

It has been identified a letter, along with a leaflet offering images and reflections, along with opportunity for credit card details and contact details for parish records go out to all parishioners from the Parish data base, so if your details need updating especially if you are a new parishioner, it would be helpful to have this information given to the Parish office.

Any way this is a hope our Parish of St Mel's seeks to undertake as we renew the financial stability of our Parish and Church community.

Fr Peter

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.

LENT As we enter this season I found an article from CATH NEWS offering a thought from Pope Francis who finds similarities between Lenten and Synodal journeys. Pope Francis sees a deep rooted tradition open to newness, he suggests a personal and ecclesial (meaning Church) 'transfiguration' in this time of a SYNODAL journey. Pope Francis is mindful this may sound frustrating and lead to discouragement yet he sees something bringing wonder helping all God's people and our mission as disciples for our world.

SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST The program through the Parish is about to recommence for this year. The adult formation evening is scheduled for Thursday, March 2 in St Mel's, Christ the King Church at 7pm. Reflections on the candidates are in the Narthex area of the Church. Pentecost Sunday this year, May 28, will see our candidates receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at an 11:30am Mass. Normal 9:30am and 5pm masses will still be. On Sunday, March 5 parents and families of our candidates will be present at Masses as they make a right of commitment for the sacraments this year. Fr Peter

INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR DAY International Wheelchair Day is always on March 1 – an annual event when wheelchair users celebrate the positive impact a wheelchair has on their lives. We thank the millions of people who provide wheelchairs or support and care for wheelchair users. They make the world a better and more accessible place for people with mobility issues. We acknowledge and pray for the many tens of millions of people in the world who need a wheelchair, but are unable to acquire one.

Wheelchair etiquette: Never move, lean on, rock or touch his/her wheelchair without permission. The wheelchair is part of his/her own personal space. Always ask if he/she would like assistance BEFORE you help.

Mary Pianta. Disability Coordinator.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023 All are invited to the 2023 World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 3 at 10:30am. To be held at the G.V. Christian Fellowship Church, 9 Pine Road, Shepparton. Followed by a morning tea at 11:30am. For more information contact Helen on 0409 033 789.

APOSTOLATE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTIONS Friday 3rd March – First Friday devotions in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at St Kilian's Church, Bendigo with Adoration from 11am with Confession Available and Mass at 12:10pm.

Saturday 4th March – First Saturday Devotions in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at St Augustine's, Myers Flat, beginning with Adoration at 8:15am with Confession available, Mass at 9:15am and Rosary at 9:45am. The month of March is dedicated to St Joseph, with the feast of St Joseph on March the 19th.

SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL - EXPRESSIONS OF

INTEREST (EOIS) ARE OPEN On Wednesday 15 February Bishop Shane Mackinlay called for EOI's from members of the diocese to join him on the new Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council. All relevant information and the EOI form is available on the Sandhurst website: <https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/mission-and-pastoral-life/mission-pastoral-council>.

The contact at the Chancery is Jill Doncovio (Executive Assistant to Bishop Shane)

03 5445 3630 or jill.doncovio@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

SANDHURST WORLD YOUTH DAY PILGRIMAGE FOR YOUNG ADULTS Join the Sandhurst Young Adults Pilgrimage to Lisbon, Portugal for the 2023 World Youth Day celebrations! A group of 18–35-year-olds (post school age) from our Diocese will be journeying together for 2 weeks as we join young people from around the world to celebrate our faith. The pilgrimage will include attending the WYD Vigil and final Mass with the Pope, a day trip to Fatima, and a post-WYD retreat in Avila, Spain. We're really excited about the pilgrimage and hope you are too!! Expressions of Interest close March 10th.

To help young adults get to WYD, the Diocese are offering financial sponsorships to help cover part of the cost of the pilgrimage.

For more information head to sandhurstwyd.com or get in touch with the pilgrimage coordinator, Ruth Lawlor (ruth.lawlor@sandhurst.catholic.org.au), for more information.

Who: Young Adults from Sandhurst, ages 18-35 (post-school age)

When: 29th July – 11th August 2023

LEGION OF MARY PATRICIAN An interactive discussion on Catholic Life. Speaker Eddie Davies, subject, The Joy of the Gospel.

TODAY Sunday 26th February time 4pm to 6pm at St Liborius Parish Centre 50 Paton St. Eaglehawk.

All Welcome. For more information phone Eddie Davies 0400 433 465.

DISASTER / PACIFIC New Zealand has a steep mountain to climb in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle, Prime Minister Chris Hipkins has aid. Among the 11 so far who have died, 6,431 people are still unaccounted for. Keeping our prayer for our neighbouring country is important at this difficult time.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY MARCH 5TH 2023

First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. 'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord

St Mel's Parish Prayer

God our Father, Bless our Parish so that we may love you more. Encircle our Families with your loving care.

Help parents to be good examples to their children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

To the sick, grant health. To the aged, bring serenity and to those in sorrow, joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living. Amen.

Weekday Masses this coming week
February 27th to March 5th 2023

Monday February 27th - No Mass

Tuesday February 28th - 9:15am

Wednesday March 1st - 9:15am

Thursday March 2nd - 9:15am

Friday March 3rd - 9:15am

Saturday March 4th - 9:00am

Sunday March 5th - 9:30am & 5:00pm



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER
Sunday, March 5th 2023

9:30am - Sev Cortese (Commentator) Jacqui Avard & Sacramental
Candidates (Lectors)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Chris Summers & Trish Mathisen

5:00pm - Mel Shiels (Commentator) Helen May (Lector)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Rosana Legalo & Sarah Maloney

Recently deceased: Rocco Bovalino, Nildo (Nick) Munari, Guiseppe Rachele,

Arnoldus (Arnie) Schroeders, Alfonso Aloe (6 months)

Anniversaries: Giuseppe Iaria, Barry Pummeroy, Primo Piccin, Rosina & Frank Papallo,

Virginia Callueng, Vincenzo Campi, Annunziata (Nancy) Mallamaci