



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.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time B

Word of God Sunday 7 February 2021

Readings for this week:



Job 7:1-4,6-7
1 Cor 9: 16-19,22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Readings for next Sunday:



Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46
1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1
Mark 1:40-45



Liturgical Jottings

Prayer for the sick

Thursday 11 February, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. The ministry of Jesus included healing and prayers for the disabled and sick, as seen in today's Gospel. Healing is both a ministry of Jesus' compassion and a sign of the coming of the Kingdom of God. The miracle of Lourdes is healing of the sick, encouragement of faith and spiritual well-being and conversion of the world. Our liturgy contains many prayers for the sick and the dying, Mass of the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and more recently Mass in time of pandemic. "O God, only support of our human weakness, show the power of your protection over your servants who are sick, that, sustained by your merciful help, they may be restored to your Church in good health." *Prayer after Communion, Mass for the Sick*

Looking at the Readings

"The" is the most common word in written English. It appears nine times in the Gospel passage today. But there is another word appearing 15 times in the same passage. Computers allow scholars to quickly analyse and compare original texts to assist in recognising patterns, sources and special words with relevant meanings. Mark uses the word "and" more than any other evangelist and biblical writer: 15 times in this passage. This Sabbath day races along in high activity; the scenes are connected by "and".

"[Jesus] went to [Peter's mother-in-law], took her by the hand **and** helped her up. **And** the fever left her **and** she began to wait on them." Mark compresses this encounter into a few words but at the same time packs a lot of meaning. After a big day out Jesus went home, out of concern and compassion, healed the woman thus enabling her to be the courteous hostess for the visitors. Hospitality is very important in that culture and time. Moreover Jesus "Messianic healing" manifests his authority and gives the person the opportunity to respond to the call to believe in the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

"After Sunset" is another expression of economy of words. The Sabbath Day restrictions are over: the Sabbath is from one sunset to the next. People may resume their tasks and go visiting one another. Also under the cover of darkness the quarantined and isolated may get out of their dwellings in order to come and seek help from Jesus. They do that in large numbers and we hear many are cured. Everywhere the Good News is proclaimed.

Pope Francis: World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Jesus' words, "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28) point to the mysterious path of grace that is revealed to the simple and gives new strength to those who are weary and tired. These words of Christ express the solidarity of the Son of Man with all those who are hurt and afflicted. How many people suffer in both body and soul! Jesus urges everyone to draw near to him – "Come to me!" – and he promises them comfort and repose. "When Jesus says this, he has before him the people who are marginalised by the burden of the law and the oppressive social system... Jesus' words always give hope!" *Pope's Message 2020 para. 1*

On the Lighter Side

In a democracy it's your vote that counts;
in feudalism, it's your Count that votes.



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St Mel's Parish is

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

REFLECTION - From Fr Peter
GOD'S WORD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE !!!



This Sunday February 7th is referred as **THE WORD OF GOD SUNDAY**. Initiated by Pope Francis where emphasis in proclaiming and hearing God's Word gives precedence in our faith and living. Situating the Word of God reveals Jesus and his ministry. For it was to a 'darkened' world of his day, Jesus enlightens his hearers to a renewal of light and joyfulness by his message.

For us who are proclaimers and hearers of God's Word it's worth our awareness to know the Word proclaimed from the Old Testament (usually the first reading on Sundays and special occasions) is linked and themed with the Gospel. For us in our reflection on this ... when reading the Sunday readings try and see if you can bring connection between the first reading with the Gospel. This is one sure way of deepening the Word we hear.

Did you ever remember watching the funeral years ago of Pope John Paul ii? Remember how the Gospel Book was placed on the casket? Remember the breeze blowing the pages? What a profound continuing image for us to see through The Word of God Sunday! This image stays with me as one offering us all signs of the Spirit blowing upon us through the Word. Our lived faith experiences remind us we are a people who let the Word fan over us. Our listening guarantees making our responses to God's initiative with in us.

Proclaiming God's Word invites a consideration ... 'To whom are we speaking?' I always like to say to readers, 'speak to someone in the back seat! You might know them or not, pick someone out. Your voice will be heard by everyone. And one other thing ... A MICROPHONE ONLY WORKS BEST WHEN YOU SPEAK OVER AND ABOVE THE MICROPHONE!!! Try this technique and you might be surprised to being heard by most people!!!

May this Sunday through the presence we give to the Word of God gives affirmation to our hearing and proclaiming God's Word through this year. Fr Peter

Responsorial Psalm : 'Praise the lord who heals the broken hearted.'

PARISH MEETINGS ... FINANCE ... This Tuesday 9th February at 6.00pm in the Parish House, GATHERING ROOM !!

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL ... This Wednesday 10th February at 7.00pm in the Gathering Room!!

ASH WEDNESDAY ... Is not far off!!! 17th of February!!! We are being given directions regarding the receiving of Ashes as per custom being signed on the forehead .. (COVID practices say this cannot happen!!) sprinkling an option!!!

Church times for Ash Wednesday ...

9.15am Mass (Church), 10.30am at (St Mel's School Hall, Liturgy of Word with Ashes,
11.30am at (St Anne's College, Kialla, Liturgy of Word with Ashes)

6.00pm Mass (Church)



WORD OF GOD SUNDAY ... At the initiative from Pope Francis, the fourth Sunday of each year is dedicated to the Word of God we hear and put into practice. This I see as being important for a number of reasons. In proclaiming the Word...**How well do we do this. Am I able to be heard? Do I prepare and know what I am reading?**

CHRISTIAN INITIATION AT ST MEL'S ... Presently we have four adults preparing for their full reception into our Church here at Easter. We began late last year and shortly recommence for this year, Thursday 18th February at 5.00pm in the Gathering Room. *More on this to come...*

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS ... Here at St Mel's we are fortunate to have 2 schools offering the best for our students and their families. As a Parish we offer our best wishes to St Mel's and St Anne's for the coming year. I am hopeful we might be able to have a look at St Anne's Kialla with a tour of the College, so we can become familiar with this amazing place of education. Fr Peter.

Women's Group is recommencing on Friday 19th February 7.00PM at the Parish Centre behind St. Brendan's Church. Everyone is welcomed.

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

Weekday Masses 8th February to 14th February 2021

Monday 8th - No Mass

Tuesday 9th - 9.15am Mass

Wednesday 10th - 9.15am Mass

Thursday 11th - 9.15am Mass

Friday 12th - 9.15am Mass

Saturday 13th February - 9.00am

Sunday 14th February - 9.30am & 5pm



REGULATIONS!!!! Latest information...

Masks are required in the Church.

NO receiving on tongue!!! HANDS ONLY!!! With thanks, Fr Peter.

Anniversaries: Sebastiano Tomarchio,
Maria Costorina Tomarchio, Giuseppe Cutrali,

