



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.

## Ascension of the Lord

21 May 2023

Readings for  
this week:



Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 1:17-23

Matthew 28:16-20

Readings for  
next Sunday:



Acts 2:1-11

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23



### Liturgical Jottings

#### Ascension Communicantes

Eucharistic Prayer I (the Roman Canon) has special insertions for the major solemnities. Called "Proper Forms of the *Communicantes*" the prayer within the Eucharistic prayer which begins with: "In communion with those whose memory we venerate" has a variation for the Feast of the Ascension.

*"Celebrating the most sacred day on which your Only Begotten Son, our Lord, placed at the right hand of your glory our weak human nature, which he had united to himself, and in communion with those whose memory we venerate, especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, ..."*

The prayer is addressed to the Father, calls to mind the mystery of Christ's incarnation, unity with humanity, ascension into heaven and his glorious reign within the Godhead.

There is also a proper form of the *Communicantes* for the feast of Pentecost when using the Roman Canon. These insertions are not in the other Eucharistic Prayers.

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### Looking at the Readings

The first and second readings and the responsorial psalm of the feast of the Ascension of the Lord are the same each year. The new lectionary provides an alternative second reading. The reading from the Acts of the Apostles gives the historical account of the Ascension, the second reading from the Letter to the Ephesians gives a theological insight into the mystery of Christ's Ascension. The Matthean account (this year, cycle A) presents the final dialogue with the Apostles. Christ gives them instructions and farewell reassurance. There is no mention of the Ascension. The gospels according to Mark and Luke do and the Gospel of John does not mention the Ascension.

Within Luke's account (Acts 1:1-11) distinct features are included about the Ascension: the Lord instructs them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit and be witnesses to the reign of God. Christ's ministry began in Jerusalem (Luke 2:41) and ends there (Luke 24:47, 53, Acts 1:4) but the Apostles, beginning in Jerusalem are to go out to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

St Paul's words to the Ephesians are full of encouragement for them and enthusiasm for the glory and power of the risen and ascended Lord. What Christ Jesus has achieved we have the hope to share now and at the fullness of time. This hope must impel us to be witnesses to his peace and forgiveness. Come, Lord Jesus!

### Pope Francis' words on the Ascension

Dear brothers and sisters, the Ascension does not point to Jesus' absence, but tells us that he is alive in our midst in a new way. He is no longer in a specific place in the world as he was before the Ascension. ... We are never alone: the Crucified and Risen Lord guides us. We have with us a multitude of brothers and sisters who, in silence and concealment, in their family life and at work, in their problems and hardships, in their joys and hopes, live faith daily and together with us bring the world the lordship of God's love, in the Risen Jesus Christ, ascended into Heaven, our own Advocate who pleads for us. Many thanks. General Audience 17 April 2013.

### On the Lighter Side

A drill instructor yells, "Forward, march!" The entire ranks begin to move, except one recruit. So the drill instructor yells in his ear, "Is this thing working?" "Sir, yes, sir!" "Then why didn't you march when I gave the order?" "Sir, I didn't hear you call my name." The great commission given by Jesus at his Ascension is a blanket order. It has everyone's name on it. He says, "Go! Make disciples! Teach!" It is your mission and my mission.

St Mel's Parish Is...

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

## **REFLECTION FROM FR PETER**

For Catholic Churches in Australia the Week of Christian Unity (21 -28 May) comes and goes with little notice in our schedules. Maybe this brings no surprise as it coincides with 'Laudato Si' week. This 'neglect' was not always so. The unity of Christians began as a hope in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the Protestant foreign missions that spread through European colonies in Africa and Asia. Missionaries found a competition emerging where the spread of the Gospel was hampered. A movement for Church unity grew among the protestant churches with support for a Council of Churches and a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity emerged. From this communities of faith to unite under a council of churches could be challenging.

The Second Vatican Council regarded as an Ecumenical Council encouraged a movement for Christian Unity, focusing on what Christians through their churches and religions had in common instead of things which divided. So the advent of Ministers of other churches came together seeing common threads, eventually the World Council of Churches formed. In recent years there has been a waned effect, maybe a weariness has crept in, with churches focusing more on their own ideals.

Recently Pope Francis met with Pope Tawadros of the Coptic Orthodox Churches, with Pope Francis announcing the inclusion of 21 Coptic martyrs into the Catholic list of saints. Pope Tawadros laid out steps to follow a path toward reconciliation and Christian unity, through a fraternal nature in Christ, with mutual understanding of traditions, liturgical formation and with prayer.

So there is great hope for us to see and bring to our prayer a hope for deeper unity in ourselves as God's people.

## **FROM OUR PARISH FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held Last Wednesday;

. A masterplan has been developed which is a guide in give priority to future developments. An immediate priority is to sell two blocks from the fence line in Newlyn Street. This will require presentation to the Diocesan Business Manager, given the costings involved. My appreciation to Danny Whyte for his generosity of time enabling this masterplan to be a guide for future developments.

. In June, weekly totals of Mass collections will be given in the bulletin.

. September is the month where a stewardship program will take place across the Parish.

. Overall, it was a meeting of much passion being expressed for the wellbeing of the Parish and for future directions.

Fr Peter

## **POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH OF MAY** For

Evangelization for church movements and groups. We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

## **EVANGELIZATION CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE: BECOMING CATHOLIC**

A new website and companion book answering the big questions people commonly ask when considering becoming catholic is now available. This can be found at [www.becoming.catholic.au](http://www.becoming.catholic.au) This could be helpful for those you know who might be considering a call in joining the church.

## **PRESENTLY** There is a bit going on for our attention...

. Laudato Si week. It is eight years since the launch of Pope Francis 'encyclical on care of the earth as our common home'. There are copies of this in the Narthex. As a *CATHOLIC EARTHCARE PARISH*, shown to us by the tree near the carpark, we take our part in promoting ecological conversion through the Laudato Si goals.

. Our Lady Help of Christians: Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup>. This day is Australia's National Feast Day.

Mass is offered for this at 9.15am.

. National Sorry Day: This Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>.

. National Reconciliation Week: From Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Happenings !**

**FROM AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE** A statement regarding an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament is available for your taking this weekend. **PLEASE ONLY TAKE A COPY IF THIS IS A POINT OF INTEREST!** A copy is pinned on the board in the Narthex.

**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.**

## May is a month devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary



### **GSWNS 2023 (GREATER SHEPPARTON WINTER NIGHT SHELTER)**

Unfortunately we, the Churches of Greater Shepparton, can no longer offer overnight shelter, but we will continue to offer a hot meal down by the Lake near the Skatepark, each night during Winter (June to August) at 5:45pm. St Mel's and South Shepparton Community Church, will offer hot meals on a Friday night.

If you can volunteer or help in any way, please contact Maree McKinnon on 0409 956 464 or [granmacs11@gmail.com](mailto:granmacs11@gmail.com)

There will be a Training Day for all new Volunteers this Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 11am at the Uniting Church (Scots Church) in Fryers St: enter via the carpark. Thank you.

Sr Pam



**WORLD SCHIZOPHRENIA DAY 2023** World Schizophrenia Awareness Day on May 24 every year was created to fight against stigma. It lifts the lid on challenges that thousands of people with schizophrenia have to contend with every day. (24 million worldwide) This is a treatable disorder with proper medication and psychotherapy. People should be encouraged to reach out for help, even as early as getting a diagnosis. They will need support from friends and family. Contrary to popular belief, people with schizophrenia do not have a 'split personality'. Only a few people with schizophrenia become violent, but, sadly, they do have a higher rate of suicide than the general population.

Mary Pianta, Disability Coordinator

**MAY 26 MARKS NATIONAL SORRY DAY** remembering and acknowledging the hurt and trauma of the Stolen Generation, those forcibly removed from their families and communities.

We observe National Sorry Day on the anniversary of the 1997 Bringing Them Home report, which exposed the racist history of government policy that enabled children to be removed from their families.

Following National Sorry Day, we observe **National Reconciliation Week**, from 27 May – 3 June; an opportunity for Australians to take part in the process of reconciliation.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Office shares a range of ways Reconciliation Australia has suggested we can become involved in reconciliation

National Sorry Day and National Reconciliation Week - Office for Social Justice ([catholic.org.au](http://catholic.org.au))

The theme for **Reconciliation Week 2023** is **Be a Voice for Generations**. This theme encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise.

**CARITAS SORRY DAY WEBINAR** Caritas Australia invites you to our **Sorry Day Webinar** with survivors from Kinchela Boys Home, one of the most notorious institutions associated with the Stolen Generations. In this special event, you will hear from Uncle Widdy (#36) and Uncle Bobby (#24), two survivors of Kinchela Boys Home, one of the most notorious institutions associated with the Stolen Generations. Caritas Australia's First Australians Programs team will also speak about what truth-telling and intergenerational healing means to our partners.

Date: 25 May Time: 11-12 pm Location: Zoom Please register at [www.caritas.org.au/sorry-day-webinar](http://www.caritas.org.au/sorry-day-webinar)

**CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA** are presenting a series of webinars on **The Voice**: from 4-5pm on **25 May: What is The Voice to Parliament all about?** - Professor Melissa Castan, **29 June: The Church, Catholic Social Teaching and engagement with First Nations Peoples** - Fr Frank Brennan SJ **27 July: First Nations Voices** - A panel of A&TSI Peoples about their views: Uncle Ron Briggs, Aunt Violet Sheriden & Esmail Manahan. \$12/session or \$30 for all 3. More info or to register at [Indigenous Voice to Parliament: Moments for healing this country - Catholic Social Services Victoria \(css.org.au\)](http://Indigenous Voice to Parliament: Moments for healing this country - Catholic Social Services Victoria (css.org.au))

**CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SANDHURST THEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS: SEMESTER 2 2023** Are you interested in studying theology or spiritual leadership in 2023?

Scholarships are available for Sandhurst parishioners to study online post-graduate courses in theology at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. You may study for credit towards a Master's degree/Graduate certificate/Graduate diploma or for audit.

Also available for Semester 2 2023 CPE opportunities in Shepparton and Bendigo.

Please see the notice board for details on course offerings.





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**A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP SHANE MACKINLAY** Catholic Health Australia (CHA) recently issued updated advice on responding to the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, based on expert advice from health authorities in Australia.

The various restrictions of the first years of the pandemic have been scaled back, which has been possible thanks largely to the rapid development and roll-out of vaccinations, and the availability of antiviral treatments that help reduce the severity of disease in high-risk patients.

However, COVID-19 continues to impact significantly on hospitals and aged-care facilities, with an upward trend in numbers hospitalised since the start of autumn and the beginning of the flu season. In addition, a large proportion of Mass-attenders are elderly, and it is particularly important to reduce their risk of infection.

In light of this, CHA recommends that most of the adaptations introduced into the liturgy remain for the time being, as prudent measures that are relatively undemanding. In particular:

- Those who feel unwell or who have tested positive to COVID-19 should remain at home.
- Those who are a close contact of someone who has recently tested positive to COVID-19 should consider wearing a facemask.
- When exchanging the sign of peace, parishioners should have the option of offering a smile, wave or bow of the head, instead of shaking hands.
- It is strongly recommended that communion be received on the hand.
- The chalice should not be shared at communion.
- Ministers of communion should wear a facemask when distributing communion.
- Shared hymn books may be used.
- Collection baskets may be passed from person to person.
- Holy water stoups can be reinstated, though the water should be changed regularly.
- Hand sanitiser should continue to be available at church doors, and its use encouraged.
- As we continue to support all in our community who have been affected by COVID-19, we pray for those who have contracted the virus, for their families, and for the health workers who are caring for them.

Yours sincerely,

+Shane Mackinlay

COVID-19 UPDATE

### Weekday Masses this coming week May 22nd to May 28th 2023

Monday May 22nd - No Mass  
Tuesday May 23rd - 9:15 am  
Wednesday May 24th - 9:15am  
Thursday May 25th - 9:15am  
Friday May 26th - 9:15am  
Saturday May 27th - 9am  
Sunday May 28th - 9:30am & 5pm



### READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Sunday, May 28th 2023

9:30am - Maureen Munro (Commentator) Mick Hanlon (L1)  
Mary Calandro (L2)  
9:30am - Special Ministers: Loretta Hanlon & Sev Cortese  
5:00pm - Volunteer (Commentator) Dom Poppa (Lector)  
5:00pm - Special Ministers: Cathy Cannatelli & Lin Waite

**Recently Deceased:** Noel Pattison, Kathleen Joiner (Laffy)

**Anniversaries:** Annunziata & Maria Grazia Cardillo, Carmine DeGrazia, Teresa & Antonio Aloe, Bruno & Giuseppina Cavallaro, Rosa DiBella, Jo West, Francis Murdoch