



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

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

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9:30am - 2:30pm
Friday closed during August & September
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 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

10 September 2023

Readings for this week:



Ezekiel 33:7-9
Roman 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20

Readings for next Sunday:



Sirach 27:30-28-7
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35



Liturgical Jottings

Eucharistic Prayer part 2

The Eucharist Prayer consists of seven distinct elements and three acclamations. This week we look at the first: "The Thanksgiving".

Thanksgiving (expressed especially in the Preface), in which the Priest, in the name of the whole of the holy people, glorifies God the Father and gives thanks to him for the whole work of salvation or for some particular aspect of it, according to the varying day, festivity, or time of year. GIRM 79. Moreover we praise and give thanks for the marvelous works of God especially those of Jesus Christ. It is well expressed in the Second Eucharistic Prayer:

"Your Word through whom you made all things, whom you sent as our Saviour and Redeemer, incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin. Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people, he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion, so as to break the bonds of death and manifest the resurrection."

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Looking at the Readings

Two weeks ago the Gospel from Matthew mentioned "Church". It is the only time in all the Gospels that this term is used. Today's passage offers three implications of the charisms of the Church. Firstly it has the duty to correct faults and bring its members to repentance; secondly it has the authority to maintain order and discipline and to judge in the Lord's name. Thirdly it is a community of believers, gathering to pray which, in a way, constitutes the presence as God's people in the world.

The Reading from Prophet Ezekiel gives the same duty to the believer: to call a sinner to repentance. But the Lord adds two warnings on the failure to act and the refusal to respond.

Superficially one may see that the community, the present day Church, as an organisation that has rules and protocols for behaviour, a code of conduct, judicial procedures, structures of leadership, hierarchy and the like. But there underlies in Christ's teaching the need for charity and forgiveness and the sense of fraternal care and wellbeing. The passages also speak of the power of prayer and pastoral authority. St Paul throws another light onto duties and commandments: "You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour and answers every one of the commandment" (Rom 13:10).

Season of Creation

Season of Creation began on 1 September (first day of Spring) and concludes on 4 October (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the author of the Canticle of the Creatures [or the Sun]). Christians around the world are praying and caring for creation.

Prayer for the Day (excerpt from Canticle of the Sun)

Praised be You, my Lord, with all Your creatures, especially Brother Sun, who is the day and through whom You give us light. Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Pope Francis on the Season of Creation 2023

God wants everyone to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to his laws and thus to enable life to flourish. When we "seek first the kingdom of God" (Mt 6:33), maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures.

On the Lighter Side



A Christian enters a Zen pizza shop and orders the special. He pays with a \$50 note, which the owner pockets. "Hey," asks the customer, "where's my change?" "Change," replies the owner inscrutably, "must come from within."

St Mel's Parish Is...

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

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

The offering of forgiveness to a sister, brother or one we know where forgiveness is restoring a relationship as one of the more painful ways in taking up our personal crosses, following Jesus' desire for a more harmonious life. The gospel reading forms this desire and the process of forgiveness being carried through. Over the course of my personal reading and reflection a word I have encountered is referred to as 'SUBSIDIARITY'. It sounds technical! Simply the word means... "One does not do something at a higher level when it can be done at a lower, in contrast to starting at the top with the highest authority". So, an approach in reconciliation is to be the one-to-one conversation between the offended one and the offender. These days there has been a great shift in understanding when the community is seen as being offended. Meaning the two or three gathered is in itself... community!

Over the past weeks Pope Francis has declared the Church today is seen where all are welcomed. As I write this Pope Francis is in Mongolia in a country where Catholic numbers are around 1500. It's a first Papal visit to this country. It's indicative of Pope Francis' approach of going out to the marginalised, the small, and as he said at the Mass..." God loves to use what is little to achieve great things." He went on to say. "All of us are God's nomads, pilgrims in search of happiness, wayfarers thirsting for love". This I see as a way giving us direction seeing moments in life and faith where we can give a restoration to our place and all we bring to our Church life here at St. Mel's.

So, no matter how small or great difficulties we encounter, a pathway for us to see in our prayer and personal moments of reflection, give rise to seeing our place in bringing reconciliation and healing to another. It's been a firm belief of mine for the Church to be authentic in proclaiming the gospel also needs this being seen out in the world. At a time where many feel alienated or not wanting the Church, ours is an opportunity through Pope Francis' desire to be a community of disciples who see others for what they bring of themselves to our community in faith.

Happenings !

With Fr Peter back, the diary is full again! Please see below for various bookings here in our Parish.

MASS AT MERCY PLACE Fr Peter will celebrate Mass this Tuesday at 2pm at Mercy Place.

COUNCIL OF PRIESTS Gather at St Brendan's this Wednesday for their second meeting this year.

VISIT OF MR CAMERON FRASER Wednesday at 3:30pm. - Cameron is the director of finance for all Parishes in Sandhurst. Cameron has been presented with our strategic plan. He comes to meet with our committee and to support us here in the directions we seek to undertake into our future.

I wish to thank Danny Whyte for his efforts in formatting this plan. Danny has gone over and above outside his own commitments in getting this together and we can have great confidence knowing this strategic plan will be of enormous value in giving priority to future developments. Sincere Appreciation Danny! Fr Peter

ST MEL'S PARISH MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL Meets this Wednesday evening at 7pm in the Gathering Room. Big Day Wednesday!!!

ST MEL'S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM Is getting underway...With an information evening being held THIS THURSDAY EVENING at 7pm for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be held on Thursday 30th November at 7pm. and for 19th May, 2024 when the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist will be held. The meeting THIS THURSDAY evening at 7pm will give clear outlines as to how these Sacraments will be presented. Fr Peter

ST MEL'S PARISH FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Will meet next on Wednesday, September 20th at 7pm in the Parish House Gathering Room.

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.

SANDHURST RETIRED PRIESTS FOUNDATION APPEAL Thank you for your generosity in giving to this during last Sunday's second collections. A total of \$341.45 was collected. If you still wish to give, there are envelopes in the Narthex.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY - ROOM FOR EVERYONE IN OUR CHURCH Presented by the Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform, Yarra Theological Union, and Garratt Publishing. The next Synod session this October will be crucial as it will set the tone and lay the groundwork for the second Synod in October 2024. The open consultative, listening style of the *Instrumentum Laboris* must be established as the normal operating procedure of the Church to enable it to regain credibility and relevance. Particular issues such as the status of women, LGBTQI+, and remarried people must be resolved responsibly. The focus of the *Synod on Synodality - Room for Everyone in Our Church* convocation will be a discussion on these issues. Leading the discussion is one of the ACBCs representatives at the Synod, **Shane Mackinlay**, Bishop of Sandhurst (Vic). We hope you can join us as we build this new way of being Church.

EVENT DETAILS

When: Thursday 14 September 2023 **Time:** 7.00pm (AEST) **Where:** Via Zoom

Cost: FREE **Registration:** To register, please click here

The convocation will be recorded and made available the week following the event. You must be registered to receive the link to the video.

HEART OF LIFE CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL & PASTORAL FORMATION

Is offering a short series of contemplation and reflection this October.

Waiting at the Well - 4x Thu, 5, 12, 19 & 26 Oct, 10am–12.30pm (in-person event)

Carole Carmody rsm, Julie Adam

This series offers an opportunity for those waiting to have their thirst quenched at the Well of Life to explore the depths of wisdom in their own heart, to recognise wisdom in the encounter with another, and to dwell in the Heart of Contemplation. Places limited. Bookings via <https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/events/waiting-at-the-well-series/?> or email info@heartoflife.melbourne. Cost \$100 for the series or \$30 per session.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION St Brendan's Parish invite all to join us to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the laying of the Chapel foundation stone on Saturday September 23. We will begin with a Mass in the Chapel at 11am, followed by lunch in the Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Centre. A brief history of the Church and Chapel will be given, followed by a brief history of the Mercy sisters in Shepparton. There will be a display of photos and memorabilia available to view at the lunch and after each Mass on this weekend. If you would have any memorabilia to share or would like to join us for lunch at 12pm on Saturday September 23, please RSVP to Kathy Hunt on 0416058431, by Friday September 15.

ST BRENDAN'S RCIA PROGRAM Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Are you looking to join the Catholic faith? The St Brendan's Parish has a vibrant RCIA team and is a Parish that is welcoming and supportive. The RCIA process opens up this journey. We encourage questions and what it could mean to your life to join the Catholic faith. We are beginning a period of inquiry for RCIA on Thursday October 5, 2023 at 7:30pm, in the Parish centre behind the St Brendan's Church. There will be two more inquiry nights at 7.30pm: Thursday October 12 and Thursday October 19. For any questions regarding the RCIA process please call Anthony 58212633 Tuesdays or Thursdays, or e-mail anthonypastoral@bigpond.com

MARIAN FESTIVAL Dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

'Finally my immaculate Heart will Triumph' - Our Lady of Fatima, July 15, 1917

Sunday, October 15 2023 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo. 11am Mass celebrated by Bishop Leslie Tomlinson. 12 noon BYO Lunch in the Colonnade. 1pm Festival begins. 3:45pm Festival concludes with afternoon tea in the colonnade. Piety stall on the Cathedral. Please see flyer in the Narthex for more information

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP

'God is truly good to us all.' Mary MacKillop, 9.7.1873

An Australian Pilgrimage; The Sisters of Saint Joseph have prepared an Australian Pilgrimage, "In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop" commencing in Melbourne on 17 October, journeying through Victoria and South Australia, and ending at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney on 28 October 2023. During the pilgrimage we visit many places associated with Mary MacKillop's life and ministry.

For detailed information visit our website: www.marymackillopplace.org.au or take a flyer from the Narthex. Booking & Enquiries for further information or to make an application, please contact the Australian Pilgrimage Co-Ordinator Email national.pilgrimage@mmp.org.au Telephone 02 8912 4818

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17th 2023

First Reading: A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins?

Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.



The Word of the Lord

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week September 11th to September 17th 2023

Monday September 11th - No Mass

Tuesday September 12th - 9:15am

Wednesday September 13th - 9:15am

Thursday September 14th - 9:15am

(The Exaltation of the Holy Cross)

11am - Funeral of Anne O'Donoghue

Friday September 15th - 9:15am

(Our Lady of Sorrows)

Saturday September 16th - 9am

Sunday September 17th - 9:30am & 5pm

READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Sunday, September 17th 2023

9:30am - Sev Cortese (Commentator) Zoe Hamilton (L1)

Melissa Hamilton (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Gita Kelleher & Lucy Ciancio

5:00pm - Tim Kelly (Commentator) Cecilia (L1)

Helen May (L2)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Angie Knez & Erin Tanner

Recently Deceased: Anne O'Donoghue **Anniversaries:** Mark Matthews, John De Lai
One Month Mind: Mattea Benson, Frank Purcell, Josephine Rennie



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