



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

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

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:30am - 3:30pm

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.

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 16 October 2022

Readings for this week:



Exodus 17:8-13
2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
Luke 18:1-8

Readings for next Sunday:



Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14



Liturgical Jottings Liturgical Prayer II

Broadly speaking, we have liturgical prayer and solitary or group prayer. Liturgy is the public, authorised and shared activity among the assembly to worship God and express faith of the community. Liturgical Prayer in the assembly has various forms and distinctive patterns namely:

Non-verbal communication in silence and gestures,
The celebrant's address to God and to the community,

Formal prayers by the celebrant,
Formal prayers by the community and in unison with the celebrant.

These types can be further nuanced and in the Eucharistic Liturgy there are other distinctive texts. The readings in the Liturgy of Word, the homily and the Creed are not regarded as prayers as such, yet the acclamations and the responsorial psalms are certainly prayers from sacred scripture.

Looking at the Readings

The readings today offer various aspects of prayer for our consideration. There is the spiritual discipline of prayer itself, which is essential to the life of the disciple: there is the communal dimension of prayer; and there is the ministerial commitment that is born of prayer. Our personal prayer must be persistent. Like Moses and the woman in the gospel reading, we must be ceaseless in our prayer, not discouraged by difficulties that we might have to face. Regardless of how strange the first reading may appear to be, it very strongly emphasises the communal dimension of prayer.

As minister of the word, Timothy is admonished to keep preaching the gospel, to keep spreading the good news, to allow the scriptures to continue to be a source of wisdom for himself and, through him, for all of the people who hear him. To have this kind of facility with Scripture requires that one enter into the deep meaning of the Scriptures and make them the basis of one's prayer. One must engage in what the monks call *lectio divina*, prayerful reflective reading of the scriptures. This practice, or spiritual discipline, gives us access to God and it also gives God access to us. It gives us the courage and the gentleness to teach, to refute, to correct. When our ministerial activity flows from prayer, it also flows from and strengthens right relationships with God and with the community. When this becomes a reality, the Son of Man will indeed find faith on earth. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Prayer for the Week

Lord, tireless guardian of your people, always ready to hear the cries of your chosen ones, teach us to rely, day and night, on your care. Support our prayer lest we grow weary. Impel us to seek your enduring justice and your ever-present help.

Quote of the Week

The physical voice we use in prayer need not be great nor startling; even should we not lift up any great cry or shout, God will yet hear us. Origen: *Treatise on Prayer*, 2nd century.

On the Lighter Side

The stranger approached the priest after Mass and said, "I'd like you to pray for my hearing." The priest placed his hands on the man's ears and said a passionate, earnest prayer. "How's your hearing now?" he asked. Looking surprised, the man said, "Well, it's not until tomorrow." (Court hearing)

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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](#)

As Jesus travels with his disciples to Jerusalem, the gospel relates how he tells stories breaking down stereotypes. An insistent widow and an unjust judge are presented whom the widow gets the better of. The parable is prefaced with Jesus' comment about a need to pray, not to lose heart. Persistent prayer is linked with persistent pursuit of justice. The world surrounding this parable is a difficult world in particular for a woman of her standing in this story. She is widowed, apparently, has no sons or daughters, and presents herself before a judge. In reality, it is a world of injustice, with bribery, for one who is marginalized.

To bring this story into our world and understandings this widowed woman represents many today seeking their personal justice. She comes we can imagine loudly, expressing her wish to the point the judge reacts "she is bothering me I'll give her the justice she needs!"

What is unfolding in this story is something we find to the nature prayer brings upon our relationships with God. a criteria is emerging, as human beings we know our faith is one opening us to a deeper presence God brings upon our minds and hearts. Richard Rohr a contemporary spiritual writer says ..." I tell holy people who come to me to pray for one good humiliation every day, and then I tell them to keep careful watch over their reaction to those humiliations". Perhaps this is the experience of the widow keeping her watch over her humiliation, being degraded because of her standing in her community.

Our own desires for our rights of being respected, recognized in the value of human dignity of others to us is something we hold closely. This might be a good week to give priority like the widow in the story, to ones we know seeking their personal justice from a God we see through our faith. This highlights the fact our lives can be so much richer, more fulfilled, in seeing a presence of another needing our prayer and support

[CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS](#)

From Tuesday, October 11th to Friday, November 25th the Parish Office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 9:30am to 2:30pm and Fridays from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

CHRIST THE KING CELEBRATION The anticipation is growing! The Parish Pastoral Council's plans are well under way for this community event, to be held on Sunday, November 20th, ***but we need your help please!*** Do you have any ***traditional cultural talents*** to share? Dancing, singing or other performances? Do you have any ***symbols to show***, for example a flag or costume... We would love to hear from you. We are also asking for ***food offerings*** from our Parishioners to cater for the event. A variety of delicious cuisines to celebrate our many cultures is needed. Savoury and sweets welcome.

If you are able to bring a food offering or a plate to share on the day, or have a symbol or talent, please email Xavier Tanner: xaviertanner25@gmail.com or phone 0409 388 845. Or call the Parish office on 58 312 194. Thank you.



MONTH OF NOVEMBER Is a month to remember our loved ones, especially those who have died from our Parish over this past year. This year for all the Sunday Masses in November, and in the bulletin each week, we will have the names displayed of those who you wish to remember. Please send through these names to the Parish office via email or phone, or fill in a ***yellow November Masses envelope*** (located in the Narthex next to the tap n go machines at the entrance to the Church), and place in the collection plate or drop in the slot at the office door.

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.

WELCOME FR PAUL SIREH To our Parish community of St Mel's. Thank you for making yourself available to celebrate our weekend Masses while Fr Peter is on leave.



COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS AND MAJELLAN CHRISTMAS CARDS

These have been delivered and are now in the Narthex (please put monies in an envelope, write your purchase, calendar or cards and the amount, and place in the gold box) and at the office for purchase. The Calendars are \$13 each and the Christmas Cards are \$10 for a pack of 10 cards.

COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE 2022 Tickets will again be available to purchase before and after both 9:30am and 5pm Masses on Sunday at the main entrance to the Church, or from the office during opening hours. Each ticket is only \$2. For every ticket sold \$1.50 will come directly back to our Parish.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM Our 25 St Mel's Parish Sacramental Candidates are going through the Steps in Faith program, Reconciliation preparations, leading to our Mass in November. It was lovely to all gather last Thursday evening to meet one another and support each other through this journey. Please continue to pray for our Candidates and welcome them to our Sunday Masses.



UPCOMING EVENTS / DATES

- . ***FR PETER ON HOLIDAYS*** From October 3rd to October 28th Fr Peter will be taking annual leave.
- . ***AINSLEY ON LEAVE*** From October 11th to November 24th Ainsley will be away on leave.
- . ***CHRISTIAN INITIATION INQUIRY EVENINGS*** will be held over two Sunday evenings, October 30th and November 6th at 7pm in the Parish House Gathering Room.
- . ***SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - RECONCILIATION*** The Second Rite of Reconciliation will be celebrated on Thursday, November 10th at 7pm at St Mel's Christ the King Church.
- . ***NOVEMBER REMEMBRANCE MASS*** will be held on Wednesday, November 16th at 7pm.
- . ***CHRIST THE KING CELEBRATIONS*** Sunday, November 20th. Please join us for a special festive celebration of the feast of *Christ the King* at the St Mel's Parish Hall, commencing at 12 noon.

SANDHURST BISHOP SHANE MACKINLAY MET WITH POPE FRANCIS last week in his new role as the Catholic co-chair of the Methodist-Roman Catholic International Commission.

Pope Francis received members of the commission in a private audience on October 5. The commission is the official joint commission between the World Methodist Council and the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity. The commission, which first began work in 1967 and has met since without interruption, was meeting in Rome for the first plenary meeting of its 12th round of dialogue. In his address, Bishop Mackinlay introduced the commission and its current work, which focuses on mission and synodality, and particularly on the way that mission shapes the formulation of doctrine.



FULL STORY can be read on the CathNews website

Photo - Pope Francis meets with Methodist-Catholic dialogue team (Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity)

SANDHURST WORLD YOUTH DAY 2022 Bishop Shane is inviting all young people aged 15-35 from across the Diocese to gather at Our Lady, Mother of God Church, in Wangaratta South on Saturday, November 19 from 1pm – 9pm, for the annual Diocesan World Youth Day celebration. Please see the notice board in the Narthex for more information.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH October is our National Mental Health Awareness Month. Mental illnesses are the third leading cause of disability in Australia. Fifty per cent of adult mental health issues emerge before age 18. The good news is that mental illness is treatable and manageable for many people. Those in recovery are able to lead contributing lives but they are unlikely to share their experience with anyone at work or in the parish community, due to the stigma associated with mental illness. What can we do as a parish? Create an environment which is welcoming and inclusive. Educate personnel and parishioners about mental illness because improving their understanding can lead to compassionate and practical support, along with a reduction in stigma. Mental health issues are more common and can be short-term, but may develop into mental illness if not dealt with effectively. Mary Pianta. Disability Contact Coordinator.

SEEKING TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION A local parishioner, Nora McCarthy, a female in her 60's, is seeking temporary accommodation that will be required for up to 8 weeks whilst her house is undergoing renovations. Will pay a weekly fee. Please contact the parish office if you can assist.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY OCTOBER 23rd 2022

First Reading

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The prayer of the humble will penetrate the heavens.

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages.

He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party.

He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story.

The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted, his petitions will carry to the clouds.

The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives he is inconsolable nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement.

And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

All that remains is the crown of righteousness reserved for me.

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing.

The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom.

To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The publican returned to his home justified; the pharisee did not.

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else, 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get."

The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord



Weekday Masses this coming week October 17th to October 23rd 2022

Monday October 17th - No Mass

Tuesday October 18th - No Mass

Wednesday October 19th - 9:15am

Thursday October 20th - No Mass

Friday October 21st - No Mass

Saturday October 22nd - 9:00am

Sunday October 23rd - 9am & 4:30pm Rosary
9:30am & 5:00pm Masses



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Sunday October 23rd 2022

9:30am - Maureen Munro (Commentator) Mary Calandro (L1)

Sev Cortese (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Chris Summers & Gitta Kelleher

5:00pm - Xavier Tanner (Commentator) Paul Bertoli (Lector)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Dom Poppa & Erin Tanner

Anniversaries: Carmela Gallace