



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.

Third Sunday of Lent

12 March 2023

Readings for this week:



Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

Readings for next Sunday:



1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41



Liturgical Jottings

Two Lenten Aspects

Ash Wednesday liturgy recalls the penitential aspects of Lent. The third, fourth and fifth Sundays of Lent in cycle A recall the baptismal aspects of Lent. The structure, texts and rites of the RCIA during Lent profoundly emphasise the baptismal journey for both those preparing for Baptism at Easter and the entire congregation. The two characters are present in the prayer of Ash Wednesday: "as they follow the Lenten observances, they may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of your Son."

Quote from St Patrick

I offer God the humble service of my spirit by preaching the Good News of his Son to the pagans, and so make them acceptable as an offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

*The Confession of St Patrick,
Feast day Friday 17 March*

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Looking at the Readings

Natural or human thirst appears in both the first reading and the Gospel. The Exodus people had run out of food and water in the desert of Zin. Moses asked God's help and followed his instruction and struck the rock once (Exod 17:6) or twice (Numbers 20:11) and water gushed out. St Paul retold this miraculous event to the Corinthians with a spiritual layer: the Israelites were spiritually thirsty, quenched by a spiritual drink from a spiritual rock and that rock was Christ (1Cor 10:4).

The Samaritan woman went to the well for water and met Christ who asked her for a drink of water. The dialogue between the two revealed that Christ was thirsty for her conversion and she became thirsty for the Word of God and eternal life. The symbolism of water carries layers of meaning for people in arid lands, travellers, workers and people with various ailments. The "Living Water" that Jesus speaks about is also a very important symbol in our spiritual life: it is a messianic gift; it is used in baptisms and blessings. Living water evokes God's Wisdom and Word. It carries the richness of new life in Baptism and Easter. May we take time to meditate on this Gospel, hear Jesus' invitation to be enlivened by the living water springing up in us.

Prayer for the Week

O God, living and true, look upon your people, whose dry and stony hearts are parched with thirst. Unseal the living water of your Spirit; let it become within us an ever-flowing spring, leaping up to eternal life. Thus may we worship you in spirit and in truth through Christ, our deliverance and our hope. Amen.

Pope Francis Message for Lent 2023

For it is in togetherness that we follow Jesus. Together too, as a pilgrim Church in time, we experience the liturgical year and Lent within it, walking alongside those whom the Lord has placed among us as fellow travellers. Like the ascent of Jesus and the disciples to Mount Tabor [for the transfiguration], we can say that our Lenten journey is "synodal", since we make it together along the same path, as disciples of the one Master.

On the Lighter Side

By striking the rock not once but twice Moses could see but not enter the Promised Land. I often warn people to press the "on button" once on the microphone, the light switch, the toaster – but no they press it twice, thus cancelling the effect. They look befuddled when I say no Promised Land for you!



St Mel's Parish Is...

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

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

Our season of Lent began with Jesus and his exile into the wilderness, then last week with the Transfiguration and Jesus' personal transformation of glory and now we hear a story of a samaritan woman meeting Jesus at the well at the hottest part of the day (midday) seeking her personal renewal. Water is such a meaningful symbol of belonging, acceptance and as we know, associated with one's personal Baptism.



In one understanding the woman who meets Jesus is daring who finds herself at shocking inclusiveness for which our contemporary Church is still striving for. The woman by coming at high noon, avoids judgmental eyes and tongues of other women and so hurries back to her town. She has a more urgent story to tell about a man who lowered a bucket into the well of her soul and drew up living water.

At this time in our Church life and ministry many are seeking a fulfillment of journey into our Church communities. Presently we have April Campanelli who is seeking her full reception into our Church life here at St. Mel's this Easter Vigil. April has shown a willingness in her openness and communication with some of us in our meetings with her on a Tuesday afternoon. April is now wanting to see the living waters awaiting her through being Baptised, receive Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. April.... We anticipate your welcome and reception with us here....!!!

This week of Lent is one where we see the woman from Sychar encountering her hopes for a new life simply by being accepted and affirmed. Maybe a thought lingers here in line of...." how do I or we as a community in faith see the living waters awaiting us at our Easter Vigil?"

OUR SEASON OF LENT In our homes we have images close to us giving reflection to family, significant memories, or a picture revealing a past experience. These through art forms bring a transfiguration to our minds. They unlock a true potential of an otherwise ordinary space. Project Compassion is one bringing a new picture of people's lives to our awareness and through our generosity make other's lives a living picture of hope and presence of life. Fr. Peter

PARISH MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL Meets this Wednesday, March 15 at 7pm.

HAPPY HOUR THIS Thursday, March 16... "something green" (the eve of St Patrick's Day) From 5pm in the Parish House, Gathering Room. All welcome. Fr Peter

RITE OF ANOINTING Next Sunday, March 19, at both 9:30am and 5pm Masses here at St Mel's, a *RITE OF ANOINTING* will take place. Meaning Mass might be a "little longer", not much though, as everybody has an opportunity to receive Anointing. Fr. Peter

SPONSORSHIP St Mel's Parish is seeking sponsors for our Sunday bulletin. The sponsor's logo will be displayed each week in the bulletin through to the end of the year. The cost will be \$500 for the entire year. Please email the office if you would like to be a sponsor.

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.

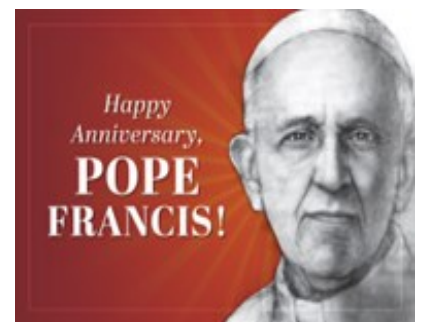
St Mel's Parish would like to acknowledge the elders past and present of the Yorta Yorta Nation, and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our parish and church is situated.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE REGIONAL CONFERENCE "Catholic Women's League Regional Conference on Wednesday March 15th at Eaglehawk Parish, commencing with Morning Tea at 10am followed by prayers and round the table talk on "Refresh Our Faith", Mass at midday, Lunch (BYO please), Reflection, Rosary, Talk on Mary Glowrey House, Talk by Diocesan Spiritual Director Fr. Peter Ferwerda, Question time and final prayers (including Divine Mercy Chaplet) at 3pm to finish the day. All are welcome. We are looking for new members. Please consider joining this wonderful organization which promotes Catholic Teachings, Vocations, and encourages women to reach their full potential".

FROM CATH NEWS In recent times changes have been proposed by the Australian Law Reform Commission over staffing appointments in teaching, through Catholic Schools in Religious Educational Institutions and Anti – Discrimination Laws. Australia's Catholic Bishops have voiced concern in offering a safeguarding of our Catholic Schools to employment criteria. In part they say, "Catholic Schools want to continue to be able authentically teach the Catholic faith with staff who support this mission in word and deed. This faith-based education is a vital part of the identity and mission of Catholic schools and has served students and parents to generations of Australians".

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE FRANCIS' ELECTION: MARCH 13 2013

As Richard Gaillardetz, an American theologian says, "This pontificate of Pope Francis has been remarkable"! To areas like, theology, structure, exercise of ministry, authority and governance, Francis has offered a fresh and comprehensive re understanding of the teaching of Vatican ii. Gaillardetz says, "Francis' appeals to the Church as a field hospital, his rejection of clericalism, his many calls for a more Gospel inspired authority, have given this papacy one unique for our times". Something here giving us a pastoral approach!



PRAYING WITH POPE FRANCIS His intention for the month of MARCH... For all victims of abuse, may they find a concrete solution to their pain and suffering.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM The Sacramental Candidate's will begin their preparations through the Diocese Steps in Faith Program for Confirmation and Eucharist this coming Thursday, March 16 in the St Mel's Parish Hall. Thank you to the staff of St Mel's Primary School who have volunteered their time to lead and support the Candidate's and their parents/sponsors on this evening.

ST MEL'S PARISH 2023 DEBUTANTE BALLS This coming Friday, March 17, and Saturday, March 18, two groups of our 2023 Debutantes will be presented. Another two groups will be presented the following week. We congratulate the Debs and wish them and their partners all the best for a wonderful celebration. Thank you to the committee for your great efforts this year.



Friday, March 17 Macey Tucker & Lewis Fawcett, Natalie Smyth & Alex Barca, Sumer Gibson & Kade Davies, Diaz Barzen & Mitchell Serra, Remi Serra & Kade Anderson, Eliza Haccart & Kye Jeffery, Tess Maloney & Lachi Fisher, Olvia Civarella & Jake Cirillo, Matesse Ryan & Sam Bicknell, Ella Osborne & Zayden Leocata, Ruby Diffey & Kade Dwyer, Zari Creighton & Harper Simpson, Milana Best & Xavier Janke, Scarlett Slater & Josh DeRose, Ada Rutheford & Luke Gasket and Philippa Turton & Oliver Williams.

Saturday, March 18 Jamilya-Rose Williams & Kodi Allen, Megan Okely & Taigue Mitchell, Tayla Roberston & Riley Okely, Franciscane Nfundiko & Jack McIntyre, Ava Ralp & Craig Dhosi, Tiah Smith & Max Morrison, Fiorina Iaria & Brodie Pena, Isabella Henry & Lee McCrindle, Layla Colley & Wesley Stanley, Adeyson Steigenberger & Tansis Espagne, Alyse O'Connell & Riley Humphrey and Tayla Cross & Aaron Smith.

Any interested people can come to the St Mel's Parish Hall at 6pm to see the Debs prior to the ball, and they will preform a couple of dancers.

Have a look at the notice boards today in the Narthex for upcoming events & information.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY MARCH 19TH 2023

First Reading

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES AT ST MEL'S PARISH CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

Parish Rite of Reconciliation - Tuesday, April 4 at 7pm

Holy Thursday - Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper: Thursday, April 6 at 7pm with Ministers of the Eucharist making their recommitment & the Watch to conclude at 9pm

Good Friday - Morning Prayer in the Church: Friday, April 7 at 9am

- Way of the Cross: Friday, April 7 at 9:30am

- The Lord's Passion: Friday, April 7 at 3pm

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 8 at 7pm

Easter Sunday - The Resurrection of The Lord: Sunday, April 9 at 9:30am

(There will be NO 5PM MASS on this Sunday)

Weekday Masses this coming week March 13th to March 19th 2023

Monday March 13th - No Mass

Tuesday March 14th - 9:15am

Wednesday March 15th - 9:15am

Thursday March 16th - No Mass

Friday March 17th - 9:15am (St Patrick's Day)

Saturday March 18th - 9:00am

Sunday March 19th - 9:30am & 5:00pm

READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Sunday, March 19th 2023

9:30am - Maureen Munro (Commentator) Zoe Hamilton (L1)

Melissa Hamilton (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Sev Cortese & Maree McKenna

5:00pm - Paul Bertoli (Commentator) Luisa Cassise (Lector)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Maureen Matthews & Sr Pam Barlow

Recently deceased: Eugene Sier, Rocco Bovalino (one month mind)

Anniversaries: Carmel Sofi, Annunziata Cutri, Jack Monaghan, Copat Family,

Salvatore Gagliardi, Maria Angela Mammone, Vincenzo, Antonio & Rosa Parini