



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.

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 12 February 2023

Readings for  
this Sunday:



Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20  
1 Corinthians 2:6-10  
Matthew 5:17-37

Readings for  
next week:



Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18  
1 Corinthians 3:16-23  
Matthew 5:38-48



### Liturgical Jottings Gospel Sequence

The Gospels from the sixth to the ninth Sundays in Ordinary time is a literary sequence and forms a catechetical session. After the two major passages of the Sermon on the Mount (Beatitudes, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday and "Salt of the Earth, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday) the Sermon continues through chapters 5&6 of Matthew. These next two weeks the tone changes from the previous weeks. Jesus has very vibrant words of instruction in general principles, with practical ways to live and an encouragement to deepen faith. Lent both interrupts this sequence and adds to it.

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Mt 5:17-37) Jesus comes to complete the law and teaches ways to deepen our ways of just and right living

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Mt 5:38-48) Jesus exhorts us to love not only our neighbour but also our enemies.

8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Sundays omitted in 2023

Ash Wednesday (Mt 6:1-6,16-18) on prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

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### Focus on the Readings

Ben Sirach wrote: "God, himself created human beings in the beginning, and then left them free to make their own decisions". Eccles 15:14 RNJB, one verse shy of today's first reading. The French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre came up with the term, "Condemned to Freedom" and since creation, Ben and John-Paul, we have struggled with our freedom and our conscience. To go further we have the choice of life and happiness, or death and wretchedness. God responds according to our choices with blessings or condemnation.

St Paul bridges the first reading with the Gospel, calling to mind God's wisdom in which we find life and glory. And Jesus took the commands of the Old Testament and with his words of wisdom asked his listeners to not only make the right choices but go deeper, the extra mile, and beyond just the letter of the law but to practise it's real meaning and spirit. Again from creation we are free and responsible, peaceful and happy, loving and faithful, yet we need to discern what is good and have the will and grace to do it.

### Prayer of the Week

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!  
They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law!  
They are happy who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts.  
Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord! Psalm 118:1-2

### Memorial of the week

Competing for this title are Saints Cyril & Methodius and St Valentine (14 Feb). But Blessed John of Fiesole (c.1386 - 1455) a Dominican Friar and Priest deserves his day on Saturday 18 February. Better known as Fra Angelico, he painted many biblical scenes of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Mysteries of Christ.

### Quote for the Day

The human person is condemned to be free; because once thrown into the world, he is responsible for everything he does.  
Jean-Paul Sartre



### On the Lighter Side

An American and a Russian were both praising their freedoms. The American said, "I can protest in front of the White House against President Biden and nothing would happen to me." The Russian replied "My friend, I can do exactly the same in front of the Kremlin and protest against President Biden and nothing will happen to me."

*St Mel's Parish Is...*

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

## **REFLECTION FROM FR PETER**

There is degree of thought the first reading with the Gospel give requirement to a relational commitment in living out God's desires for a more harmonious world. Last week Pope Francis undertook a pastoral visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. Youtube is a great means to view visits like these. Pope Francis was strong in pleading for two lands often experiencing civil unrest, corruption and other means of preventing countries from progressing. In one gathering in South Sudan was an ecumenical gathering with the Archbishop of Canterbury and the moderator of the Church in Scotland.

While pastoral visits like these might be along way off from us here there is thought on how we see ourselves from countries experiencing different tensions and uncertainties. The ideals offered from the Gospel might be on side with law making and living, do give us a strength in being people who build the life of the Kingdom with a code for better and improved living. Given our own tensions for living lives open and engaging, I wonder what teachings Jesus would offer today?

Many today are caught up in a mentality of living with codes strapped around one's neck as if to say ..... 'this is the only way!'. Jesus is saying living with healing, openness to reconciliation, is a teaching for people to see and where fullness in life is achievable. It's a good thing our reading of this Gospel is to hear Jesus reassuring life and love go hand in hand and for a loving invitation to be received in our freedom through faith and committed living.

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Reminder - Coming up this week; PPC meeting on Wednesday, February 15 @ 7pm  
Finance & Management Group meeting on Thursday, February 16 @ 7pm

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL – FLOOD APPEAL** Bishop Shane has communicated with all Parishes expressing generosity in support of flood affected communities in October – November last year. Just on \$500,000 has been collected as at December, 2022. Quite an amazing response!



**OCEANIA MEETING** Held this past week in Suva, Fiji. The Archbishop of Suva, Peter Loy Chong, in offering his hopes for the week and for outcomes in the future related: "Is a new page in how we organize ourselves for God's mission in the region", he said.

**SAFEGUARDING EXPERTS MEETINGS WITH LOCAL LEADERS** 'An encouraging opportunity'. Fr Hans Zollner SJ (director of the institute of studies on human dignity at the Gregorian University, Rome) has been in Australia recently, meeting with several leaders across various sectors to promote discussion about how the church and community together can address the issues of child abuse, and protect the most vulnerable, he said. Child safety is paramount in importance and for wellbeing across our Church and Parish life.

### **VIDEO LIBRARY BRINGS EVANGELIZATION INTO THE DIGITAL AGE**

A new initiative from Australia's Catholic Bishops Commission for Evangelization, Laity and Ministry called: EVANGELISE PLUS. The site can be accessed at [www.evangeliseplus.com](http://www.evangeliseplus.com)

A purpose of this is to allow people to access content relevant to particular needs and for convenience. The source of this information is (ACBC media blog).

**INTERNATIONAL ASPERGER'S DAY 2023** International Asperger's Day 2023 is on February 18, a time to promote and celebrate neurodiversity in our community. Most Australians have heard of autism, yet only 29% say they would know how to support an autistic person. Young people with diverse abilities, like we see in those with Asperger's, can train and learn skills. Many programs which assist transition from school to employment are funded via NDIS plans. These programs will help those who are interested in social interaction, but may be socially awkward or unfamiliar with conventional social rules.

Don't assume you know what an Asperger needs -- always ask them. Pay attention to the words you use because body language, facial expressions and gestures may not be noticed. Include predictable schedules in your daily routines -- they will reduce anxiety and be much appreciated.

Mary Pianta, Disability Coordinator

**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.**

**ST ANNE'S COLLEGE KIALLA OPENING MASS** This Tuesday, February 14, St Anne's College celebrates it's opening Mass for this year, 12pm at the College. Feel very welcomed to come and be part of the college community. You might like to see the latest school buildings the students and teachers are now using, it's something to see!



**ST MEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL OPENING MASS** This Thursday, February 15, St Mel's Primary School will celebrate their opening Mass here at Christ the King Church, 10am. Please note there will no Mass at 9:15am on this day. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

**SANDHURST DIOCESEAN ASSEMBLY** This Wednesday, February 15 at MOVE in Kialla, a gathering of parishioners across Sandhurst Parishes will convene to explore the notion of Synodality, a word we will be hearing much of over coming months. This is a limited gathering, Fr Peter and others will be attending on behalf of St Mel's.

### **MORNING OF SANDHURST ASSEMBLY TO BE LIVESTREAMED**

Join us online for the morning session of the Diocesan Assembly on Wednesday 15 February 9.00-11.00 a.m. Over 300 people from every parish and school of the Diocese will gather on Yorta Yorta Country for the Diocesan Assembly in Shepparton. This is an Assembly for all of the people of Sandhurst and you are sincerely invited to virtually join this important gathering in Shepparton via the livestream. So please, join us online for prayer, to be inspired by Bishop Shane's opening address, learn more about synodality from Keynote speaker Dr Elissa Roper, and be uplifted by music from Gen Bryant and the GB Team. You can also have your say on the Facebook Event Page ( <https://fb.me/e/3hm2fQ90F>) #SandhurstAssembly, #Sandhurstopensdoors

You can access the livestream via the following Diocese of Sandhurst Social Media channels:

Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/3hm2fQ90F>

Website: [www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

Youtube: [www.youtube.com/@SandhurstDioceseCDOS/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@SandhurstDioceseCDOS/streams)

**LENT 2023 - ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES** On Wednesday, February 22, Masses at St Mel's Parish, Christ the King Church, will be at 9:15am, with years 3 to 6 from St Mel's Primary School staff and students joining our Parishioners, and 6:00pm. All welcome.



**UPDATING RECORDS** If you have changed your phone number, address, direct debit card number or the expiry date, email address or received a new working with children's card (those who volunteer, in particular Eucharistic Ministers) please contact the office and let us know. Thank you.



**VOLUNTEERING AT ST MEL'S PARISH** We are in need of more volunteers during our Sunday Masses. If you are interested in commentating, reading or becoming a Eucharistic Minister, we would love to hear from you. Support will be available. Please contact the office for more details.

**NATIONAL APOLOGY DAY** in Australia is observed on February 13 every year. It is a national day commemorating the first-ever national apology made by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd in 2008 to initialize the Australian federal government's rehabilitation, justice, and reconciliation agenda for the Indigenous Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, and the tens of thousands of Aboriginal children who were forcibly removed from their families during Australia's assimilation era. This year marks the 15th anniversary of this day.



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## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19TH 2023

### First Reading

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*You must love your neighbour, as yourself.*

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

**The Word of the Lord**

**Responsorial Psalm - The Lord is kind and merciful.**

### Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.*

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God.

As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

**The Word of the Lord**

### Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Love your enemies.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

**The Gospel of the Lord**

#### Weekday Masses this coming week February 13th to February 19th 2023

Monday February 13th - No Mass

Tuesday February 14th - 9:15am

Wednesday February 15th - **No Mass**

(Diocesan Assembly)

Thursday February 16th - **10:00am**

(St Mel's School Opening Mass)

Friday February 17th - **11:00am**

(Funeral Mass for Raffaella Villani)

Saturday February 18th - 9:00am

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

#### READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Sunday, February 19th 2023

9:30am - Maureen Munro (Commentator) Trish Mathisen (L1)

Sev Cortese (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Pauline Pettigrew &

Jacqui Avard

5:00pm - Helen May (Commentator) Sr Pam Barlow (Lector)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Helen May & Maureen Matthews

**Recently deceased:** Raffaella Villani, Ruth Londey (Kyabram, mother-in-law to Ken Claney)

**Anniversaries:** Filippo Presti, Maria DeGrazia (Myrtleford, one year), Joseph Knez (one year),  
Giovani Cari', Rosina Roccisano