



The Parish of St Fidelis

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Reflection 28th Sunday Ordinary Time 2020.

In Assisi, outside the walls of the town, there is a church called St Damiano. Above the altar hangs a crucifix in the style of a Byzantine icon. Historically Francis prayed there before the crucifix and in prayer asked Jesus 'What do you want me to do with my life?' A clear message came; "Rebuild my Church" Francis saw that St Damiano, was in need of urgent repair and maintenance, so being a practical man, he got together ladders, hammer and nails and made the St Damiano church look like new. Then he repaired other churches in the area. Parish Priests were delighted but it dawned on Francis that Jesus was not talking about buildings but about His Body, the People of God and not about repairing and maintenance but about rebuilding according to it's foundations. In fact, nearby to the St. Damiano church is a tiny church building, Francis nicknamed *Portiuncula* (the small plot of land). It was from this the small church and not the huge beautiful basilica that Francis began the Franciscan Movement. An appealing spirituality that went back to the source of the Gospel emphasising simplicity, poverty and the graciousness of the present moment

Last Sunday, on the feast of St Francis, another Francis, our present Pope who chose the name because he admires so much the saint who rebuilt the Church of his era, through poverty, simplicity and radical love, published a new Encyclical on fraternity and social friendship entitled *Fratelli Tutti*. This spirit of rebuilding which is more than repairing and certainly not sweeping things under the carpet is well described by the French word, *ressourcement* meaning 'to go back to the sources' which are the Gospels and our living Tradition. Pope Francis in his simple but challenging way encourages us to conversion not, as it were, repairing Santo Damiano but rather beginning from the inside of the *Portiuncula*; a beginning of emergence and expansion of vision to the wider church and world that is, in fact, beyond our imagining, in Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis begins...

"FRATELLI TUTTI". [1] With these words, Saint Francis of Assisi addressed his brothers and sisters and proposed to them a way of life marked by the flavour of the Gospel. Of the counsels Francis offered, I would like to select the one in which he calls for a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance, and declares blessed all those who love their brother "as much when he is far away from him as when he is with him" [2]

This saint of fraternal love, simplicity and joy, who inspired me to write the Encyclical Laudato Si', prompts me once more to devote this new Encyclical to fraternity and social friendship. Francis felt himself a brother to the sun, the sea and the wind, yet he knew that he was even closer to those of his own flesh. Wherever he went, he sowed seeds of peace and walked alongside the poor, the abandoned, the infirm and the outcast, the least of his brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis, in a similar fashion by composing encyclicals encourages Catholics to develop empathy for people who are beyond their friends and family. He wants us to move outwards beyond the *Portiuncula* and to discover the Joy of the Gospel (*Evangelii Gaudium*) and to show care for our common home, the earth (*Laudato Si*) and to embrace all our sisters and brothers (*Fratelli Tutti*).

In Italian

Ad Assisi, fuori dalle mura del paese, c'è una chiesetta chiamata San Damiano. Sopra l'altare è appeso un crocifisso nello stile di un'icona bizantina. Storicamente Francesco pregò davanti al crocifisso e in preghiera chiese a Gesù "Cosa vuoi che faccia della mia vita?". Arrivò un messaggio chiaro: "Ricostruisci la mia Chiesa". Francesco vide che la chiesetta di San Damiano aveva bisogno di urgenti riparazioni e manutenzioni, quindi essendo un uomo pratico, prese scala, martello e chiodi e la rimise a nuovo. Poi riparò altre chiese della zona e i parroci ne furono felicissimi, ma Francesco capì che Gesù non stava parlando di edifici ma del Suo corpo, il popolo di Dio, e non di riparazioni e manutenzione, bensì di ricostruzione secondo le sue fondamenta. Ed è proprio da una piccola chiesetta chiamata *Porziuncola* (piccolo pezzo di terra) situata appena fuori le mura di Assisi, e non da una grande basilica, che Francesco iniziò il movimento francescano. Una spiritualità affascinante che richiama il Vangelo con enfasi su semplicità, povertà e compassione del momento presente.

Domenica scorsa, nella festa di San Francesco, un altro Francesco, il nostro attuale Papa -che ha scelto questo nome proprio perché ammira tanto il santo che ha ricostruito la Chiesa del suo tempo attraverso povertà, semplicità e amore radicale - ha pubblicato una nuova Enciclica sulla fraternità e amicizia sociale dal titolo *Fratelli Tutti*. Questo spirito di ricostruzione che è ben più che riparare e certamente non è nascondere le cose sotto il tappeto, è ben descritto dalla parola francese *ressourcement* che significa "tornare alle fonti" che sono i Vangeli e la nostra Tradizione vivente. Papa Francesco nel suo modo semplice ma stimolante ci incoraggia alla conversione non, per così dire, stando all'interno della Porziuncola (chiesetta) di San Damiano, bensì uscendo ed espandendo la nostra visione alla Chiesa più ampia oltre la nostra immaginazione, in Gesù Cristo. Papa Francesco inizia così...

1. *«Fratelli tutti», scriveva San Francesco d'Assisi per rivolgersi a tutti i fratelli e le sorelle e proporre loro una forma di vita dal sapore di Vangelo. Tra i suoi consigli voglio evidenziarne uno, nel quale invita a un amore che va al di là delle barriere della geografia e dello spazio. Qui egli dichiara beato colui che ama l'altro «quando fosse lontano da lui, quanto se fosse accanto a lui». [2] Con queste poche e semplici parole ha spiegato l'essenziale di una fraternità aperta, che permette di riconoscere, apprezzare e amare ogni persona al di là della vicinanza fisica, al di là del luogo del mondo dove è nata o dove abita.*

2. *Questo Santo dell'amore fraterno, della semplicità e della gioia, che mi ha ispirato a scrivere l'Enciclica Laudato si', nuovamente mi motiva a dedicare questa nuova Enciclica alla fraternità e all'amicizia sociale. Infatti San Francesco, che si sentiva fratello del sole, del mare e del vento, sapeva di essere ancora più unito a quelli che erano della sua stessa carne. Dappertutto seminò pace e camminò accanto ai poveri, agli abbandonati, ai malati, agli scartati, agli ultimi.*

Papa Francesco, allo stesso modo, componendo encicliche incoraggia i cattolici a sviluppare empatia per le persone che sono al di là dei loro amici e familiari. Vuole che andiamo oltre la Porziuncola e scopriamo la gioia del Vangelo (*Evangelii gaudium*), mostriamo cura per la nostra casa comune, la Terra (*Laudato Si'*), e abbracciamo tutte le nostre sorelle e i nostri fratelli (*Fratelli Tutti*).

With God's blessings,

Fr Greg and Fr Linh

PARISHES' UPDATE

- The priests and the three parish primary school principals met via zoom to discuss working together with a sense of mission in the future. Celebrating the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation was also discussed as well as the fact that governance of catholic primary schools will change from the 1st January 2021. As parish priests will no longer be the employers or managers of individual schools but will be governed centrally by a new company Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic School (MACS) this will create a new pastoral relationship between principals and parish priests.
- St Joseph's Primary School Council met recently to discuss the return to school and arrangements for 2021.
- Tentative plans and preparation for the celebration of Mass during the week for groups of ten, if and when COVID-19 restrictions are eased are in progress.
- A sub-committee of the Parish Leadership Team (St Ambrose's and Our Lady Help of Christians) is currently working on it's charter

New Mass Times

A combined meeting of the three parishes' councils was held recently and the new mass times were presented and discussed. Now that two priests cover three parishes and four churches, the new mass times will be:

Saturday 5:00 pm	Our Lady's
Saturday 6:00 pm	St Fidelis'
Sunday 9:00 am	St Joseph's
Sunday 9:00 am	Our Lady's
Sunday 10:30 am	St Ambrose's
Sunday 11:00 am	St Fidelis
Sunday 6:00pm	St Joseph's

Appeal for email addresses

During “Covid Lockdown”, the use of digital devices have proven to be very beneficial. The parish office would benefit greatly if we could communicate with you via email and mobile phone. If you wish to receive weekly newsletter from parish, could you send your email address, and any other updated information to the parish office. It would be greatly appreciated.

Prayers of Intention

We pray for the sick of our parish especially **Leanne Paolini** and all those who have asked for our prayers. We pray for those who have died recently especially **Carlota Oyales** and **Antonietta Scarpino** and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time especially **Eric Ferreros, Salvatore Carboni, Follicily Lisai Paola, Lorenzo Sandre Rosa** and **Sofia ffrench**. May they be welcomed at the heavenly banquet prepared for us all.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

*The simple and loving act of Spiritual Communion
(written by St. Alphonsus Liguori).*

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Support of the Parish

We are grateful for your continued financial support of our parishes. Your Stewardship giving provides for the continuing missions of our churches and pays for the parishes operating costs. Your Presbytery giving supports the Priests to meet normal household expenses and stipends. Online Giving via parish website or Facebook page gives you the opportunity to make single or regular contributions to the parish. Direct debit options are also available – please contact the parish office.

Meditation Every Tuesday @ 7:30 Pm

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/99355766687>

Meeting ID: 99355766687

Gospel Discussion Every Wednesday @ 4:30 Pm

Gospel discussion with Trish Murray zoom LINK:

<https://zoom.us/j/99355766687>

Rosary Every Saturday @ 9:00 Am

<https://zoom.us/j/7750427546>

Meeting ID: 775 042 7546

Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00 Pm

<https://zoom.us/j/93581632128?pwd=dEdCd0EwNW5BYlNxL05BRkFtTjBGdz09>

Meeting ID: 935 8163 2128

Passcode: 322313

Sunday Masses

10:00 am Mass via Zoom

Mass at 10:00 am will continue to be via Zoom platform at:

<https://zoom.us/j/99355766687>

11:00 am Mass via Facebook and You Tube channel

Mass at 11 am live stream Mass on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Fidelis-Parish-Moreland-183834618311776/>

Or on You tube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCm7GEgt-p2odZexFuLSq92Q>

Scripture readings for Sunday can be found at:

<https://universalis.com/20201011/mass.htm>