



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.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - C

Sunday 13 February 2022

Readings for
this week:



Jeremiah 17:5-8

1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20

Luke 6:17,20-26

Readings for
next Sunday



1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Luke 6:27-38



Liturgical Jottings

The Colour Green

The Prophet Jeremiah compares the trusting person with a tree planted by the flowing waters. "Come heat or drought its foliage remains **green**" (Jer 17:8). Again in the Responsorial Psalm we see this tree's leaves shall never fade. Green symbolises life, growth and hope (Today's response Ps 39:5). Green vestments are worn at the Masses in Ordinary Time (except feasts and funerals). Green plants, banners and candles may also decorate the sanctuary. Green is descriptive of good ecology, clean environment and sustainable energy. This year the green season started the day after the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and goes until Shrove Tuesday. After Lent and Easter it resumes on the Monday after Pentecost and goes through to the eve of Advent.

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Looking at the Readings

Jeremiah, in his emblematic and prophetic way, proclaims God's curse and blessing: curse on the wicked and blessing on the faithful and fruitful. The four verses, two with the curse, two with the blessing are symmetrical and sounds like a saying from the Wisdom literature. It's sentiment is one that is often repeated in the prophets and the wisdom books, in prayer and psalms. Luke uses this customary literary device in his rendition of the Beatitudes in today's Gospel passage.

There are striking differences between Matthew's popular version and Luke's version. It is not difficult for the reader to compare and recognise the variations. But by the juxtaposition of Jeremiah's prophecy and Luke's "Sermon on the Plain" the lectionary highlights Luke's addition of the four opposing "Alas" expressions often called "maledictions" but they are not so much curses but warnings urging conversion. Each so-called malediction begin with good but worldly values: wealth, plenty, pleasure and honour. Jesus is introducing to his disciples that the way to God includes the cross and persecution.

This gospel does not call for suffering but reminds us that God is with us in the difficulties of life and Christ gives us an example of overcoming these difficulties with faith in the resurrection.

Prayer for the Day

Lord, be my rock of safety, the stronghold that save me. For the honour of your name, lead and guide me. (*Entrance Antiphon*)

St Valentine's Day 14 February

This feast rejoices in romantic love and marriage. St Valentine was a priest in Rome at the time of Emperor Claudius II. Who decreed that all weddings be suspended so as to encourage single men to serve in combat. St Valentine allegedly performed secret weddings in defiance of the Emperor. He was beheaded on 14 February 269. He is the patron saint of engaged couples, happy marriages, love and lovers. Jesus Christ invites us to join him in an everlasting covenant; an eternal love union that is reflected in the love of each and every dedicated married couple. www.catholic.org/saints

On the Lighter Side



Sam came home with a bloody nose, black eye, and torn clothing. It was obvious he'd been in a fight. While his father was patching him up, he asked what happened. "Well, Dad I challenged Tom to a duel. And I gave him his choice of weapons." "Uh-huh," said the father, "that seems fair." "I know, but I never thought he'd choose his big sister!"

St Mel's Parish Is...

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

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

One of the great prayers coming to our lives over past years has been the 'Footsteps in the Sand' prayer. It's image is one where a set of footsteps recognizes another following behind. So the heart of story suggests, we don't walk alone!. In it's message in describing a dream of walking with the Lord across the sand, the one who describes this says, at the most difficult of times there is only one set of footprints,,,"I don't understand why in times when I needed you most, you should leave me" is the cry!

The Lord replies ... 'My child I love you, I would never leave you during your times of trial and suffering, for when you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you'.

This call to trust in the lord's love and support is powerful for our reflection this Sunday. Happy are those who place their trust in the Lord is at the heart of the Psalm. Through the choices we make we seek the footprints guiding us along life's ways. From the Gospel reading of the Beatitudes there are no more challenging statements we take upon ourselves and our living. Sr Joan Chittister is a well renowned writer on contemporary issues facing the Church and how the Church can find a new relevance of connection with the Gospel.

Sr Joan writes ... "Instead of a common good, we seem more inclined to talk about the general good, as if we were willing to let some people right out of it". Sr Joan doesn't hold back in her feelings where injustices happen and the response we make either individually or as a community. The Beatitudes are a path to living with a common good of faith and life. As the final beatitude relates "Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven".

In light of Sr Joan Chittister's thought for us and our living this week we could do well to ask ... 'What kind of common good do I desire and want to hear this week?' Happiness in the spirit of the footprints recognizes a continuing call God has for our living and the hopes we carry for this time of discerning the life we have in God and for God's communication to us.

LENT 2022 This important season of our Church year is nearly upon us. Over the years doing something for Lent is a sound thought. Some have organized themselves to reflect upon the Sunday Mass readings, interest on this is happening. Others have suggested something on the lines of Could one person during the weeks of Lent be prepared to speak publically for say 10 minutes on their lives, whatever this may seem to be, or on a topic important to them. Then to have time to engage with a brief Q and A.

Something similar to spirituality in the pub. If anyone would like to follow this through I am more than willing to support. Fr Peter

GATHERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD ... Is the title of a book I am reading at the moment. A readable book from an eminent liturgical scholar in Fr Frank O'Loughlin now retired who has been integral in studies on the liturgical rites of the Church and one who was a formator in my seminary formation. I will over coming weeks try and offer thoughts I believe will be of importance in our appreciation of the rites of the Church in particular to the Mass and our value to this .

In one chapter called ...The Work of the People of God ... Frank O'Loughlin says .."We live in a very social and cultural world. This is asking we look back over our traditions to where we see ourselves today. From this emerges different understandings where we find ourselves in the roles each of us have as the Baptised and to where we see our participation in this. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of unity of our equality before God and each other.

SUNDAY MASS COLLECTIONS ... We have reached a time of RESUMING our normal taking up of our collections. Today Sunday February 13th we commence again with TWO collections... just before the offertory procession and when communion has finished. Thank you for your understanding with this and for your contributions in keeping this side of our Church life functioning.

PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY... is Sunday 27th February... the Sunday before Ash Wednesday . This Sunday is one where we as a Church take up the theme Caritas Australia ask of us for Lent. At both Masses here at St. Mel's Project Compassion boxes, envelopes and leaflets seeking our support, will be available for your collecting. Between now and Project Compassion Sunday is a good opportunity to see how the season of Lent can make it's impact on our faith and life's moments for Lent.

SYNOD of Bishops ... will convene in Rome in October 2023. In the meantime each of us have an opportunity to express our thoughts and reflections on the themes of ...

COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION... Three words... Each asking something from us. Chris Cotter is our Director for Mission and Pastoral life in Sandhurst. Chris is welcoming of ANY suggestion, thoughts you may have contributing for a more SYNODAL CHURCH asked for by Pope Francis. Chris can be contacted personally at Chris.Cotter@sandhurst.catholic.org.au Information can be gained from the website www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

A PARISH MEETING ON THIS

To support a more conversational approach with this important gathering in October 2023 I am offering an evening of discussion on this on Tuesday 22nd of February in the Church at 7pm. The Church offers more space and for communication. Please know, your comments are respected and come with an open mind ...Our responses communally will be collated (no names) and forwarded to Chris Cotter . The bulletin attachment included in this week's bulletin will help in supporting discussion for the gathering on the 22nd of February. It will be helpful to have someone who will record thoughts at this meeting.

Fr Peter

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD THIS PAST WEEK....

In the formation presented I opened up conversation around an article called "A SYNOD FOR THE WORLD" by Jenny Sinclair. A Theologian recently becoming a Catholic. She writes in desiring a Church seeking pathways forward in the hopes for a more authentic living Church and where change is open to the presence of the Spirit from within people's hearts. Jenny Sinclair writes from one who sees a malaise across the world and where this era we live seeks a more enlivening hope.

Chris Summers our engaging Principal at St Mel's mentioned the hopes of the year amid the hopes of the year. Chris mentioned there are 34 new foundation members at St Mel's and the great diversity of culture with enrolments at St Mel's for 2022.

Sue Carroll sent a report from St Anne's College at Kialla and Sue mentioned

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SANDHURST Limited Was originally going to have its opening Mass and welcome to new leaders in our schools across Sandhurst here at St Mel's on the 23rd of February. This is now changed to an On line format because of numbers and other related pandemic matters. The theme this year for Catholic Education in Sandhurst is one of ...

"TELL THE GOOD NEWS"

Taking up the Gospel of Mark 16: 15 , of bringing good news to all creation. I encourage each of us as we go about our lives in faith, we too are bearers of good news! Mr Robert Fitzgerald, commissioner for ageing and disability, previously served as commissioner of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual abuse, is the presenter this year.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2022

First Reading

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord has put you in my power, but I will not raise my hand against you.

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph.

So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him.

Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them.

David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

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

Just as we have carried the earthly image, we must carry the heavenly image.

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week 14th February to 20th February 2022

Monday 14th February - No Mass

Tuesday 15th February - No Mass

Wednesday 16th February - 9.15am

Thursday 17th February - 9.15am

Friday 18th February - 9.15am

Saturday 19th February - 9.00am

Sunday 20th February - 9.30am & 5.00pm

READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER

Sunday 20th February 2022

9.30am - Denis Muto (Commentator) Trish Mathisen (L1)

Mick Hanlon (L2)

9.30am- Special Ministers: Gita Kelleher and Sr Pam B

5.00pm - Paul Bertoli (Commentator) Luisa Cassise (Lector)

5.00pm - Special Ministers : Erin Tanner and Cathy Cannatelli

Recently Deceased: Dawn Piccin, Joseph Knez, Maria deGracia (Mother of Luisa Cassise).

Anniversaries: Filippo Presti, Rosa & Antonio Presti, Filippo, Rosaria & Giuseppe Mobilia, Faustina Baquial, Giuseppe Maiolo, Giuelitta Murdocca.