



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 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 11 September 2022

Readings for this week:



Exodus 32:7-11,13-14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-32

Readings for next Sunday:



Amos 8:4-7
1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:1-13



Liturgical Jottings

Anointing of the Sick 2

The Pastoral Care of the Sick Ritual Chapter Four (see this column last week) on the Rite of Anointing the Sick contains an Introduction and three forms of the rite, namely:

Anointing outside Mass

Anointing within Mass

Anointing in a hospital or institution

The introduction expresses the nature of the sacrament: "The sacrament of anointing is the proper sacrament for those Christians whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age. It may be celebrated in hospital, the home or the church." It describes "The two complementary aspects of the sacrament: through the sacrament of anointing the Church supports the sick in their struggle against illness and the sacrament continues Christ's messianic work of healing." nn 97 & 98. Those needing the sacrament should seek it at the beginning of a serious illness. ... "Family and others of the Christian community should be present whenever possible." n. 99.

Looking at the Readings

There is a choice today of a shorter Gospel or a longer Gospel. The longer form contains the introduction and three parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. The shorter version omits the parable of the lost son, often referred to as the prodigal son or sometimes as the forgiving father. While we may appreciate the longer version we may remember we had the parable of the lost son earlier this year on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. We do not want to miss the impact of the first two parables, one a pastoral parable, the second a domestic parable. Often Jesus offers twin parables for his mixed audience so that he includes both male and female concerns. This inclusivity addresses also his querulous present company, the scribes and Pharisees who questioned his previous company the tax collectors and the sinners (15:1-2). Jesus has come to save all.

Another thread in the three parables is that God wants our happiness. The shepherd invites his friends, the woman her neighbours and the forgiving father his two sons, the farmhands and neighbours to celebrate and share his/her joy of finding the lost one. God wants us to share in his joy in receiving the lost ones as the forgiven ones with him in eternal life.

Prayer of the Earth (part 3)

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

Quote of the Week

"All this richness [in the liturgy] is not far from us. It is in our churches, in our Christian feasts, in the centrality of the Lord's Day, in the power of the sacraments we celebrate. Christian life is a continual journey of growth. We are called to let ourselves be formed in joy and in communion." *Apostolic Letter, Desiderio Desideravi, Pope Francis 29 June 2022, para 62.*

On the Lighter Side

One sheep says to another: "I wouldn't get lost all the time if the shepherd would let me use his GPS navigator." Today, we can track livestock. Radiofrequency identification (RFID) technology can help us keep track of and identify an entire flock without leaving the house.

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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

Two times in the Gospel we are given situations of people who have lost something, the one with one hundred sheep loses one and goes searching for it, then the woman losing a coin and goes searching. The longer format of the Gospel tells the story of the welcoming father to his lost son who has come to his senses of security being back at home. There is a joy and relief of what has been lost is overwhelming a celebration is anticipated and extended to all.

Throughout his ministry, Jesus models accompaniment. He accompanies people on the fringes of family and community, by eating and talking, so dignifying them with his presence.

This season of creation reminds us of humanity often causes creation to be abused, so placing "I" at the centre, dominating all of creation and God's creatures.

We are now seeing the consequences of this squandering as our global world facing multiple environmental crises. Maybe an inheritance has been squandered?

Our lack of wisdom and over consumption has led to massive extinction of animal and plant species, the oceans too are being impacted upon.

Pope Francis in "Laudato Si" relates the doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth..... the effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by decisive action, here and now. (LS, 161). As we 'come to our senses' in relation to challenges of climate change, we cannot underestimate the power of small actions having a ripple effect across our community.

Today is one we keep holding to our created world in taking up the call from God to hear a voice calling us to act, from our homes, wider communities, through our mother earth, our common home.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance.

We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place where people feel safe and supported. You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:

www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday



CONGRATULATIONS TO FR PETER TAYLOR

on his 34th Anniversary of Priesthood on Saturday the 10th of September 2022. Thank you for your faithful service to the people of God. May God shower you with His love and continue to shine on his people through you.

With gratitude, St Mel's Parish.



TAP & GO MACHINE Thank you to those who are using our tap and go machine in the foyer to support our Parish. Our total collected from our machine in August is **\$55.00**. Thank you for your generosity.

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 MEL'S FOOTY TIPPING RESULTS Congratulations Maree McKenna, who is our winner this year. Maree, won on a countback from Roy Weir and Camille Kelly who each had most teams in the eight, Maree had most in their correct positions! The judging panel thought this the best way to decide the winner. So, Maree wins the grand sum of \$230, and Roy and Camille \$20 each. It was a tight contest this year and one we look forward to in season 2023. All the best for the teams in football finals this September.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION AND FIRST EUCHARIST Congratulations to our friends from Samoa, Cecilia Legalo and Rosemarene Legalo (both often bring forward our gifts in the offertory) who completed their full initiation into our Church here at St Mel's last Sunday.



WELCOME SACRAMENTAL CANDIDATES Today we welcome our sacramental candidates as they receive their Steps in Faith booklet for Reconciliation (Penance) and are invited to make their commitment to the program with the support of their families, our sacramental team and our parishioners.

UPCOMING EVENTS / DATES

- . ***PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL'S*** September meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14th at 7pm.
- . ***COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE PARISH OWNED BLOCKS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE*** Will meet on Wednesday, September 21st at 5pm. At this meeting members of the two committees will join together to combine as one committee.
- . ***FR PETER ON HOLIDAYS*** From October 3rd to October 28th Fr Peter will be taking annual leave. The office will remain open and Fr Paul Sireh O.CARM will be the Priest in residence during this time.
- . ***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, follow by refreshments in the Parish House Gathering Room.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS SUPPORT SCHOOLS WITH GUIDE ON GENDER IDENTITY

Australia's Catholic Bishops Conference has released a guide on gender and identity to support Catholic Schools in responding to the individual, social, and pastoral needs of students. In a document called: "created and loved: a guide for catholic schools on identity and gender" outlines a pastoral approach shaped by the theological, medical and legislative context in which Catholic schools operate.

This document can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/CreatedandLoved>. Or at ACBC website (ACBC)

FROM CATH NEWS "Belonging leads to believing". A greater emphasis on 'belonging' may be one way to address the drift from religious adherence post – school'. Catholic Mission director Fr Brian Lucas said at the National Catholic Education Conference this week. Quoting the three dimensions of religiosity - belonging and believing are useful tools in analysing where emphasis is placed in religious formation of young people. The conventional wisdom is believing leads to belonging and this is deeper in one's faith. It is more likely that he or she will belong to a congregation.

CATHOLIC ALLIANCE FOR PEOPLE SEEKING ASYLUM (CAPSA) will be hosting a National Week of Prayer and Action this month (September 25 -30) This National Week of Prayer starts on Migrant and Refugee Sunday, September 25th. It's an opportunity for our Catholic Community to enable people seeking asylum to find a way with welcome, humanity and compassion. A key event will be the CAPSA in conversation: building a better future together webinar on Tuesday, September 27th at 6.30pm. For further details refer www.capsa.org.au/nwpa_2022.

POSITION AVAILABLE ST BRENDAN'S PARISH MAINTENANCE / GARDEN

OFFICER Permanent Part Time, 4 hrs per week 8am—12 noon Wednesdays. Applications close 7th October 2022. For all enquires or to obtain a Position Description Email: shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au OR phone 5821 2633 Monday-Friday 9am—2pm.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OUR OFFICE sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18th 2022

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Amos

The Lord God spoke against those who buy the poor for money.

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.' The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

Let prayers be offered to God for everyone; he wants all people to be saved.

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanks giving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You cannot be slaves both of God and of money.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week
September 12th to September 18th 2022

Monday 12th September - No Mass
Tuesday 13th September - 9:15am
Wednesday 14th September - 9:15am
Thursday 15th September - 9:15am
Friday 16th September - 9:15am
Saturday 17th September - 9:00am
Sunday 18th September - 9:30am & 5:00pm



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER
Sunday September 18th 2022

9:30am - Chris Summers (Commentator) Mick Hanlon (L1)
Trish Mathisen (L2)
9:30am - Special Ministers: Maureen Matthews &
Chris Summers
5:00pm - Paul Bertoli (Commentator) Helen May (Lector)
5:00pm - Special Ministers: Lin Waite & Erin Tanner

Recently deceased: Sr Celine Nolan FCJ (formally of Benalla), Sr Maureen Howley RSM, Tommaso Busiello (Italy), Antonino Andronaco (one month mind)

Anniversaries: Raffaella Gallace, Antonia Costa, Mark Matthews, John DeLai