



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD..."

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9:30am - 2:30pm
Friday closed during August & September
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

17 September 2023

Readings for
this week:



Sirach 27:30-28-7
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Readings for
next Sunday:



Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:20-24,27
Matthew 20:1-16



Liturgical Jottings

Eucharistic Prayer part 2

Epiclesis

"The *epiclesis*, in which, by means of particular invocations, the Church implores the power of the Holy Spirit that the gifts offered by human hands be consecrated, that is, become Christ's Body and Blood, and that the unblemished sacrificial Victim to be consumed in Holy Communion may be for the salvation of those who will partake of it." GIRM 79c

This part of the Eucharistic prayer is also symbolised by the priest holding his hands over the bread and wine as a gesture calling the Holy Spirit down onto the gifts. A bell may be rung to alert assembly to the consecration. From the second Eucharistic prayer we have: "*Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall.*"

Interestingly the Roman Canon (the First Eucharistic Prayer) does not have an explicit epiclesis.

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Looking at the Readings

A distinctive feature of the teachings of Jesus is his exhortation to forgive. Very explicit about this, Jesus left us his own example by forgiving his executioners while he hung dying on the cross. Until recently we thought that forgiveness begins with the offender repenting of the offence and then asking for pardon. Today many maintain that reconciliation must begin with the one offended offering forgiveness. This willingness to forgive transforms a victim into a survivor. Such magnanimity might then touch the heart of the offender, who may thus be transformed from being an offender to becoming a friend.

If God has been so generous in forgiving us, surely we should be generous in forgiving others. The process of becoming a forgiving person takes time. For some, it may take a lifetime. Only little by little are our pettiness and indignation reduced and our desire to strike back diminished. Still, as disciples, we are expected to give the forgiveness that we have been given.

Such forgiveness does not provide an easy way out for offenders, for ultimately justice will prevail. If we remain untransformed by God's forgiveness of us, we will be liable to judgment. Our unwillingness to forgive can eat away at us, and we can carry hurts from childhood far into adult years. Forgiving others, as difficult as that may be, is in the long run much easier than bearing the weight of resentfulness, vindictiveness and unresolved frustration. When we forgive we truly begin to be healed. ©

Dianne Bergant CSA

Prayer for the Week

Happy those who forgive: they welcome your forgiveness. Lord.



Pope Francis on the Season of Creation 2023

During this Season of Creation, let us dwell on those heartbeats: our own and those of our mothers and grandmothers, the heartbeat of creation and the heartbeat of God. Today they do not beat in harmony; they are not harmonized in justice and peace. Too many of our brothers and sisters are prevented from drinking from that mighty river. Let us heed our call to stand with the victims of environmental and climate injustice, and to put an end to the senseless war against creation.

On the Lighter Side

When I was a kid I prayed for a new bicycle. Then I learned the Lord doesn't work that way so I stole a bike and prayed for forgiveness. But in confessing the sin I learned that I should not work that way and so I returned the bike.



St Mel's Parish Is...

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

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

Peter might be thought of as indulging in some kind of calculation exercise in response to Jesus' call to forgiveness of a sister, or brother, and then answers his own question of, 'how many times'?

Jesus replies with a disconcerting... 'I say to you, not seven times but seventy – seven times!'

The multiple of seven, the Hebrew number symbolic of perfection or fullness, implies that forgiveness is to be infinite because it's a reflection of God's unconditional and enduring forgiveness of us.

Jesus practiced forgiveness containing no bounds. Time and again, he saw the situation and then did something about it. Even from the cross near the point of death Jesus' words rang out... "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Humanely, forgiveness is a means that is generous and ongoing. We hear it said day and day out in news and bulletin items, where someone has it in for someone else! Ours is a time and through our various cultures we find ways where forgiveness being unconditional needs being proclaimed and lived.

This season of creation speaks of where God's loving presence is seen through all of creation. Just as creation lives and dies in itself, so too forgiveness raises our hopes and lives overcoming one's personal darkness. Coming back to Peter's flawed question, forgiveness is rarely a discreet countable act. Granting forgiveness is not as easy all the time. For past and old hurts get in the way holding one back. Honouring the past and learning from it offers one a clearer path to walk and see the brightness true forgiveness gives.

There is much to absorb by taking Peter's situation to heart. For him he came to a new sense of seeing and reaching out from Jesus with new insight. In light of this and with the upcoming Synod on Synodality taking place this October in Rome, might it not be an idea of seeing this Gospel with fresh eyes in the midst of the Church and where the Church needs to humble itself, be humbled and more open to where the Spirit seeks to be and be heard.

APPOINTMENT OF THE ROGATIONIST PRIESTS TO ST MEL'S along with the Parish of Nagambie... In light of what I communicated last Sunday a significant development of Parish and Pastoral ministry for our Diocese is taking place with a new Religious Order of ministry taking place with the Rogationist Priests coming. Given the past history here at St Mel's with the Scalabrinian Priests so well remembered, a strong tradition has been established here and with the Rogationist Priests coming this will go further in enriching our Parish community. Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ will become the new Parish Priest and assisted by Fr Ruel Desamparado RCJ (coming from the Philippines). We remain in good hands and allow our prayer being one to support this change. This appointment takes effect from November 4th 2023. Fr Peter

ST MEL'S PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM 2023 Commences on SUNDAY OCTOBER 1st and concludes On Sunday 29th October. Over the Sundays in October different parishioners will speak at our Masses. (Taking place of the homily... you will be spared!!!) This is a significant time for our Parish. It is my belief this program will ably support us into the future. I have been quite deliberate in using the theme around the Synod happening in Rome on Synodality, around COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION and MISSION. A brochure has been formatted thanks to Tara McGrath on the leadership team at St Anne's College, Kialla. Tara has presented a document which will be pleasing to your receiving, ably supporting the program.

PLEASE, PLEASE... Spread the word on this and hopefully we see quite an improved outcome over the weeks in October. If your details like address have changed please let our parish office know. Fr Peter

WORLD YOUTH DAY PRESENTATION Zoe Hamilton our WYD representative has offered to give a reflection on her experiences to our Church community. Zoe will do this during our Sunday Mass on October 1st as part of our communion reflection.

Last Thursday week I attended an evening where the WYD representatives across Shepparton spoke of their experiences. The evening was quite inspiring and one where these young people have gained so much and are full of optimism for what they bring to their Church communities and future.

It is something we here at St Mel's need to think of and how we see a way for one's like Zoe taking a more active role in our liturgies. Fr Peter



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.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM Welcome to Morgan Maree Gleeson, daughter of Daniel and Belinda, who received the Sacrament of Baptism here at St Mel's last Sunday. We wish you well in your faith journey.

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY Some maybe still unsure exactly what this is about. Pope Francis has been deliberate in bringing the Church, universally, into a time of looking inwardly so as to be improved outwardly, in seeing itself as expressing the presence God brings to a world and time where the voice of the Spirit is heard and carried out. SYNODALITY is about listening and expressing a way where all are heard. We are in this!
More to come. Fr Peter

APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

SANDHURST LTD We are very pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Kate Fogarty as the new Executive Director of Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd, effective from January 2024. Kate's deep connections with this Diocese, her strong vision for Catholic education, and her capacity to articulate that vision with clarity and conviction give us great confidence that she will be a passionate advocate and leader for Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd. We warmly welcome her to this position.
PATRICIA COWLING, Chair Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd
MOST REV. SHANE MACKINLAY, Bishop Diocese of Sandhurst

RESIGNATION OF RUTH LAWLOR I write to inform you that Ruth Lawlor has tendered her resignation from the position of Sandhurst Youth Ministry Coordinator. In this role Ruth has shown dedication and commitment to young people and a desire to grow the Church's ministry among them. This was clearly demonstrated in her leadership of the recent Sandhurst pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Lisbon. The Chancery will acknowledge Ruth's contribution to the diocese in the coming weeks. Ruth's last day in the office will be Thursday 27 September.
Kind regards, Chris Cotter.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION St Brendan's Parish invite all to join us to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the laying of the Chapel foundation stone on Saturday September 23. We will begin with a Mass in the Chapel at 11am, followed by lunch in the Monsignor Peter Jeffrey Centre. A brief history of the Church and Chapel will be given, followed by a brief history of the Mercy sisters in Shepparton. There will be a display of photos and memorabilia available to view at the lunch and after each Mass on this weekend. If you would have any memorabilia to share or would like to join us for lunch at 12pm on Saturday September 23, please RSVP to Kathy Hunt on 0416058431, by Friday September 15.

MARIAN FESTIVAL AT SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL October 15, 2023
Please join us on October 15 at the Annual Marian Festival at Sacred Heart Cathedral to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary and entrust our diocese, our nation and the world to the protection of her Immaculate Heart.

The Festival will be led by Bishop Leslie Tomlinson, beginning with Mass at 11am and continuing with devotions throughout the afternoon. For more information go to www.bendigofatima.com or call Wilma on 03 5439 6283



ANNUAL PUBLIC ROSARY This very special Rosary event, in honour of Our Lady, will be held on Saturday, October 14 at 10:30am in the St Brandan's Parish Church Gardens, followed by a cuppa in the Noel Daly Centre. For full details see flyer in the Narthex. All welcome.
RSVP by October 4. All enquires to Maureen Margossis, Captain – Public Rosary Ph: 0403 876 578

DEMENTIA AWARENESS MONTH September is Dementia Awareness Month. Dementia symptoms, including memory loss, are caused by diminished brain function, often because of an accumulation of protein in the brain. Many people continue to live well after their diagnosis, but often feel isolated because of the stigma and discrimination. The theme for Dementia Action Week (Sept. 18-24) is "A little support makes a big difference". To find more about small, practical ways in which you can make a difference, visit <https://discrimination.dementia.org.au/> Dementia impacts people in different ways. Help keep the world open for people living with dementia, not just during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, but every day.
discrimination.dementia.org.au Mary Pianta. Disability Contact Coordinator. Diocese of Sandhurst.

MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE A most significant event, with some 2600 deaths reported. Caritas Australia is responding with their partners in the region. They are encouraging for donations for essential needs.
caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/Morocco-earthquake.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24th 2023

First Reading: A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord

Response: The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week September 18th to September 24th 2023

Monday September 18th - No Mass

Tuesday September 19th - 9:15am

Wednesday September 20th - 9:15am

Thursday September 21st - 9:15am

Friday September 22nd - 9:15am

Saturday September 23rd - 9am

Sunday September 24th - 9:30am & 5pm



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Sunday, September 24th 2023

9:30am - Anthony Holligan (Commentator) Sr Pam Barlow (L1)

Mick Hanlon (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Loretta Hanlon &

Pauline Pettigrew

5:00pm - Xavier Tanner (Commentator) Luisa Cassise (Lector)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Cathy Cannatelli & Lin Waite

Recently Deceased: Anne O'Donoghue

Anniversaries: Kevin Bradley, Bruno Ciancio, Raffaella Gallace, Antonia Costa, Nancy Beard



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