



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 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.

Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

5 November 2023

Readings for
this week:



Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10
1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13
Matthew 23:1-12

Readings for
next Sunday:



Wisdom 6: 12 – 16
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
Matthew 25: 1-13



Liturgical Jottings

Eucharistic Prayer part 9

Acclamations 2

The centre and high point of the entire celebration of the Mass is the Eucharistic Prayer, the prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification. The Priest calls upon the people to lift up their hearts towards the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving; he associates the people with himself in the Prayer that he addresses in the name of the entire community to God the Father through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit. The meaning of this Prayer is that the whole congregation of the faithful joins with Christ in confessing the great deeds of God and in the offering of Sacrifice. GIRM 78
The opening dialogue and the acclamations unite the assembly with the presider. They serve to show that the prayer belongs to the entire assembly and increases the participation of the whole congregation. This is most evident in the Children's Eucharistic Prayer II. (NDSW p 455)

Looking at the Readings

The age old maxim: "One cannot trifle with the liturgy" is addressed in the first reading and the gospel. Malachi condemns the worship practices of the priests and people of the day for offering second rate or imperfect sacrifices, lacking sincerity and abandoning their heritage. Jesus warns the scribes and Pharisees of their hypocrisy and being out of touch with the reality of the lives of the people and the ways of God. Matthew's criticism of these groups is not absolute. He notes the Pharisees fast and give alms to the poor (Matt9:24) and the scribes discern the good in the "old and the new" (Matt 13:52).

This gospel passage cannot merely be seen as a historical account of the practices of the day, they serve also as a critique and admonition of present practices within Matthew's community and by inclusion within future Christian communities. There will always remain the dichotomy of giving recognition and honour to leaders and responsible persons and maintaining our belief in the one true God and the example of Christ our Lord who came in humility and as a servant to all.

Did you Know

The first Reading is several verses from the prophet Malachi, an anonymous character. The name means a messenger. Passages from this book, the last in the Old Testament canon, are read only twice on Sundays, today and the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time year C. There are two main themes in the book: the failure of the priests and people in their religious duties; and the coming of the day of purification and security.

Quote of the Week

A Pharisee is hard on others and easy on himself, but a spiritual person is easy on others and hard on himself. *Aiden Wilson Tozer*

Pope Francis' "Laudate Deum"

1. The Global Climate Crisis: Some effects of the climate crisis are already irreversible, at least for several hundred years, such as the increase in the global temperature of the oceans, their acidification and the decrease of oxygen. Consequently, a broader perspective is urgently needed, one that can enable us to esteem the marvels of progress, but also to pay serious attention to other effects that were probably unimaginable a century ago. What is being asked of us is nothing other than a certain responsibility for the legacy we will leave behind. (15,18)

On the Lighter Side

Scribe is to Scribble as Ride is to "Riddle" You can solve it.

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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

My concluding reflection!!! I trust over these years my reflections have enabled you a deeper understanding of our Sunday's and other significant days of the year in bringing God's Word to our lives. In writing these reflections I have endeavoured to have your life, and faith closer to our common thinking. That's not to say we have all been on the "same page". For I have tried to be relational with some events occupying our thoughts and where these have related to the journey I have shared with you.

As this brings an end to my presence in our Church community here at St Mel's, I am reminded of endings also bring beginnings. In one way the Rogationist Priests coming to our Diocese and here at St. Mel's and St. Malachy's, Nagambie led by Fr Rene and Fr Ruel bring a new dimension of pastoral and parish ministry to our communities. My prayer is one of this being a new era and one building upon the foundations of past priests here at St Mel's. For when all is said and done, the Gospel brings home the continuing call of Jesus to his disciples... not to be overburdened with the outward of appearance, or where to sit, or let alone being exalted!!! Our present inquiry through Synodality challenges these concepts reminding us of our common call through Baptism.

If anything I have tried to open before you is an equalness of ourselves as the Baptised in this faith community and whereupon this creates our equalness in Jesus' eyes and before God of our being in COMMUNION, with a way of PARTICIPATION, and realizing a common MISSION in opening ourselves to a new direction. It was at the Second Vatican Council a famous Church leader in Dom Helder Camara, a prophetic Bishop from Brazil said to his fellow Bishops... 'be a good thing to sell the gold and silver pectoral crosses worn by Bishops and give money to the poor'!

He himself simply wore a wooden cross! Food for thought! As Pope Francis continually sets the sails of the Church to the poor and outcast, might not today's Gospel speak ever more strongly for a Church in our time to see who we are with, seeing the one master in Jesus as our life and support.

In closing I offer you my continued good wishes and prayer and for St Mel's Parish to be a life giving force for goodness, generosity (for which you renowned!) and where the Eucharistic nature of this community expresses the unity from which you build together as the living Body of Christ.

With sincere gratitude to all Fr Peter Taylor (New address: 82 High St, Rutherglen. VIC 3685)

Please join us today after 9:30am Mass for a hot drink, some biscuits and a chat with your fellow parishioners. All welcome.



THE ITALIAN REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AT THE ITALIAN MEMORIAL

Located within the Murchison cemetery, will be held on **Sunday, November 12**, commencing at 11:00am and immediately followed by the celebration of Mass. After the service we can gather in the Murchison Community Centre or the park near the river for a BYO picnic. Please come along and support this unique event. Attendees are advised to bring a chair and lunch if you will remain for the picnic.

Il pellegrinaggio al sacrario militare di Murchison per la 'Giornata del Ricordo' quest'anno si terrà domenica 12 novembre.

La funzione inizierà alle 11:00 am, e sarà seguita dalla Santa Messa.

Dopo la funzione ci riuniremo per il solito picnic al Murchison Community Centre, o all'aperto nel parco.

Vi aspettiamo numerosi a questo unico evento.

Ricordate di portare la propria sedia, ed il pranzo se rimarrete per il pomeriggio.

Per altre informazioni, telefonate a Maria Gardani Calandro: 0421 568 459, (Corrispondente Consolare per Shepparton e la Goulburn Valley).

YOUTH-LED MASS AND YOUNG ADULTS DINNER A Youth-led Mass will be held at St Brendan's Catholic Church, 121-125 Knight Street, Shepparton, on Saturday, November 11, from 6pm. All young people from across the Diocese are invited to attend. After the Mass a dinner will be held for those aged 18-35 at the Terminus Hotel in Shepparton. Meals and drinks are an individual expense. RSVP is essential. Please contact Fr Jackson on 03 5821 2633 or email jackson.saunders@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

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.

WELCOME TO THE ROGATIONIST FATHERS

On behalf of us all here at St. Mel's, our parish extends a warm welcome... "being on this side of the Great Dividing Range our temperatures are warmer!". To you Fr Rene as our new Parish Priest we trust this ministry of yours augers well for the future along with Fr Ruel, we hope your shared ministry creates a new era of priestly ministry here along with St. Malachy's at Nagambie. Enjoy...

Fr Peter Taylor

THANK YOU For all involved with last Sunday's gathering in seeing I was farewelled with a feeling of much joy and peace. It truly was one I will hold as a fond and loving memory. Many worked behind the scenes in coordination and making sure the day went seemingly well. I thank you personally for your time and efforts. I just want to acknowledge, Ainsley and Mel who have worked so supportively of me and for making my ministry one I was able to carry through. Heartfelt gratitude to you.

To both the Parish Mission and Pastoral Council who have been passionate all we are here at St. Mel's in support of fellow parishioners and for the outreach to so many across our community. Thankyou.

Along with our Parish Management and Finance Committee who have been quite diligent in support as we have strived to meet our obligations and furthering the development of our Church and projects.

A very sincere thankyou to each member of these groups and for your shared insights in fulfilling a mission of hope and strength for all...

Fr Peter



STEWARDSHIP 2023 In anticipation of the final outcome of the stewardship program my hope for the Parish is this will sustain a positivity of growth financially in our ongoing support for our community in faith. With the arrival of the Rogationist Priests to the Parish and with the first of Parish Management and Finance Committee to be held in November, a follow up of the stewardship program would be a worthwhile consideration. An experience from the past suggests people wanting to offer participation in different ministries or how future ministry in the parish evolves will be something of an outcome from a stewardship program. I'm sure under the leadership of Fr Rene Ramirez RCJ a direction from the stewardship program will be encouraged.

Fr Peter

NOVEMBER A MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE As mentioned last week names to be remembered will be on the screens in the Church during Sunday Masses. It is encouraged these will be presented slowly! So time is given for the names to be shown. It is desirable the names you want prayed for be written clearly on the yellow envelopes in the Church. Thanks for your understanding.

Fr Peter



ST MEL'S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM - RECONCILIATION

Last Sunday our Candidates and their parents made their commitment to journey through the Steps in Faith program in preparation for Reconciliation this November. We met on Thursday for the first cluster session at St Anne's College. The group, although smaller than past years, were full of enthusiasm and excitement as they began to connect with one another and share in this time together. Please keep the Candidates and their families in your prayers and welcome them on Sunday's to our Masses, where each family will be involved in bringing forward the offertory.

OFFICE CLOSURE The Parish office will be closed this Tuesday, November 7 for the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.



PARISH MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL The next meeting for the PMPC will be held this coming Wednesday, November 8 in the Parish House Gathering Room at 7pm.

ANNUAL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE Each November a Mass of Remembrance is held to remember parishioners who have died over the past year and to remember our loved ones who have died. This Mass will take place on Wednesday, November 22 at 7pm in St Mel's, Christ the King Church. Please let others know who might be interested.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT PRIESTHOOD? A gathering for those thinking about, or open to a vocation to the priesthood, will be held at St Brendan's Catholic Parish Shepparton, 121-125 Knight Street, Shepparton, on Sunday, November 12, from 3pm. The afternoon will include prayer, reflection and discussion. Dinner will be provided. The gathering will conclude by 8pm. This is open to men aged over 18. RSVP is essential to the Vocations Director of the Diocese, Fr Nathan Verallo. Please phone 03 5722 1970 or email np.verallo@gmail.com

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY NOVEMBER 12th 2023

First Reading: A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.

By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her.

Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.

Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates.

Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.

She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The Word of the Lord



Response: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

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

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

The Word of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week November 6th to November 12th 2023

Monday November 6th - No Mass

Tuesday November 7th - 9:15am

Wednesday November 8th - 9:15am

Thursday November 9th - 9:15am

Friday November 10th - No Mass

Saturday November 11th - 9am

Sunday November 12th - 9:30am & 5pm



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER

Sunday, November 12th 2023

9:30am - Anthony Holligan (Commentator) Xavier Tanner (L1)

Elizabeth Holligan (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Maree McKenna & Gita Kelleher

5:00pm - Dom Poppa (Commentator) Luisa Cassise (Lector)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Erin Tanner & Cathy Cannatelli

Anniversaries:

Vincenzo Rosato, Bernadette Rachele (nee Terranova), Tony Cassise, Alessandro Cavallaro, Vittoria Ciampone, Vince D'Agostino, Eugenia Fazzolari, Margaret Murdoch, Luke DeLai



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