



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.

Third Sunday of Lent- C

Sunday 20 March 2022

Readings for
this week:



Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

1Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Luke 13:1-9

Readings for
next Sunday:



Joshua 5:9-12

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



Liturgical Jottings

Lenten Hymns

Hymns books and liturgical music resources compile lists of hymns that are apt for the Season of Lent. A quick survey for Lent Cycle C of gave 126 different titles - enough for 40 Lenten. The themes include: forgiveness, conversion, grace, mercy, compassion, love, renewal, penance, mortification, charity and praise and thanksgiving. Then approaching Holy Week hymns with Cross and Christ's passion are more prevalent.

These lists of suggested hymns help liturgical planners choose the appropriate music. The ages and make-up of the congregations, the ability of the music ministry and other social factors must also have a determining influence in this decision making.

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Looking at the Readings

The third, fourth and fifth Sundays have a common theme in each of the Church's lectionary cycle of Gospels. Baptism in Year A, preparing for the Death and Resurrection of Christ in Year B and Repentance and Conversion in Year C. In today's gospel twice Jesus urges his enquirers to repent and with the parable of the fig tree Jesus shows God's patience in waiting for our conversion to "come good" There is urgency in his warning and patience in his judgement. It is a time for repentance. The first reading, particularly the last paragraph is referred to as the Gospel of the Old Testament: God reveals himself to us. In revealing his name to Moses he reveals somewhat of his being but at the same time holds his name in mystery, YHWH - the very holy Name of God is not to be pronounced. Various translations have "I am Who I am" or I am who am". God is a being of life, author of life, sustainer of life. Yet even this name raises more questions about the existence and nature of God. We join Moses in recognising we standing on holy ground before our holy God.

Lenten Quotes from the Saints

"Nothing great is ever achieved without enduring much." *St Catherine of Siena*

"Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble, quenches the fire of lust, and kindles the true light of chastity. Enter again into yourself." *St Augustine of Hippo*

Prayer for the Week

God who is, we have heard you call us by name. We are here. Grant us the courage and strength to begin our transformation into new life.

On the Lighter Side

The Fig Tree that features in the Gospel is one example of fig trees mentioned throughout the scriptures from the book of Genesis, the history and wisdom books, the Psalms and Prophets to the four Gospels. They signify peace and serenity, blessing and curse, fertility and honour, Its leaves and fruit also provide a great source of humour: "My wife brought a bag of figs and put them in a bowl on the kitchen table. I went to eat one and finding none I remembered I do not have a wife and it was all just a figment of my imagination."



St Mel's Parish Is...

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

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

Homes and better gardens feature among improving one's surrounds. We like our gardens to feature and from this we see trees and all they become in what they produce. Some say flower beds are meant to produce, like growing your own vegetables etc not just looking at the colour trees give. We have our own descriptions of all our gardens should look and be inviting.....

The Gospel for this Sunday of Lent has an orchard owner questioning himself about the longevity of a tree failing to produce. The gardener begs his master to be patient giving the tree more time. It's similar to who we are in this story. The Church is offering a season to do some seasonal gardening on ourselves: to loosen the soil around our personal and communal earthbound roots using our Lenten tools of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, to fertilize our lives as we do by attention to God's Word and through the Eucharist.

We are nearly at our half point of our Lenten journey. It might be a moment to check on how we are seeing Lent? The tree in the Gospel is a strong symbol of how we see our capacities and Christ like sap cultivating our hopes and to see Lent as a life giving season.

The Psalm response today offers a deepening of God's merciful presence. A merciful understanding is our invitation for a positive presence God offers. This coming Tuesday 22nd of March is one the United Nations has declared as World Water Day. We need to see this as a common good, not just as a commodity. Water essential to living and from our Baptism speaks of all we produce in life open to faith. We've also experienced the destructive nature water has through the floods devastating parts of our country.

Allow this week of Lent being your deeper call like the solid and life giving tree, open to all God plants and nourishes from within our call during these days.

Anointing during Masses will be offered next Sunday at both 9:30am and 5pm. Fr Peter

LENT 2022 PARISH SPEAKERS This season of Lent will see some of our parishioners offering themselves to share something of their life in faith, something close to their heart. THIS Thursday 24^h March Ms Cathie Barbetti will be our presenter. The evening begins at 7pm you are encouraged to come along.

HOLY WEEK ... at St Mel's 2022 ... "It's not far away...!!!" To help you with your planning for Easter I offer the Liturgical prayer and Mass times for you....

PALM SUNDAY ... 10TH April ... your most welcome to bring your own, palms will still be provided. Gather outside the Church for blessing of palms. **9:30am** and **5pm** Mass.

CHRISM MASS ... Tuesday 12TH April... referred as the blessing of the oils (sick, baptism, and chrism) **11am** at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

PARISH RITE of RECONCILIATION... Tuesday 12TH April at **7pm** in the Church.

HOLY THURSDAY ... 14TH April... Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at **7pm** with the watch until **9:30pm** which concludes with night prayer of the Church.

All ministers of the Eucharist are invited to come and renew your commitment to this ministry. During the Mass all will be invited to have their hands washed.

GOOD FRIDAY ... 15th April ... 9am Prayer of the Church, followed by the stations of the cross at **9:30am**. At **3pm** the celebration of the Lord's Passion.

HOLY SATURDAY ... 16TH April ... 9am Prayer of the Church with the EASTER VIGIL commencing at **7pm** with the lighting of the Easter Fire and presentation of the CANDLE outside the church.

EASTER SUNDAY ... 17TH April ... ONLY ONE MASS AT 9:30am !!! There is **NO 5PM** Mass this day !!!

TO HELP MAKE EASTER MEANINGFUL AND WHERE HOPEFULLY NO PHONE CALLS NEED BE MADE A roster sheet is on the table in the Narthex for you to avail yourselves with readings and ministry of the Eucharist. This will help enormously making the Easter ceremonies easier to organize.

Fr Peter

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM... Welcome to Ellie Jane Cheong, daughter of Louise and Timothy, who was Baptised last Sunday in our Church. (Peter and Pauline Pettigrew's granddaughter)



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION ... A number of our young people, along with their families, are preparing for this Sacrament in June this year. This Sacrament will be with the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist.

CONGRATULATIONS... to all our debutants who presented themselves so well on both Friday and Saturday evenings. Thank you to all associated with the debutant ball, as this was held over from last year when lockdowns were on.



ST ANNE'S COLLEGE KIALLA... Will have their Opening Mass to mark the beginning of this School year on Thursday morning (hence no Parish Mass on Thursday).

PRIESTHOOD ORDINATION... This Saturday March 26th at 11am in the Cathedral, Jackson Saunders will be ordained as Priest for Sandhurst. We offer Jackson our prayer and best of good wishes and for his ministry among us.

MINISTERS OF LECTOR AND EUCHARIST... Presently there are often absences of people carrying out their ministry from the roster. If you are UNABLE to honour your rostered time, COULD YOU PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT!!! This saves much confusion...

Thankyou...for the footy entries...we wait and see how the season unfolds...

GATHERING THE PEOPLE OF GOD ...Continuing Fr Frank O'Loughlin's thoughts on Renew the Liturgy – Renew the Church, A chapter titled "Numbers At Mass",

Fr Frank relates a thought along these lines The Church presently is like a series of con- centric circles. At the centre of these is a group who regularly attend on Sunday's and this group is indispensable so providing a reference point of the "Body who gathers!" There are many who see themselves as 'occasional', who come when they get around to it. These occasions will be for funerals, baptisms, marriages, occasions involving children. So the Spirit of God blows where it wills! Fr Frank asks a question here : 'What does it mean to be a Catholic or a Christian? By and large Christian is preferred, meaning there are elements like stepping stones to a richer faith. (more on this next week)

Fr Peter

SYNOD 2021 - 2023... Notes from the recent gathering here at St Mel's regarding the Synod.

Coffee Conversations – Walking together enables us to share the good news

Synodality

Church Attendance

- There is a fear on the relevance of the church to future generations
- People who are confirmed Catholics will not discuss why they aren't active members of the church
- Parents are not taking their children to Mass unless it is a special occasion

Communion

-Those who have non-traditional lives and families do not feel welcome in the church, what can be done to make them all feel welcomed?

-Who does the church need to listen to more?

-With regards to minority groups, why are they not interested in the church?

Community with St. Vincent de Paul Society

-There is a growing awareness of Catholicism through St. Vinnies. A lot of patrons come back. Perhaps they can be asked if they want to be a part of the church community. 'Put the nets out to deepen the catch'.

Participation

-In church meetings it is the same people each time, so we need to encourage participation and leadership and identify future leaders.

-We need to create more opportunities for the youth to be involved and have the schools involved more.

-Religious orders such as the Redemptorists used to visit churches, teach about missions, offering renewal and building faith. How do we replicate this now?

-We need to reach out a hand to bring people back to the church

-The language spoken now tends to be through technology. This need to be more incorporated to stay relevant to the youths of the parishes.

-Encouraging all to update their details with the parish office and ask if they would like a visit or a call.



READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 27th MARCH 2022

First Reading

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

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.....
'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord



Weekday Masses this coming week 21st March to 27th March 2022

Monday 21st March - No Mass

Tuesday 22nd March - 9:15am

Wednesday 23rd March - 9:15am

Thursday 24th March - NO MASS

Friday 25th March - 9:15am

(The Annunciation)

Saturday 26th March - NO MASS

(Priesthood Ordination)

Sunday 27th March - 9:30am & 5:00pm



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Sunday 27th March 2022

9.30am - Chris Summers (Commentator) Sr Pam Barlow (L1)
Sev Cortese (L2)

9.30am- Special Ministers: Pauline Pettigrew &
Trish Mathisen

5.00pm - Xavier Tanner (Commentator) Luisa Cassise (Lector)

5.00pm - Special Ministers : Dom Poppa & Angie Knez

Recently Deceased: Karen Flett

Anniversaries: Maria & Rocco Nicolaci, Salvatore Gagliardi,
Antonio & MariaAnna Gagliardi, Francesco Piscioneri,
Giovanna Constantino, Olga and Vincenza De Luca,
Giuseppe and Rosa Piscioneri