



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

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

18 Hamilton Street, Shepparton 3630

Phone : 03 5831 2194

Email : sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

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.

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

30 March 2023

Readings for this week:



Acts 2:14, 36-41
1 Peter 2:20-25
John 10:1-10

Readings for next Sunday:



Acts 6:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12



Liturgical Jottings

The Lord is my shepherd

The Shepherd has been an image of God in the Old and New Testaments and also an image of Christ in the Gospels. Judges, Kings and Elders are also at times given the title "Shepherd". From the creation accounts both cultivator and herdsman (Gen 4:2ff) are given complementary roles. This Sunday, cycle A, the responsorial psalm is 22(23) the Lord is my Shepherd (vv 1-4) but other texts also give other aspects of our Shepherd-God as a leader (Pss 77,78,80), carer (Ps 28), gatherer (Jer 23), protector (Jer 50) and healer (Ezek 34). Many of these roles are taken by Christ in John 10. He is the gatekeeper and protector to his flock (A), one who lays down his life for his sheep (B) and life-giver (C). Most comforting, Jesus as the Good Shepherd has a loving relationship with his flock.

Finally Jesus entrusts Peter with the role of shepherd (John 21) and now it is extended to the entire church and its pastors.

Looking at the Readings

This is 'Good Shepherd Sunday' and a particular focus taken today is leadership. Which voices do we follow? Why do we follow these voices and not others? Authentic leadership is rooted in authority, and authentic authority is the ability to author or bring life to birth. Genuine authority cherishes, guards and encourages the best in life; it provides rest and refreshment; it guides our steps; it nourishes us; it leads us to God. Peter is an example of authentic authority: he proclaims the truth, even if others find it hard to hear; he denounces error, even when this places him in jeopardy; he calls for a change of heart, even when it makes great demands.

Authentic leadership is patterned after the leadership of Jesus. It is gentle and familiar, like the true shepherd; it has won the confidence of those who follow, as did the true shepherd; it is committed to the enhancement of the lives of others, as was Jesus. Authentic leadership is willing to forgo its own needs and to deny its own interests in favour of the needs and interests of others.

Heavy demands are placed on those who follow authentic leadership. Those who follow the Good Shepherd must follow him in the dark valleys as well as to the refreshing streams. They must be willing to relinquish some of their own plans and self-determination and entrust themselves to his leadership. They must never forget that they are following a shepherd who has paid the ultimate price on their behalf. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Pope Francis' Easter Vigil Homily 2023

Brother, sister, remember Galilee, your Galilee, and your call. Remember the Word of God who at a precise moment spoke directly to you. Remember that powerful experience of the Spirit; that great joy of forgiveness experienced after that one confession; that intense and unforgettable moment of prayer; that light that was kindled within you and changed your life; that encounter, that pilgrimage... Each of us knows where our Galilee is located. Each of us knows the place of his or her interior resurrection, that beginning and foundation, the place where things changed. We cannot leave this in the past; the Risen Lord invites us to return there to celebrate Easter. Remember your Galilee. Remind yourself. Today, relive that memory. Return to that first encounter. (Abridged, part 3)

On the Lighter Side

A German Shepherd and a Sheep go out on a date. German Shepherd: "What do you mean I'm too controlling?"

Sheep: "You herd me."

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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

I find pastoral images from Gospels, and through the depth of God's Word as engaging my life personally and in a pastoral sense. This Sunday we see Jesus using the image of himself as the 'gate of the sheepfold'. Then further into the gospel he speaks of himself as 'The Gate'. I remember years ago when I had an uncle of mine on the land at Rochester. He said ... 'If you see a gate closed and you need go through make sure you close the gate after you!'. Its advice I've taken through when I have been placed in rural parishes and see farmers for a visit.

This Sunday is one where emphasis is given to one's personal vocation and where through our Church, we see the presence of religious vocation today. The place of religious vocation is under greater discernment and where scrutiny is involved when one chooses a calling to bring a ministry through the community. When I was discerning a calling to study for the Priesthood which began in 1982 when I began at Corpus Christi College, Clayton and concluded in 1988 (Ordination Year 10th September), there was much by way of interview just to get to the Seminary! (7 interviews overall, including an extensive psychological assessment) I'll tell you personally what the other interviews involved! So, to enter a pastoral understanding which I came to appreciate in the formation process, has stayed strongly with me.

Today we keep promoting the value a priestly and religious vocation has and continues to be for the church. I like to see this image of the gate as one implying for a religious and priestly vocation to be discerned in opening the human gate of personal commitment from one's Baptismal calling. If anyone hears from one you know or have heard of from another expressing interest in a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious life, please let me know....

Times are quite different today as you can appreciate in seeing a vocation to the priesthood and religious life. The human value I believe is still paramount and significant yet questions are asked and will continue being asked. The Lord seeks shepherds to be in the sheepfold and where the gate is opened so people can enter freely.....

EILEEN DOLAN **A REFLECTION ON HER PARISH LIFE AT ST. MEL'S** **AND CHRIST THE KING CHURCH**

Eileen, born in 1931 at Orrvale, was educated at Orrvale Primary School and Sacred Heart College. Her first job was with Riordan Solicitors and she later studied Law to become the first woman solicitor in Shepparton, her career spanning 57 years as an Associate of this continuing family firm. Her parents moved into South Shepparton where Eileen cared for both Thomas and Margaret until death. Nearby was a large land site acquired for a new Catholic Parish abounding Hamilton and Archer Streets Shepparton. Eileen became an integral member of St. Mel's Parish establishment team in the 1950s bringing her knowledge to the appointed Parish Priests assisting them with the financial arrangements and legal requirements of planning the building on the land when St. Mel's Church/School was built on the Hamilton/Archer Road corner land. In the 50s the Sisters of Mercy Order, already educators at St. Brendan's and Sacred Heart, became the teachers at this school which was cleared of desks etc. for weekend Masses. Eileen also supported the Order of Scalabrian Italian priests who worked tirelessly with the planning development undertaken in the early decades because of the large number of first Italian migrant families living and working in South Shepparton District. A kindergarten was also built on the school site with an Order of Italian Nuns as childcare employees. And the Christ the King Church built in the 60s is another example of everyone working together with a purpose to merge as a strong, multicultural parish community.

Her commitment to attending Parish Committees and her strong faith in God's work being undertaken continued until her move to St. Brendan's in retirement, almost four decades later.

Eileen died on 23rd March 2023 and a Mass of celebration and commendation to the Lord for her dedication in life was held at St. Brendan's Church on Monday 24th April. The Celebrant, Father Joe Taylor assisted by Father Peter Taylor and Monsignor Peter Jeffreys, in appreciation of her service to the St. Mel's Catholic community.

Her generation would describe her as a Pillar of the Church. May she Rest in Peace in God's care.

Pat Moran

Family Parishioner 1968

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.

WORLD YOUTH DAY A morning tea after the 9:30am Mass on Sunday, May 7th is being offered as a fundraiser for Zoe Hamilton from the Parish for her going to World Youth Day from 29th July to the 11th August. Unfortunately, Zoe Barbery our other candidate is unable to participate, details of which I will keep to myself. For Zoe Hamilton, she will have an opportunity to speak at our Sunday 9:30am Mass on May 7th about her hopes for this experience. Please on this day stay around after Mass in our support for Zoe going to World Youth Day.

Fr Peter

REPORT BACK TO PARISHIONERS FROM OUR RECENTLY HELD PARISH FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT MEETING

. Meeting held Thursday, April 19th

. A master plan has been drafted, thank you to the great work of Danny Whyte

. The Parish owned residential house, in Archer Street next to St Mel's Kindergarten, is currently going through some clean up inside and outside, with the hope for a future new tenant

. No financial statements were presented, held over to the May meeting on the 17th

. A presentation of the draft, including the parish owned blocks and for the parish house and its future, will need be presented to the business manager of the diocese at the chancery sometime around September, once discussions have been finalised and report is final

Thank you to the committee.

Fr Peter

ROSTERS A gentle reminder if for some reason you cannot fulfill your committed ministry PLEASE organise a replacement... Rosters are for this purpose ... To let you know.....

With thanks, Fr Peter

SYNOD The Synodal process is ongoing in the background of our Church life with the gathering of Bishops in Rome in October this year. Addressing the Vatican Media this week, Perth Archbishop Timothy Costello SDB said, "A significant feature of synodality is the understanding that unity does not call for uniformity within the church." This came as the conclusion to the continental (regions) phase of the three-year Synod process. Back in February – March this year there was the region of Oceania, along with seven continental meetings during the first phase of the Synod process, after the second phase of those gatherings, the third phase will be a two-month assembly in October, Rome 2023 and 2024.

COMMENTING ON THE SECOND STAGE OF THE SYNOD PROCESS which concluded on the 31 March this year, Sr Nathalie Becquart XM CJ undersecretary for the Synod on SYNODALITY remarked 'the continental stage being concluded is one of the most innovative aspects of the synodal process, meaning local languages and cultural elements were considered as important along with geographical and other concerns from each continent. At the end of the meeting, 22 people met in Rome representing different aspects of the synod process to analyse the seven final documents in view of formulating the Instrumentum Laboris, the working document for the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the synod taking place in October. There will be more on this in due course.

Fr Peter

SANDHURST SCRIPTURE TALKS 2023 Acts of the Apostles: Making Decisions with the Holy Spirit Join Dr Rosemary Canavan and Rev. Dr Brian Boyle a on a journey through Luke's "Acts of the Apostles" focusing on the elucidation of the Holy Spirit in the birth of the Church and the activity of the Holy Spirit in the process of discernment in the Council of Jerusalem. "Its emphasis on discernment, prayerful reflection and indeed synodality makes Acts a topical and enjoying work for study and reflection." (Fr Brian Boyle)

Online via Zoom 7.00 p.m. Tuesday 9, 16 and 23 May. These Talks are free, but you must register to attend.

These talks are eligible for maintaining accreditation for teachers in Catholic Schools.

Go to our website, or look on the notice board for more details.

APOSTOLATE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTIONS Friday 5th May – First Friday devotions in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at St Kilian's Church, Bendigo with Adoration from 11am with Confession Available and Mass at 12:10pm.
Saturday 6th May – First Saturday Devotions in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at St Augustine's, Myers Flat, beginning with Adoration at 8:15am with Confession available, Mass at 9:15am and Rosary at 9:45am.
May is traditionally dedicated to honoring Mary as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

Please find a link to the latest e-News: <https://mailchi.mp/cce19a89a81f/sandpiper-e-news-from-the-diocese-of-sandhurst-13543564?e=8595a3cb91>



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READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY MAY 7TH 2023

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom.

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

The Word of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week
May 1st to May 7th 2023

- Monday May 1st - No Mass
- Tuesday May 2nd - 9:15 am
- Wednesday May 3rd - 9:15am
- Thursday May 4th - 9:15am
- Friday May 5th - 9:15am
- Saturday May 6th - 9am
- Sunday May 7th - 9:30am & 5pm



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER
Sunday, May 7th 2023

- 9:30am - Denis Muto (Commentator) Denis Muto (L1)
 Jacqui Avard (L2)
- 9:30am - Special Ministers: Trish Mathisen & Gita Kelleher
- 5:00pm - Dom Poppa (Commentator) Rosemarene (Youth) (L1)
 Dom Poppa (L2)
- 5:00pm - Special Ministers: Angie Knez & Cathy Cannatelli

Recently Deceased: Eileen Dolan

Anniversaries: Leo Walsh, Vincenzo Campi, Jim McManus, Vincenzo Martino, Vincenzo Cardillo