



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.

## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

25 June 2023

Readings for  
this week:



Jeremiah 20:10-13  
Romans 5:12-15  
Matthew 10:26-33

Readings for  
next Sunday:



2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16  
Romans 6:3-4,8-11  
Matthew 10:37-42



### Liturgical Jottings

#### Letter to the Romans (1)

From the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Ordinary Time, we read, this year, St Paul's Letter to the Romans. The Apostle writes to the Christians in Rome to expound his preaching, in broad outline, hence, the tone of the letter which has a more rigorous structure than his other letters. One of the core ideas of Paul's doctrine regards the salvation of all humankind through God's grace, granted to those who believe in Jesus Christ. None of us can boast of our own righteous-ness, not even that coming from the Law. There is only one true righteousness which comes from God and is received through faith.

Paul had not yet visited Rome. He did not know the city's Christian community. Besides, he had a rule not to meddle where others had preached the gospel (Rom 5:20). As a result, his letter does not deal with the concrete questions that might have faced the community.

*(Days of the Lord Vol 4)*

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### Looking at the Readings

The demands of discipleship can be very difficult. The strength that is needed to continue on the chosen path despite its hardships can come only from God. We live in a world that desperately needs to hear the call to conversion, but it is a world that is subject to the death that entered it through the sin of Adam. Those who answer the call of God may have to face the hostility of this world, because their values and their commitment to righteousness threaten its moorings. To commit oneself to the reign of God is to challenge the reign of the world, and this can make one very unpopular. In the midst of this suffering we can find strength in the promises of God, and we believe that God is faithful to these promises.

Only half of today's picture is bleak. The other half is radiant with hope. Paul assures us that the gracious gift that God offers us is far greater than the transgressions brought on by sin. This gracious gift is Jesus Christ himself. The gift exceeds anything for which we might have hoped. He is the comfort that will carry us through our disappointments. He is the strength that will enable us to endure the misunderstanding and hardship that come with discipleship. We are called to acknowledge him before the world, and we are promised that if we do, he will acknowledge us before God. There is light even in the midst of darkness. There is hope even in the midst of suffering. © Dianne Bergant CSA

### Prayer for the Day

True and faithful God, you give courage to the fearful and endurance to martyrs. Sustain us as followers of your Son Jesus, that with boldness and conviction we may acknowledge him before the world We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### Feast of Sts Peter & Paul, Apostles (29 June)

There is one day for the passion of two apostles. But these two also were as one; although they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, Paul followed. We are celebrating a feast day, consecrated for us by the blood of the apostles. Let us love their faith, their lives, their labours, their sufferings, their confession of faith, their preaching. Sermon by Saint Augustine.

### On the Lighter Side

When Paul went to Rome, he preached and taught many but did he print jokes in the Parish Bulletin? From the Roman Archives: "Scholasticus volens videre an decore dormiret, clausis oculis speculum intuebatur." The student, wanting to see if he slept soundly, looked into the mirror with his eyes closed.

*St Mel's Parish Is...*

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

## REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

Today's Gospel has Jesus instructing them not to be fearful as to the mission entrusted to them. In part this involves them not being worthless, for the Word has been entrusted to them to be bold because of Jesus' trust of them. Ours is a time where in today's feeling for the Church to see people who are bold enough and to have courage in offering the Good News in places we might fear to tread.

In offering this reflection I am mindful of the nature of one word called SYNODALITY. It's a word coming out of the Second Vatican Council where invitation was given to the universal Church of listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit and where this needs urgent hearing in our time and place. As I have previously mentioned a Synod of the world's Catholic Bishops are meeting in Rome this coming October. Where 3 words around Synodality are occupying our thoughts.... COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION and MISSION. I will try and break down these words for your consideration....

**COMMUNION**.... A word vital to our being sisters and brothers in union with each other. Being companions on the journey as we sometimes have sung about. This word Communion is about our togetherness.

. A question to ponder: 'What helps our being Catholic people who can take within us ways of including others? or meeting one we don't know?

**PARTICIPATION**.... A word seeking our discernment. Finding a balance with one's faith and shared responsibility from Baptism.

. A question to ponder: What new methods can you see to encourage a new sense for change in being a relevant community in living the Good News?

**MISSION**.... A word expressing our common calling in making Jesus' Good News being heard in the situation of our identity as people in St. Mel's community of faith.

. A question to ponder: In what ways could you and ourselves dialogue and collaborate in our political landscape, civil society, with the poor and disadvantaged?

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**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR THIS MONTH OF JUNE** A universal intention – for the abolition of torture. We pray the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensure the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS** On behalf of our Parish, may both our school communities of St Mel's Primary and St Anne's College, enjoy a safe and well earned school holiday break.



**ST MEL'S PARISH FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Meet this Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the gathering room.

Fr Peter

**HAPPY HOUR** Our next happy hour here at the PARISH HOUSE in the gathering room is scheduled for Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup> from 5pm. Come along, bring another you know who might be interested.

Fr Peter



**INDIGENOUS VOICE WEBSITE** At the heart of the upcoming Referendum is recognition of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples, the world's oldest continuing culture, in the Australian Constitution. As Catholics, we have a responsibility to listen to the voices of First Australians and to work towards a more just and equitable society. NATSICC & Caritas Australia have launched [www.indigenousvoicechurch](http://www.indigenousvoicechurch) - a hub for Catholic support of the Voice to Parliament which empowers Catholics to make an informed decision at the Referendum. The site contains a collation of statements from Bishops, including our own Bishop Shane, Religious Orders and agencies including St Vincent de Paul, Sisters of St Joseph, Jesuit Social Services, Catholic Social Services Australia, Catholic Religious Australia, Caritas Australia, Brigidine Community, National Catholic Education Commission, Marist Schools Australia. Additionally, there are resources to assist in discernment particularly [CSTs for the Journey](#) National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) is the peak advisory body to the Australian Catholic Bishops.

**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.**

## **GREATER SHEPPARTON WINTER NIGHT SHELTER (GSWNS)**

*"Give us this day our daily bread" Matt: 6-11*

A more consistent number of people are coming for a hot meal down by the Lake. Each one appreciates the safe space and hot meal. Our grateful thanks to our volunteers for food and/or coming in person. There is a need for warm blankets and socks should you have some to spare. Please contact Maree McKenna on 0409 956 464.



## **SHEPPARTON SOUTH CONFERENCE OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**



St Mel's members joined with others across the Goulburn Valley last Sunday at Mooroopna for their regional Mass and luncheon afterwards. It's encouraging to see so many who involve themselves across our parishes in this region. I encourage our generous ways here at St Mel's to be mindful of the great works our conference here involves themselves with.

Fr. Peter

The following St Mel's Parishioners received St Vincent de Paul Long Service Awards at last weekend's Festival Mass;

15 years - Frank Purcell and Diane Hands

10 years - Pauline Pettigrew, Peter Pettigrew, Margaret Purcell and Cathie Barbetti

5 years - Margaret Thorne, David Sellwood, Maureen Tanner and Les Fitzgerald

Congratulations and thank you to you all!



## **ST ANTHONY'S DAY COLLECTION**

Thank you for the generosity from our parishioners and visitors over the long weekend and during the week as we celebrated St Anthony of Padua. \$1,068.65 was contributed to our Parish. Our finance and management committee will discuss how best to use these funds. Any suggestions are welcomed to be emailed to the parish office for consideration. [sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

## **MAGI PILGRIMAGES**

Trace the journey of Jesus from the land of his birth to the way he carried his cross and gave the eternal sacrifice in this 12-day Holy Land pilgrimage to Jordan & Israel led by Fr Thomas Areekuzhy MCBS. This pilgrimage features places from the Old & New Testament and includes Petra, Mt Nebo, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem for an all-inclusive offer of \$6,590 AUD. The fare includes Airfare + Local Transfers in Deluxe Coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + English speaking professional guides. Departure from Melbourne on 15 October 2023. For inquiries & bookings call 1300 721 561 or email us [info@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:info@magiholidays.com.au)

## **PTSD AWARENESS DAY 2023 - JUNE 27**

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is the most common mental health disorder after depression. Anyone can be affected by trauma, either physically or emotionally. The problems that arise after trauma can be complex and impair our wellbeing. People need help moving beyond those harrowing events. Help and support take many forms, but recovery and renewal are always possible. When people recognise the signs of PTSD, they are ready to take that first step towards better mental health. Mary Pianta. Disability Contact Coordinator.

## **AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED**

One of the major works of *Aid to the Church in Need* is providing transport to priests, sisters, and catechists to reach the faithful, who are often at great distances and must go through difficult terrain. In 2022, ACN provided 1,253 pastoral vehicles. This included 564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks for the pastoral work of the Church – particularly in Latin America and Africa. Can you help us supply transport to priests and religious again in 2023? Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/transport](http://www.aidtochurch.org/transport) or scan the QR code to make an offering and learn more.



## **REMINDER - UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURE**

The St Mel's Parish office will be closed on Friday, June 30th. We ask that you please have any bulletin notices/information into the office by Wednesday, June 28th 2pm. Thank you.



