



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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter Sunday

22 May 2022

Readings for
this week:



Acts 15:1-2,22-29

Apocalypse 21:10-14,22-23

John 14:23-29

Readings for
next Sunday:



Acts 1:1-11

Hebrews 9:24-28,10:19-23

Luke 24:46-53



Liturgical Jottings 6th & 7th Sundays of Easter

A rare and curious rubric in our Lectionary states: "When the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the seventh Sunday of Easter, the second readings and the Gospels assigned to the seventh Sunday may be read on the sixth Sunday" Vol 1 pg 527. In many countries, including Australia, the Solemnity of Ascension is moved from the 40th day of Easter to the nearest Sunday, which was previously celebrated here as the seventh Sunday of Easter, with its own set of readings and prayers. By omitting them from our liturgical cycle we miss the opportunity to hear those readings. Therefore we have the opportunity to move them from time to time to the previous Sunday.

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Looking at the Readings

The Gospel continues with the Farewell Discourse of Christ. There are many strings to the wide bow: Love, Word, Peace, going to the Father, sending the Holy Spirit, the Advocate are all mentioned as instruction for and promises of things to come.

While his farewell discourse covers five chapters, Jesus knew he could not cover everything, nor could the disciples take it all in at this critical and emotional time. To equip the apostles and the new Christian people, Jesus gives them the tools and means: peace, his word, his spirit, now articulated as the Holy Spirit with the added title the advocate or paraclete depending on the English rendering of the Greek: "*parakletos*".

Paraclete has a legal sense of one who stands with the accused to aid the defence, to support and even comfort the accused. He is one of good character and respected standing in the society. More than a legal advocate the Holy Spirit is personally but not physically present to enable the mission of Jesus to flourish in the emerging church.

The development of the theology of the Trinity will come later, but the work of the Spirit will guide this development and teaching. Jesus has given us what we need, we are to cooperate and respond to his word and promptings.

Feast of Our Lady, Help of Christians

Mary Help of Christians has been the patroness of Australia since the Australian Plenary Council (Synod) of 1844. Her feast day is 24 May. Pope Pius VII introduced the feast day to the calendar in 1814. The first church in Australia was dedicated to Mary in 1821. The first elections in Australia were held in 1843. The issues of the day were land, immigration, education and social problems. This year we are encouraged to ask her intercession for Australia for health, economy and security in time of pandemic and to help the suffering Christians and all people in Ukraine.

Prayer for the Day

Almighty God, bring the kingdom of Christ, your anointed one, to its fullness. May the perfect offering of your Son, eternal priest of the new Jerusalem, be offered in every place to your name and make all nations a holy people for you. Amen

Quote of the Week

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

Albert Einstein

On the Lighter Side

Red sky at night: shepherd's delight, red sky in the morning: shepherd's warning.
Minced lamb, potato, onion and carrot: shepherd's pie.



St Mel's Parish Is...

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

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

There is one principle theme emerging this Sunday, this being LAUDATO SI Sunday meaning "Praise Be to you". While next Sunday is WORLD COMMUNICATIONS Sunday. Being Laudato Si Sunday enables God's communication with us through the earth and its natural resources. Pope Francis is bringing World Day of Communications before us for next Sunday sees this through an active LISTENING. This word is one we have been hearing much about in relation to the Plenary Council in our capacities of listening to the voice of the Spirit of all God is asking of the Church in Australia. Good listening says Pope Francis is one where true listening is from the heart, a gift needing continual nurturing.

Jesus' words through the Gospel relate a peace being left with us. A peace being given. Such an invitation of acceptance brings new presence of peace a good word of God communicating with us and through the gifts of creation. In our time peace as a word is something really being craved for. The ancient word for peace is shalom. This word gets to a truer understanding of peace. For it flows from one's loving union with God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Our Church cycle is moving towards the event of The Ascension celebrated next Sunday into a week given to Christian Unity to the birth of the Church in Pentecost.

We have much to consider in deepening awareness of our identity in faith in anticipating the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. As a Church community this Sunday we give LAUDATO SI our attention with the earth our common home and through the hopes we carry in being an EarthCare parish. Along with the world of COMMUNICATIONS in lifegiving ways of communication in a world full of technology and its variety of networks.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY is next Sunday, May 29th. Pope Francis' message this year focuses on the importance of 'Listening with the ear of the heart'. For more on this you access www.catholic.org.au/wcd



PLENARY COUNCIL PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.
O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council. Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road. Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth. Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying. Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen.

*Our Lady Help of Christians,
pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop,
pray for us.*



LAUDATO SI WEEK is being celebrated throughout Australia this week, **16 -24th May**. It is a time where each of us take up the invitation of Pope Francis in his desire for a world in connection with the natural forms of the environment.



A MESSAGE FROM AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED AUSTRALIA:

ACN has launched its "Helping form the Priests of Tomorrow " global campaign. For 75 years, the benefactors of *Aid to the Church in Need* have generously supported the formation of seminarians. In fact, some of these men now serve as priests in Australia today! At the current time, ACN is supporting some 15,000 seminarians on the path to the priesthood.

Please read and reflect on their stories and discern to help us, spiritually and financially, to form the priests of tomorrow. These young men never cease to pray for the benefactors who assisted them on their journey. Thank you in advance for whatever you can do.

Visit www.aidtochurch.org/seminariansglobal



ST MEL'S WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

Jesus said: "I was homeless and you gave me shelter". (Matt 25: 36)

It is time for the Winter Night Shelter to begin: 1 week to go. St Mel's Parish is again partnering with South Shepparton Community Church to provide shelter, warmth, food and companionship each Friday this June,



July and August. There are several ways to offer support: 1. Pray for

God's blessing on this important community work. 2. Offer to go on a shift: 5.30pm-10pm, 10pm-7am, 7am-9am.

Contact Melanie Domaschencz on 0417 217 213 or email: melaniedomaschencz@bigpond.com. 3. Contribute financially or with donations of food. Contact Maree McKenna on 0409 956 464. Thank you. (Sr Pam)

We pray to hear what Jesus is saying to us and to follow where he leads in the weeks ahead.

A FAREWELL TO MRS DEBBIE ELLIOTT will take place on Sunday June 5th where a presentation and gift will be presented to Debbie during the 9:30am Mass. After this Mass a morning tea will be provided to offer Debbie our thanks and gratitude for the past years of her support, here in the Parish Office, through pastoral support and other means of support for our Parish.



MASS ATTENDANCE COUNTS continue on Sundays here at St. Mel's, for the 22nd and 29th of May along with the 5th of June, we need to count each person in attendance at all Masses. The purpose of the counts is to gather an estimated number of people attending Mass throughout the Diocese, in person and online. An important consideration with the counts, is to enable pastoral planning and the workloads of the Priests in the Diocese.

PAY WAY (Tap and Go) is now available at St Mel's Christ the King Church. Parishes are providing this facility for people in their financial contribution to the Parish. You will see the Quest machine on the shelf before the east door into the Church from the narthex. Simply follow the prompts.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK This past week has been dedicated to celebrating and recognising the vital work of volunteers and to say **THANK YOU**. We appreciate the many members of our Parish community who share with us their time and skills.



A PARISH SOCIAL EVENT was discussed at our recently held Parish Pastoral Council meeting, and it was decided as a Parish having a gathering would be invaluable considering the disruptions over the past years. Given the patronage of our Church is Christ the King, the last Sunday of the Church year is given in the spirit of Christ the King. So where to from here... Sunday November 20th is the date. A luncheon celebrating the diversity of culture here at St. Mel's is the nature of the event. Getting some to meet with me, will be important. NO one person can do this alone! I'll be calling for a meeting in a couple of weeks to plan. One thought would be having a variety of food styles. Having raffles etc. Any thoughts welcomed.

Fr Peter

OUR LADY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS Mary, our national patroness. This title of Mary is one we seek in this time of our living as Australian people. May the patronage of Mary, through help of Christians, unite us all. Mass will be celebrated here at St Mel's Christ the King Church, this Tuesday, May 24th, at 9:15am.



ST MEL'S PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM Our candidates are continuing their preparation through the Steps in Faith program, the week concluding their Confirmation sessions at home with their parents and families. Please take time to view their profiles in the narthex and the Church and make them feel welcome. The Sacramental Masses are scheduled for Saturday, June 18th at 4:30pm (group one), and Sunday, June 19th at 11:30am (group two) and 2:30pm (group three).

Group one; Amelia Papallo, Ariana Tassoni, Cooper Paine, Joel Nicholson, Emily Flynn, Zara Ley, Ashton Ley, Daniella Meola and Izabella Meola. *Group two;* Alessio Natalizio, Lachlan Miller, Harry Campbell, Niall McCarroll, Natalie Pennisi, Kyla Walker and Abbey Damianopoulos. *Group three;* Hayley Austen, Kristine Mott, Jett Clarke, Luca Care', Lance Agustin, Braden Walsh and Imogen Walsh.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY 29th MAY 2022

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm - God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

In other words, brothers, through the blood of Jesus we have the right to enter the sanctuary, by a new way which he has opened for us, a living opening through the curtain, that is to say, his body. And we have the supreme high priest over all the house of God. So as we go in, let us be sincere in heart and filled with faith, our minds sprinkled and free from any trace of bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us keep firm in the hope we profess, because the one who made the promise is faithful.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

While blessing them, he was taken to heaven.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

The Gospel of the Lord

Weekday Masses this coming week 23rd May to 29th May 2022

Monday 23rd May - No Mass

11:00am funeral Mass of Denis Loverso

Tuesday 24th May - 9:15am

Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians

11:00am funeral Mass of Mick Rendina

Wednesday 25th May - 9:15am

Thursday 26th May - 9:15am

Friday 27th May - 9:15am

Saturday 28th May - 9:00am

Sunday 29th May - 9:30am & 5:00pm



READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER

Sunday 29th May 2022

9:30am - Denis Muto (Commentator) Sev Cortese (L1)
Sr Pam Barlow (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Pauline Pettigrew &
Maree McKenna

5:00pm - Tim Kelly (Commentator) Dom Poppa (Lector)

5:00pm - Special Ministers: Cathy Cannatelli & Angie Knez

Recently deceased: Mary Franze, Ido 'Denis' Loverso,
Michella 'Mick' Rendina

Anniversaries: Susan Weir, Francis Murdoch, Ong Eng Pia,
Vincenzo Martino, Anunziata Cardillo, Antonio Mossuto,
Bruno & Rosina Care'