



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.

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9 July 2023

Readings for  
this week:



Zechariah 9:9-10  
Romans 8:9,11-13  
Matthew 11:25-30

Readings for  
next Sunday:



Isaiah 55:10-11  
Romans 8:18-23  
Matthew 13:1-23



### Liturgical Jottings Grace before Meals

In the gospel we have five examples of Jesus praying a blessing before meals. "Christians, whether alone or with companions at table, say grace before and after meals to thank God for his goodness in providing their daily food. This practice is also a reminder that the Lord Jesus combined the sacrament of the Eucharist with the ritual of a family meal and showed himself to his disciples as their risen Lord in the breaking of the bread. As they gather at table and see in the food they share a sign of God's blessings on them, Christians should be mindful of the poor, who lack even the bare minimum of food that those at table may have in abundance. By their moderation they will therefore try to provide help for the hungry and as a sign of Christ's love will on occasion invite the poor to their own table, in keeping with the words of Christ recorded in the Gospel (Luke 14:13-14)." Book of Blessings, nn 1030-31

This book gives four plans and within them seasonal variants for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

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### Looking at the Gospel

The readings for today engage us in a reflection on the nature of the Trinity, as well as the ways that we are enriched by each of the divine Persons. The gospel acknowledges the sovereignty of God. This is followed immediately by mention of the handing over of all things to Jesus, making him a kind of vice-regent of God. Paul speaks of the Spirit, clearly a divine reality, but different from Jesus and the one called God. According to Paul, this Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus and the Spirit of God, implying that somehow both Jesus and God claim the Spirit. It is this Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, and it is this same Spirit who dwells in Christians.

The grace of this Triune God touches our lives in some ways that are tangible and other ways that demand faith. The most tangible manifestation of God is Jesus himself. God has been revealed to us through this Jesus. While Jesus was a tangible person, our accepting of him as the manifestation of God requires faith, and this faith is no easier today than it was at the time of Jesus himself.

The overriding disposition of these readings is humility. Jesus, the human manifestation of the divine, is meek and humble, and the true disciple is called to be humble. A second disposition is placed before us – grateful praise. In the psalm we praise and bless God; we extol God's holy name. In Jesus we have known the tender touch of God, and we are grateful.

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### Did You Know?

In the ancient Middle East, leaders rode horses into war, but rode donkeys in peace. Solomon rode a donkey on the day he was recognized as the new king of Israel (1 Kings 1:33). Other instances of leaders riding donkeys are in Judges 5:10; 10:4; 12:14; and 2 Samuel 16:2. A donkey in Zechariah 9:9 fits the description of a king who would be "righteous and having salvation, humble." Rather than riding to conquer, this king would enter in peace.

### Saint of the Week: St Benedict, 11 July

He was a founder of monks for whom he wrote set of rules to guide the communal life of monasteries. The Rule of St Benedict has much to say: it lifts our eyes up to the stars but keeps our feet firmly on the ground; it calls us to perfection but keeps us sane. He died 547

### On the Lighter Side

There are many forms of Grace before Meals from scripture, classical literature, traditional prayer books, free and spontaneous praying. Some are set to music, some rhyme and a few are humorous; e.g. "Lord, bless this bunch as they munch their lunch." Websites abound with all varieties.

St Mel's Parish Is...

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

## **REFLECTION FROM FR PETER**

Often through the gospels are stories and situations of people coming to terms with their own needs and personal desires for Jesus' attention. Taking Jesus at his word, sees the Church's mission in "revealing the mysteries of the Kingdom". Further from this where announcement to the world of Jesus' yoke being easy and his burden being light. This by no means is what everybody hears. In a working document for the upcoming Synod in Rome (October) concludes that the Church needs a fresh new language, in some people's thoughts .... A new language in Liturgy .... Most of us will say hooray to this!!, in proclamation of the Word (inclusive language), preaching, in media sources.

Our use of language in these times is so vital in making the Church's rites more inclusive and welcoming. I will be the first to admit as a leader in our liturgical rites current language is challenging, Firstly, in making language clear and intentional, secondly, in my consciousness of who I am leading in prayer. How I use words as a celebrant given all we have presently is indeed challenging. This is a burden many are carrying today in making our prayers intelligible.

Away from this we are called into a new way of being 'Church'. The word we are hearing much about is SYNODALITY. One writer's reflection on this says ... Synodality is a spirit rather than a principle. For there is desire here of seeing relationships thrive in faith and for processes giving a direction of clearer listening to the voice of the Spirit in our time.

Jesus encourages a childlikeness in hearing. Not meaning we have to be children like rather keeping a more simple and humble approach to hearing and living out his word today.

**SEA SUNDAY – 9 JULY 2023** Today is Sea Sunday, when the church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we rely on for daily living. Even during a pandemic, seafarers continue to bring into our ports products that sustain our population and economy. The Appeal today is for Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. To assist this Catholic ministry, please send your donations to: <https://stellamarisaustralia.org/sea-sunday-appeal/>



**POPE FRANCIS' INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF JULY** We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

Pope Francis recently in communication spoke of our Australian Saint, Mary of the Cross MacKillop as, "An extraordinary religious sister". While focusing on her dedication to the poor, to formation and education. This was in the context of zeal for evangelization by focusing on St Mary MacKillop, founder of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Australia's first saint.

**SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION** The Season of Creation is approaching. The Season of Creation is celebrated from September 1, World Day of Prayer for Creation, until October 4, Feast of St Francis of Assisi. The International Committee has launched this year's the theme *Let Justice and Peace Flow* with reference to the prophet Amos crying out, "*But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!*" (Amos 5: 24)

Pope Francis has released his Statement for the World Day of Prayer for Creation

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2023/documents/20230513-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

Sandhurst Diocese will launch the Season of Creation 2023 with Mass at 11am, celebrated by Bishop Shane, at Notley Picnic Area in the Whipstick Forest, Greater Bendigo National Park, followed by a BYO Picnic Lunch. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to come along and celebrate this occasion. (Venue is 16 minutes from the Chancery)

**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)

*"I was naked and you clothed me" Matt: 25.6.*

A number of blankets, jumpers and socks have been donated for the men who come to us at the Lake. Thank you to everyone who provided those items, as well as to those providing hot, tasty meals and other goodies. This rain will make life difficult for the men. If you can help, please contact Maree McKenna - 0409 956 464. Thank you.



## ANNUAL COLLECTION TO SUPPORT THE COMMITMENTS OF POPE FRANCIS

Commonly referred in the past as 'Peter's Pence'. Parishes are asked to support the Pope's ministry and powerful witness in the world. Our Diocese has commitments throughout the year in support of appeals directly to Rome. At the end of July our Parish will send a contribution through to the Chancery as will all Parishes in support of this. More to come.  
Fr Peter

**FROM CATH NEWS** THE CATHOLIC and RUSSIAN ORTHODOX Churches it was said should join efforts to promote peace before threats of a "major global armed conflict." This came by way of the head of the Russian Orthodox Church speaking with Pope Francis' envoy on a peace mission to Moscow. Patriarch Kirill leader of the Russian Orthodox Church related this difficult time as opportunity for the Churches of the East and West engaging in a time of reconciliation. The Pope's delegate mentioned a desire to do what the Lord is asking...

**NEW SCHOOL TERM** On behalf of our Parish... Welcome back to our school communities for this term three of the school year. We seek God's blessings on all this term brings to the lives of our students, teachers and families... A happy 3<sup>rd</sup> term to all.  
Fr Peter

**FR PETER'S ANNUAL LEAVE** Usually taken in October, this year will be a little different. Fr Peter will be on annual leave from Monday, July 31st through to Friday September 1st. During his leave we will welcome again Fr Paul Sireh OC arm, who will celebrate Mass with us on Saturday mornings at 9am, and Sunday at both 9:30am and 5pm. St Brendan's will assist us with other matters if need. Thank you to all who will support our Parish during this time to allow Fr Peter to take time for some R&R.

**PRIEST INSERVICE 2023** The annual event this year will be held in Moama from Monday evening, September 4th to Thursday morning, September 7th. Fr Peter will be attending and absent from the office during this time.

**PLEDGE STATEMENTS 2022 - 2023** These are now available for you to collect from the Narthex. If your details have changed, address, phone number etc., please call or email the office. Thank you.

**MAJELLAN LADIES GATHERING** It was a lovely get together on Wednesday, July 5th as the Shepparton and Numurkah Majellan Ladies enjoyed catching up and a lunch in the 'Poolroom' at Lifestyle, although there were NO bathers to be seen!!!

The ladies had not all been together for many years, due to the pandemic and local floods. Some friends who couldn't make the event were missed. Jenny Curtis (nee Law) brought along her Cloak from her Children of Mary days at St Mel's, taught by Miss Eileen Dolan, and Fr Michael Grace entertained us with his jokes and antics, with good sports Mary Gilberto, Gita Kelleher and Maria Hartel. Fr Peter Taylor also joined us and enjoyed meeting everyone, he was heard announcing, "Majellan will go on forever!!!"

Thank you to all those involved in making this an occasion to remember.  
Lorraine Corish – President



## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY JULY 16TH 2023

### **First Reading** A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The rain makes the earth fruitful.*

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

**The Word of the Lord**

**Responsorial Psalm - The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.**

### **Second Reading** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

**The Word of the Lord**

### ST MEL'S PARISH PRAYER

God our Father, Bless our Parish so that we may love you more.

Encircle our Families with your loving care.

Help parents to be good examples to their children and our youth to grow in strength as good Christians.

To the sick, grant health. To the aged, bring serenity and to those in sorrow, joy.

May we grow stronger in faith and may our love for one another become deeper in our daily living. Amen.

## **ST. MEL'S PARISH WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS**

### CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

If your organisation would like to join our corporate sponsors, please email the office: [sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au)

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### Weekday Masses this coming week July 10th to July 16th 2023

Monday July 10th - No Mass  
Tuesday July 11th - 9:15am  
Wednesday July 12th - 9:15am  
Thursday July 13th - 9:15am  
Friday July 14th - 9:15am  
Saturday July 15th - 9am  
Sunday July 16th - 9:30am & 5pm



### READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER Sunday, July 16th 2023

9:30am - Sev Cortese (Commentator) Zoe Hamilton (L1)  
Melissa Hamilton (L2 )  
9:30am - Special Ministers: Jacqui Avard & Sarah Maloney  
5:00pm - Tim Kelly (Commentator) Rosemarene (L1)  
Dom Poppa (L2)  
5:00pm - Special Ministers: Maureen Matthews & Rosana Legalo

**Anniversaries:** Francesco Conte, Domenico Conte, Antonetta Cartere