



Christ the King Church

# ST MEL'S PARISH

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

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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.

## Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

22 November 2020

Readings for  
this week:



Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17  
1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28  
Matthew 25:31-46

Readings for  
next Sunday:



Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1,3-8  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:33-37



### Liturgical Jottings

#### The Liturgical Year II

As we recall this week as the end of the liturgical year, the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts another perspective on it. 'The Liturgical Year: Beginning with the Easter Triduum as its source of light, the new age of the Resurrection fills the whole liturgical year with its brilliance. Gradually, on either side of this source, the year is trans-figured by the liturgy. It really is a "year of the Lord's favour." The economy of salvation is at work within the framework of time, but since its fulfilment in the Passover of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the culmination of history is anticipated "as a foretaste," and the kingdom of God enters into our time.' CCC1168

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### Looking at the Gospel

The Last Judgement (Matt 25:31-46) is read in its entirety this Sunday, depicting Christ at his second (final) coming as King and Judge. The scene, being quite descriptive, has been the subject of many paintings, each artist giving their own interpretation. The most well known is a fresco by Michelangelo painted on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel. 1536-1541. Other artists include Hieronymus Bosch, 1482, Fra Angelico 1425-30 and Wassily Kandinsky 1912. Christ is depicted as High Judge. Our earliest image of this parable is from the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo at Ravenna Italy of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, in it Christ is depicted as a shepherd.

Shepherd-King has been an enduring title for both OT kings and Christ himself. The metaphor of shepherd is very rich in the gospels. The shepherd cares for his flock, knows each by name, feeds and protects them. Certainly Jesus kingdom is not of this world (John 18, Year B) and he welcomes the repentant sinner into his kingdom (Luke 23:42-43, Year C) We are invited to be inheritors of his Kingdom (Matt 25:35 and 5:3, 5:10) and kingdom of justice, love and peace (Today's Preface).

### Quote of the Week

It is not by muscle, speed, or physical dexterity that great things are achieved, but by reflection, force of character, and right judgment.  
*Marcus Tullius Cicero*

### Pope Francis' Encyclical on Fraternity and Friendship

As I was writing this letter, the Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly erupted, exposing our false securities. Aside from the different ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident. For all our hyper-connectivity, we witnessed a fragmentation that made it more difficult to resolve problems that affect us all. Anyone who thinks that the only lesson to be learned was the need to improve what we were already doing, or to refine existing systems and regulations, is denying reality. It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. (7&8)

### On the Lighter Side



A man's car broke down. While he was peering under the bonnet a large ewe trotted up to the fence and said "Probably the ignition gone wrong," The man, startled, ran down the road, met the grazier and told him what had happened. "Was it a big ewe with a red ear tag?" asked the farmer. "Yes, I think so," said the man. "Oh, don't listen to her," said the farmer. "She doesn't know anything about cars."

*St Mel's Parish is*

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

## **REFLECTION - From Fr Peter**

Like reaching the mountaintop summit, the gospel reading for Christ the King is a pinnacle of Jesus' teachings in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus' promise is carried through in the hungry, thirsty, those without clothing, the imprisoned, the stranger. There is a call for the humanity of life lived in the Church is about responding, sometimes with the poor and the marginalized in our community. Failure to see these (as mentioned) really lets down the very fibre of our Catholic life lived in a spirit of social justice.

It's quite a bold undertaking to identify with Christ. The Gospel's have two principle accounts Jesus offers from his kingdom. The sermon on the mount, and the Beatitudes is not for the faint hearted with a human spirit of self-sacrifice, genuine love for one who is on the fringes and one's personal service, are central to the identity we assume as Christians.

The Gospel reading expresses a VISION and MISSION for us in our Church life today.

How then do we live the principles Jesus brings: A practical way is by asking ourselves how do we experience God's shepherding care? Over the course of this year, what ways have you seen yourself on side of God's mercy?

Coming to this last Sunday of the Church year amid the experiences of COVID – 19, with lockdowns, restrictions, perhaps asks more than we could have imagined at the beginning of the year. Hopefully we have kept a resolve to be “back in Church, into a “new normal, post COVID - 19”. With the commencing of Advent next weekend, we could be in a situation with increased numbers being able to attend a Sunday Mass. However way we come to the end of this Church year we do knowing we have had opportunities to bring a deeper reflection to our faith and where belonging to our Parish has taken us into uncharted territory given the prolonged absences from regular Church participation.

I thank you for your resolve, your understanding, your patience in managing faith and life in a vastly different manner, I look forward to the day when ... we are back together in a worshipping setting!!!!!! Fr Peter

**Responsorial Psalm : “The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want”.**

**CHURCH NUMBERS**... Some bright news!!! From November 23 numbers will increase to 100 people present at Mass. Thinking ahead towards Christmas ... I am anticipating there will be 4 Christmas Masses here at St Mel's. This will comprise 2 Christmas Vigil Masses at 6.30pm and 9.00pm, Christmas Day at 8am and 10am. By offering four Masses gives plenty of opportunity to choose a Mass for your choice. More about this later. Fr. Peter

**COVID – CHURCH PRACTICE**. We really need to be vigilant about the requirements we are called upon to adhere to. As you know by going to places of hospitality there are requirements as to which door to exit and to enter. Cleaning post Church gatherings are important. At Christmas time for example after each Mass eg the 6.30pm will need cleaning before the 9.00pm Mass. Same as for Christmas Day. We need to be understanding of the practices we have to follow. Once numbers increase I will be needing people to help co- ordinate ways of helping people in and out of Church.

With thanks, Fr Peter

### **Weekday Masses 23rd Nov to 29th Nov 2020**

Monday 23rd Nov - NO MASS

Tuesday 24th Nov - NO MASS

Wednesday 25th Nov - 9.15am

Thursday 26th Nov - 9.15am

Friday 27th Nov - 9.15am

**Sunday 29th Nov - 9.30am (live stream & 20 People)**

**Sunday 29th Nov - 5.00pm - 20 People**



**The Parish Office remains closed.** Please phone the office if you need to leave a message and we will get back to you. Fr Peter is available for calls or urgent visitation on 0409 521 039

**PLEASE KNOW** - If you intend coming to a **SUNDAY MASS** or other major liturgical celebrations, you need to make bookings through myself or the Parish Office. Mask needs to be worn and hand sanitiser needs to be used IN APPRECIATION .... FR. PETER

**Recently Deceased:** Peter Bertoli, Antonio (Tony) Cassise and Doreen Pozzobon.

**Anniversaries:** Bruno & Rosina Caré, Four Tuttala, Famiglia Ciampone, Giuseppe Primerano, Bill McCarthy, Cosimo & Claudio Aloï.

