



Christ the King Church

# ST MEL'S PARISH

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

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 3pm

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.

**Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Sunday 23 February 2020**

Readings for this Sunday  
Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18  
1 Corinthians 3:16-23  
Matthew 5:38-48

Readings for next week:  
Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11



## Liturgical Jottings

### Shrove Tuesday

The day before or eve of Ash Wednesday is called variously Shrove Tuesday, pancake Tuesday or Fat Tuesday (from the French *Mardi Gras*). Originally it was the day that Christians confessed their sins, then did their penance during Lent and received absolution in Holy Week.

The season of Lent is the most appropriate time for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance. We hear the call to "*Turn away from sin and believe the Good News.*" It is therefore fitting to have several penitential celebrations during Lent, so that all the faithful may have an opportunity to be reconciled with God and their neighbour and so be able to celebrate the paschal mystery in the Easter Triduum with renewed hearts.

*Rite of Penance 1975, para 13*

## Focus on the Gospel

The Law of Talion, found in Leviticus 24:17-20, decreed "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," was written to limit retaliation to the same degree as the offence and therefore not exact more. It seemed a just way at the time. In our ears it seems harsh and vengeful. Our Lord, in the final section of Chapter Five on the Sermon on the Mount he suggests a complete turn around: "offer no resistance", do not retaliate but offer extra goodness and kindness. Indeed kindness and generosity, in Christian experience, unarms the enemy and opens the way restoration.

Therefore the Old Testament reading that accompanies today's Gospel is not the Law of Talion, quoted above but rather the first reading is from an earlier passage from the same book. It is the second half of the Law of Christ. The first half is: "Love God with all you heart ..." (Deut 6:5) and then Jesus added the quote from Leviticus 19:18 "You must love your neighbour as yourself." And he added further in today's Gospel passage: "You must love your enemies, and pray for them."

In the liturgical reading of these texts and the celebration of the Eucharist we must become what we are, the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Spirit. Our gestures of kindness, mercy and peace bring forth the Kingdom of God and convert individuals and communities to the way of Christ.

## Pope Francis on the Word of God

Nehemiah, who was the governor [of Israel after the Babylonian Exile], and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep'. For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength'" (Neh 8:8-10). These words contain a great teaching. The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, .... It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words. It cannot be restricted to select groups. It cannot be that way. The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people.

## On the Lighter Side:

A Priests asked his congregation "Hands up anyone who has no enemies!" One elderly man raised his hand and said: "I'm 98 and all my enemies, everyone one of them, are dead!"

2020 Diocese of Sandhurst

*St Mel's Parish Is...*

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

**Recently Deceased:** Bridget Patricia Kennedy (Pat)

**Anniversaries:** Giuseppe Primerano, Giuseppe Iaria, Vincenzo Campi, Narcisa Silverio Abaya, Anthony Tassone, Marie Barwick, Gerald Beard.



**Prayers for the sick:** Vic Apostle, Graeme, Andre, Margaret Cranko, Carmel Walsh, Joseph Yandall.

**MASSES THIS WEEK: Feb 24th - March 1st**

Mon 24th - **No Mass**

Tues 25th - 9.15 am

Wed 26th - 9.15am Mass

Thurs 27th - 9.15am Mass

Fri 28th - **No Mass**

Sat 29th - 9.00am

Sun 1st March - 9.30am & 5.00pm



**PARISH ACTIVITIES / MINISTRIES**

**WEEKLY:** Bingo Every Wednesday.

Italian Rosary Every Tuesday.

Mediation Group-Every Monday  
7.30pm to 8.30pm

**MONTHLY:** Liturgy Team Meeting

PPC Meeting

St Vincent de Paul 1st & 3rd Wed

Majellan Club

Finance Council

Bereavement/Funeral Team

**BAPTISMS:** Every FIRST Sunday of the Month at  
9.30am Mass

**BAPTISMAL PREPARATIONS:** Third Tuesday of  
the month at 7.30pm.

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturday after the 9am Mass.

**WEDDINGS:** Couples must make yourselves known  
to the Parish Priest at least 6 months before booking  
the Church.

**Blessed Virgin Mary** - Every FIRST Saturday of  
the month 9.30am - Holy Rosary & Novena.

**SPECIAL BLESSINGS:**

**First Sunday:** Baptisms

**Second Sunday:** Birthday Celebrations

**Third Sunday:** Wedding Anniversaries

**Fourth Sunday:** Children & their families,  
Mothers / Parents expecting a child.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TODAY !!!**

*FR PETER'S BIRTHDAY.*

We wish Fr Peter a very Happy Birthday and all the very  
best for the coming year. *Congratulations and Enjoy  
your day.*



**REFLECTION FROM FR PETER**

**PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY**

Where parts of our country have been devastated by  
bushfire over recent weeks, and where for many of these  
communities severely affected and now begin the  
arduous task of restoring their lives and properties ,we  
find ourselves drawn to **PROJECT COMPASSION**.  
We are asked to begin a new season of our faith and  
living as we see solidarity with one another and for many  
needing their moment of compassion.

Solidarity is an engaging word. Recently the Catholic  
Bishops of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands  
took up appeals for those affected by the bushfires.  
Caritas Australia, have received messages of support  
from Caritas Bangladesh – a country not immune to  
disaster and tragedy. Project Compassion Sunday still  
asks something from us as we begin Lent this week.  
The hope of Caritas and their appeal through Project  
Compassion does raise our awareness to many who are  
coming to terms with loss, and recovery.

The late Mother Teresa said ... “Not all of us can do  
great things. But we can do small things with great love”.  
Many ‘small things’ by many people can bring great  
change!

We turn our thoughts to this Sunday through the readings  
presented. Jesus goes beyond the law of retaliation of an  
eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. The way of  
discipleship goes beyond legitimate retaliation and offers  
a significant development. Then a further twist in the  
next injunction Jesus issues. This is about praying  
for one’s persecutors rather than to hate them. It’s  
identifying a theme of Lent. Where we give a thought to  
those we find hard to love and support.

Jesus’ way is for revenge to be moved aside. To see the  
neighbour is in itself to be on side with positive intention.  
Given the times we live and where to exact revenge is a  
way out for some, our Christian motivation is to see  
renewed moments for living with faith and purpose to  
human situations we find challenging.

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS**

With Project Compassion firmly in our minds and hearts,  
we see our giving sustaining those who benefit from  
our generosity.

Our personal commitment to our Parish is one carrying  
us along pathways of goodness and where life is  
supported.

## **LENT 2020**

The season of Lent commences this **WEDNESDAY 26th February.**



We have time to bring a focus on how best we each undertake this season, important to our faith and identity as Catholic People.

Our **PROJECT COMPASSION** offers thoughts around Lent and how best to promote Lent. Today Sunday February 23rd is given as **PROJECT COMPASSION SUNDAY.**

This year's Project Compassion focuses our awareness on ...**GO FURTHER TOGETHER.**

This theme helps in our solidarity as a people and our common shared journey in faith.

**The following liturgy times for Ash Wednesday will be:-**

**9.15am Mass, 12.00pm Mass** with our School Communities of St Mel's and St Anne's with blessings of ashes here at St Mel's Church and at these Masses, Project Compassion boxes and envelopes will be distributed and the **6pm Mass.**

### **PARISH MEETINGS THIS WEEK**

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT** - This ministry is one supporting so many in times of grief and loss. Our first gathering of this year is THIS Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am in the gathering room.

**LITURGY MEETING** - Some of our members have been going through difficult moments recently. To help us see our way towards Lent and Easter, a gathering for the group will be on THIS Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm in the gathering room.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** - Our next gathering of the PPC will be held on Wednesday 11th March at 7.00pm.

**GOULBURN VALLEY DEANERY** - Meets at Tatura this Thursday at 10.00am.

**ROSTERS** - It is important our ministries are being responded to and where the personal commitment is valued and appreciated. I am experiencing some difficulties where people are unable to carry out their ministries. Can I plead with you if you are unable to carry out your roles within our Sunday Masses can you either seek a replacement or if you wish a change to let the office know. With thanks Fr Peter.

### **ST AUGUSTINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

Invite parishioners of St Mel's to the 2020 World Day of Prayer (prepared by the women of Zimbabwe) Friday 6th March at 10.00am. *Everyone Welcome*  
**More information on flyers in the church foyer.**

### **Readers & Commentators 1st March 2020**

9.30 am Mass - Chris Carroll, Chris Summers, Xavier Tanner

5.00pm Mass - Dom Poppa & Paul Bertoli

**Counters for 1st March** - K Bush, D Hands, C Barbetti

**COMPASSIONATE LEAVE** - I mentioned last week the personal need to have some 'downtime' considering all I have been through these past months. From Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March I will be away. The Saturday morning Mass for 29<sup>th</sup> February and weekend Masses on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> I have Priests organized for these Masses.  
Thankyou for your understanding. Fr Peter

**CHRISTIAN INITIATION** - Is important to our Church and making newcomers feel welcomed. Some have spoken with me about this and the possibility in offering a program for people inquiring about becoming members of our St Mel's Church community. In August this year I am proposing to have some information nights on a Sunday evening around 7pm here in the Parish House. **The dates are Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of August.** I am hoping to have some of you to offer a presence to this. If you are interested in being a part of this program (very much different to RCIA) I would welcome your support. I am proposing a formation program for those who express interest in being part of our community of faith to start late in the year with a view of initiation at Easter in 2021. Fr Peter

**SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB** -At the Terminus Hotel, Shepparton on Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7.30 – 9pm (meals from 6.00pm optional). Come and Meet our new Bishop and join the conversation as Bishop Shane Mackinlay shares his thoughts on Where are we? Where are we heading? In Sandhurst? In the Church? Then you have an opportunity to share yours! More info on fliers at the back of the church. Enquiries: Kerry 0408 579904 Frank 5821 4362 Fran 5829 0301

### **WINTER NIGHT SHELTER/ STABLE ONE**

Would you like to help? Representatives from 12 local Churches gathered at a meeting in Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre last Wednesday night. The goal is to be up and running by June. Brenda Keenan has been appointed as Coordinator. For more info about this model please visit the website: <https://stableone.org/winternightshelter> and view the video clip. The next meeting is to be announced. You are invited to learn more about Stable One - an initiative of combined Churches of Shepparton, Mooroopna to provide shelter overnight and support the homeless people in this area during winter.

### **WOMEN'S GROUP**

A new Women's Group, based at St Brendan's Parish in Shepparton, met this week to discuss ideas and expectations of this group. The main focus was fellowship with other women and to flourish with friendship, prayer and faith filled activities. We will meet again on Friday 20th March at 7pm (for 7.15 start) in Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre (directly behind St Brendan's church, 121 Knight Street). For more information please contact Bozena on 0426 867647.



## **READINGS FOR SUNDAY - 23rd FEBRUARY**

First Reading - Leviticus 19:1-2. 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*You must love your neighbour, as yourself.*

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.

*The Word of The Lord*

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.*

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

*The Word of The Lord*

Gospel - Matthew 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Love your enemies.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## **MASS TIMES IN NEIGHBOURING PARISHES**

**St Brendan's** - Saturday Vigil 6.00pm and Sunday 8.00am & 11.00am / Sunday Syro Malabar Rite - 5.30pm

Weekday Mass Times - Tuesday to Friday at 9.15am

Thursday at Ave Maria Village at 4.30pm

**St Mary's, Mooroopna** - Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 10.00am

**St Mary's, Dookie** - Sunday 9.30am 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays

**St Bernard's, Katandra West** - Sunday 9.30am 2nd Sunday

