



Christ the King Church

# ST MEL'S PARISH

**"BE STILL AND KNOW 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.

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

26 March 2023

Readings for this week:



Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:1-45

Readings for next Sunday:



Isaiah 50:4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66



### Liturgical Jottings Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday begins Holy Week which embraces the last days of Lent (until Thursday) and the Easter Triduum. The Sacrament of Penance is an excellent way to conclude the penitential season of Lent. It is best celebrated before Holy Thursday evening so that, with heart and mind renewed, all may focus on the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. "Let the paschal fast be kept sacred. Let it be observed everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, pro-longed throughout Holy Saturday, as a way of coming to the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection with uplifted and welcoming heart." (Constitution on the Liturgy # 110).

### St Lazarus Feast day

was inserted into the General Roman Calendar in 2021 with St Martha and Mary, 29 July. He is revered as a saint by Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans, Lutherans and Muslims.

### Looking at the Readings

The first reading from the Prophet Ezekiel is the last three verses of the passage of "The Valley of Dry Bones". The prophet is in exile with the people of Israel in Babylon. His words are both condemnatory because of their sins and consoling and encouraging for the forgiveness and the restoration coming from God through their liberation from captivity. Today's reading fits well with the Gospel passage and the character of these Sundays in which the Church accompanies the Catechumens towards baptism at Easter.

The raising of Lazarus from the tomb recalls Ezekiel's prophecy, anticipates Christ's resurrection for the tomb and prepares the Catechumens and all Christians for the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection from the dead. This miracle of Jesus is the last of the seven signs in John's Book of signs (John 1:19 to 12:50) before the account of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. The passage is full of emotion and expectation, dangers and doubts, and faith, hope and love. It is our confrontation of our fears and hopes, but moreover our preparation for the celebration of the "Resurrection and the Life".

### Pope Francis' Letter "Desiderio Desideravi"

The salvific power of the sacrifice of Jesus, his every word, his every gesture, glance, and feeling reaches us through the celebration of the sacraments. I am Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man possessed by demons at Capernaum, the paralytic in the house of Peter, the sinful woman pardoned, the woman afflicted by haemorrhages, the daughter of Jairus, the blind man of Jericho, Zacchaeus, Lazarus, the thief and Peter both pardoned. The Lord Jesus who dies no more, who lives forever with the signs of his Passion [2] continues to pardon us, to heal us, to save us with the power of the sacraments. It is the concrete way, by means of his incarnation, that he loves us. It is the way in which he satisfies his own thirst for us that he had declared from the cross. (Jn 19:28) para 11

### On the Lighter Side: A Martha & Mary Story

In the fourth century a visiting monk arrived at a monastery during recreation time. He remarked to the abbot that the monks should be at prayer. He was shown to his room and left there. Many hours later he wandered out and asked why he was not called for the evening meal. The abbot replied: "We did not want to disturb your prayer with carnal activities!"

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St Mel's Parish Is...

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

## **REFLECTION FROM FR PETER**

Our nightly television news bulletins are not what we would call optimistic, at least when it comes to humanitarian matters. This past week we had a day given over to international harmony day, a day to eliminate racial discrimination. Despite reminders of these days given, we still as people stumble in our regard for our brothers and sisters, in hurt and frustration.

At times we see the one who in our hearts comes knocking at our door. The raising of Lazarus is one in our Lenten season has Jesus showing emotion to. Jesus shows a divine sharing amid the complex emotions making up a human response to Lazarus' death, with reaction from Martha and Mary, Lazarus' sisters.

At some significant moment in our lives, we confront the reality of losing one close to us. In these moments we face the separation death causes. Jesus, through the hearts of believers, affirms one's faith by his referring to the resurrection of himself to Martha who is freed to proclaim her faith in belief of Jesus and his resurrection.

Called into a deepening of faith in Lent, we take hope from Jesus in his encounter with Lazarus to be untied from our burdens so as be freed...

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**Have a look at the notice boards today in the Narthex for upcoming events & information.**

**'GIVING THE PLANET BACK ONE HOUR'** was something coming to my attention this week. It was remarked ... millions of people in more than 180 countries have taken part recently in what is called 'EARTH HOUR'. It's a time where for a day people in households turn off their lights for one hour in support for a healthier planet. Earth Hour is not only advocating for the environment but also backing political change as having a positive influence on the planet. Aims include initiating conversations about protecting nature, as well as ensuring the health, prosperity, and survival of people across the globe. More details at: [www.earthhour.org/](http://www.earthhour.org/)



### **PALM SUNDAY HANDS UP! FOR JUSTICE FOR REFUGEES**

The annual raising awareness of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers is on Sunday 2nd April from 12.00 noon for a 12.30pm start. Join in the Gathering at the Bendigo Library Gardens. Groups will walk together from various churches, and Dudley House, View St. Bring a picnic and meet some new friends! Presentations will include items from local multi-cultural groups, a display of artwork and a short address from Bishop Shane, Catholic Bishop of Sandhurst.

Organised by Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) and local churches. For more information, contact Ken Rookes [ken@kenrookes.com.au](mailto:ken@kenrookes.com.au)

**SANDHURST DIOCESE CHRISM MASS** The Chrism Mass for 2023 will be at the Sacred Heart Cathedral on Tuesday, 4th April, at 11.00am. Parish representatives will present oils to be blessed by the Bishop for the Sacraments during the coming year. All parishioners of the Diocese are warmly invited to this very significant Mass for our Diocese. Light refreshments and beverages will be provided after the Mass on the Cathedral lawns.

Please RSVP to your Parish Office by Thursday 30th March for catering purposes. Parking around the Cathedral will be limited so please allow time to find a suitable park in the nearby streets.



**CARITAS AUSTRALIA PROJECT COMPASSION** Thank you to those who have donated to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. If you have a donation box or envelope, please place these in the collection plate at Masses on Sundays, or drop them into the office. Thank you to Marg Purcell, and the volunteers who assist her, for coordinating the submission of our Parish's donation.

**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.**

**LEADERSHIP AND COMMISSIONING MASS** This Tuesday St. Mel's welcomes our Bishop Shane Mackinlay, along with Catholic Education Office staff, Leaders, Principals, Priests, to the commissioning of new principals, and leaders in Catholic Education Sandhurst for this School year. The Mass begins at 5pm, parishioners are most welcome. Fr Peter

**COMMUNION AT HOME** Normally Communion is taken to frail/housebound Parishioners every First Friday of the month. This year, the first Friday in April falls on Good Friday. For this month only, Communion will be taken on the first Wednesday, i.e., 5<sup>th</sup> of April. Personal contact will be made closer to the date. If you know of anyone who wishes to receive this service, please contact the office.



**TITCH'S GARDENING SERVICE** Ross Titchmarsh is our gardener around the Church precinct. He is seeking someone (reasonably active) in a support role for a few hours a week. Ross can be contacted on 0418 271 633 or [rtitchmarsh@bigpond.com](mailto:rtitchmarsh@bigpond.com)

**HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES AT ST MEL'S PARISH**  
**CHRIST THE KING CHURCH**

**Parish Rite of Reconciliation - Tuesday, April 4 at 7pm**

**Holy Thursday - Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper: Thursday, April 6 at 7pm with Ministers of the Eucharist making their recommitment & the Watch to conclude at 9pm**

**Good Friday - Morning Prayer in the Church: Friday, April 7 at 9am**

**- Way of the Cross: Friday, April 7 at 9:30am**

**- The Lord's Passion: Friday, April 7 at 3pm**

**Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 8 at 7pm**

**Easter Sunday - The Resurrection of The Lord: Sunday, April 9 at 9:30am**

**(There will be NO 5PM MASS on this Sunday)**

**HOLY WEEK ROSTER** A volunteer roster has been left in the Narthex for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for our Holy Week ceremonies including Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Saturday Vigil. Please fill in the spaces you are available to assist. Thank you.

**A THOUGHT FROM POPE FRANCIS** To effectively witness to the Gospel, Christians need to be consistent in what they believe, how they live and what they preach, Pope Francis said recently. Speaking at his weekly audience, the Pope remarked... "The witness of an authentically Christian life involves a journey to holiness".

**'POPE URGES RENEWED CONSECRATION OF UKRAINE AND RUSSIA TO MARY'** Coming almost a year after he first prayed the Act of Consecration, at the annual "24 Hours for the Lord" Lenten penitential service at the Vatican on March 25, 2022. Pope Francis' initial consecration of Russia and Ukraine to Mary's Immaculate Heart was a response he said, to the war between the two countries. The Pope went onto say, "never forget the country being Ukraine which has suffered greatly".

**CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE) IN BENDIGO 2023** A Unit of CPE, which is supervised training for Pastoral & Spiritual Care, will be available in both Bendigo & Shepparton in second semester (July-November) 2023. For further information, contact Dan Murphy at [dan.murphy1949@gmail.com](mailto:dan.murphy1949@gmail.com) or on 0408 841 997. You will need to request an application form before 30th April 2023. Please see flyer in the Narthex for more information.

**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.**

## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY APRIL 2ND 2023

### First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue.

So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech.

Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away.

I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;

I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults.

So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.



### **The Word of the Lord**

**Responsorial Psalm - My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

### Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### **The Word of the Lord**

## CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP



St Mel's Parish is seeking sponsors for our Sunday bulletin. The sponsor's logo will be displayed each week in the bulletin, on the back page, through to the end of the year.

The cost will be \$500 for the entire year. 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)

### Weekday Masses this coming week March 27th to April 2nd 2023

Monday March 27th - No Mass

Tuesday March 28th - 11am

**Funeral Mass for Felice Bevilacqua**

Wednesday March 29th - 9:15am

Thursday March 30th - 9:15am

Friday March 31st - No Mass

Saturday April 1st - 9:00am

Sunday April 2nd - 9:30am & 5:00pm

### READERS/COMMENTATOR/SPECIAL MINISTER

Sunday, April 2nd 2023

9:30am - Denis Muto (Commentator) Mary Calandro (L1)

Sev Cortese (L2)

9:30am - Special Ministers: Gita Kelleher & Lucy Ciancio

5:00pm - Paul Bertoli (Commentator) Paul Bertoli (Lector)

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

**Recently deceased:** Rosario Pennisi, Thomas Fitzgerald, Felice Bevilacqua

**Anniversaries:** Carmela & Brunina Gallace, Antonio & Cosimo Gallace, Vincenzo Campi, Terry Brasher, Teresa Conte, Rocky Iaria, Vincenzo Martino, Annunziata Cardillo, Antonino Iaria, Cecilia Iaria, Michael Francavilla, Donald Chilcott, Michael Smith, Jean Smith, Frank Tassone, Mazzarena Tassone, John Hewitt