

We all are, in some way, the citizens of two kingdoms: citizens of the political territory where we belong and citizens in God's Kingdom. As Jesus says, they both require certain loyalties from us.

We all depend to a large extent on our civil government. In modern times very few people can supply their own water, electricity, telephone system. There are many other services which only a civil authority can provide, such as education, hospitals, roads, welfare services for the unemployed, the handicapped, the elderly...

It is obvious that if these services are to continue and even be improved they require the cooperation and support of the community at large. We do this for the most part through paying taxes. Taxes are not just a necessary evil. In a just administration they are our contribution to making the services we take for granted available. In a just tax system, too, we help to spread more evenly the wealth of the community so that each one has access to what they need for a life of human dignity.

There are many other ways, too, in which we can give our support to raising the quality of life in the community. All of this can be seen as "giving to Caesar what belongs to Caesar". One, unfortunately, does meet people whose only interest is in seeing what they can get out of the community for themselves and their immediate family with no intention of ever giving anything back.

But we are also citizens of God's Kingdom. For much of the time, there is no conflict between "Caesar" and God but not always. We do sometimes, from the standpoint of the Gospel, have to criticise our government's actions or non-actions. Sometimes we have to refuse to obey our government. In South Africa's apartheid system, many Christians were forced to violate the immoral laws of their government. In the name of truth, justice and human dignity they had no option.

And we need to realise that when we really love our country and its people, then we may have to stand in strong opposition to the authorities on certain issues. Of course, the authorities will try to present such people as traitors and a threat to the stability of the country. But such people, who show they care, often have a far greater love for their country than the so-called "silent majority".

Today's Gospel makes it very clear that we have two responsibilities: to the government of our country or territory and to God. Where both are in harmony there will be no conflict. Wherever there is immoral or unjust behaviour against people's dignity and rights, then there has to be conflict. Such conflict is not always bad. On the contrary, it is because of creative conflict that our society makes progress. Provided we always act in a positive and creative way, "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15), then the flawed kingdoms that men build can, in time, become the Kingdom of God. As a famous dissident – and martyr, St Thomas More, said: "The King's good servant, but God's first."
Sacred Space

O L I V E R I A N

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

ADMINISTRATOR	Fr Michael Kong
Pastoral Associate	Marthese Temming
Parish Secretary	Tricia Lee
School Principal	Delfina Pieri

Presbytery: Landells Road, PO Box 668, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 3015
email—pascoevale@cam.org.au

School: Landells Road, PO Box 688, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 5411

LIVE STREAMED AND TELEVISED MASS FROM ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 11AM: Live Streamed and C31 Televised (Channel 44 on Digital TV)
6AM: Channel 10 - "Mass for You at Home"

MONDAY - FRIDAY 1PM : Live Streamed. (*Link below*)

SATURDAY 8.00AM: Live Streamed. (*Link below*)

<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> and
<https://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb>

Fr Michael is offering the Mass for all community members each week. If you have any special Mass offerings of personal intentions including anniversaries please don't hesitate to send an email or contact the Parish Office on 93543015.

STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS

All places of worship including churches, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services are closed with the exception of **FUNERALS**.

Funerals are limited to 10 mourners plus the minimum number required to conduct the funeral.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 17/18 OCTOBER 2020

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Response to the Psalm: Give the Lord glory and honour.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: Joan Williams

Anniversaries:

Those who are ill: John Cannon, Monica Wickerson, Joe Grech, Pasquale Buonomo, Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy, Eileen Squires, Lamberto Cruz, Vicenta Santos

Act of Spiritual Communion

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.
(St Alphonsus Liguori)

At St Oliver's parish we aim to create a child-friendly environment. Privacy: In 2001 the Commonwealth and Victorian governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, store and disclose information, including health information collected from individuals. This Parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.

LITURGY ADVENT FORMATION SESSIONS

You are invited to attend a series of Advent preparation sessions
Finding Christ in a COVID Christmas

being offered by the *Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal*.

These sessions will all be held virtually via zoom beginning Thursday 20 October 2020 and offered over four weeks. Attached to this email is a flyer with further details of the speakers, session times and registration (please note there is no charge to attend but prior registration is essential).

For more information please contact Marthese at Parish Office
9354 3015 or email Marthese.Temming@cam.org.au

The eSafety Commissioner has recently published a **free e-book resource 'Online safety for grandparents and carers'** which provides advice about online safety issues that children and young people may experience. This resource provides "key advice about online safety issues that can affect children and young people" including practical tips to help grandparents and carers to talk about these issues with children and young people and manage them. Helpful topics include: setting up devices safely; managing time online; preventing unsafe contact from strangers as well as a guide to some of the most popular sites and apps.

Grandparents and carers can order a hard copy or download
and view the resource online:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/seniors/online-safety-grandparents-carers>

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to inform you with deep sadness that Trish our long time parish secretary is retiring from her role on the 21st of October. It is very difficult to accept her resignation at this time, but I respect her decision.

We are very grateful for her enormous contribution in the parish life for last 18 years. There is no doubt that she will be dearly missed. We will organize a farewell celebration for Trish when we are allowed to gather together in the future. If you would like to send her a message, please click this link to write a note: <https://cam.kudoboard.com/boards/L6NfUOLM>

We wish her the very best for her next step.

Fr Michael Kong

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr Michael. The link:

<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registant/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&teamID=116609>

We are very grateful for your support at this challenging time.

