

WE TOUCH TODAY on a very topical, very sensitive and very painful reality of life in our time – the question of divorce. However, today's Gospel indicates that it was a controversial question in Jesus' time and in his society also.

We are hardly shocked nowadays when we hear that a couple we know have decided to divorce. There are some places where as many as half of the marriages end in the divorce courts. And the percentage among Catholics is often on a par with the rest of the population. Even where the figures are not high, they are growing nearly everywhere and are a matter of serious concern.

The problem may even be more widespread than official figures indicate. We might say that there are two kinds of divorce. First, there is the obvious case when a couple decided legally to separate and terminate their marriage permanently. However, there is another kind of 'virtual' divorce which may be almost as bad and, in some cases, even worse. This is where the husband and wife nominally remain a couple but where, in fact, their lives have become completely separate. This second kind of 'divorce' may be more common than we realise.

What is the answer to divorce? As in most sicknesses, physical or social, the best cure is surely prevention. Yet how can divorce be prevented? One important way must surely be a much better preparation for marriage. In most cases, so much time, effort and money is poured into preparing for the wedding day which lasts a matter of hours. Next to nothing may be done to prepare for the decades of living in intimate relationship together.

And then there are the children. They are the real victims. How long into their future lives will the experience of seeing their parents marriage falling apart affect their own interpersonal experiences later on? The tragedy is made even greater when divorce is seen as being the lesser pain than continuing to live in a home driven by constant conflict.

Today's Gospel says that the couple are no longer two persons but "one body". To develop that kind of two-becomes-one relationship requires a lot of work. It requires a good deal of guidance and help to make it happen. In fact, marriages don't happen; they are made.

The Church, in its wisdom, in many parts of the world insists that couples intending to get married must follow a comprehensive pre-marriage course led by experienced married people. What the Church – and society – does not do sufficiently is to follow up the couple after they are married. Marriages often run into trouble simply because there is no one around to give support and counsel when a marriage runs into a rough passage. While in our society there are expected roles for parents and relatives of young married couples, they often do not provide the kind of affective and wisdom-sharing approach that is really needed in today's pressurised living. For Catholics, however, there are in most places Marriage Encounter experiences or Cana Conferences where couples can re-affirm the marriage commitment in highly supportive environment. But Jesus is right. Divorce is not the answer.

Sacred Space

OLIVERIAN

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

PARISH PRIEST
Pastoral Associate
School Principal

Fr James Puppady
Marthese Temming
Delfina Pieri

Presbytery: 1 Landells Road, PO Box 567, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 7036 9330
email: pascoevale@cam.org.au
website: <https://stolivers.org.au/>

School: Landells Road, PO Box 667, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 5130
Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

There are no Weekend or Daily Masses or Parish Activities until COVID19 lockdown restrictions lift.

MASS TIMES

Saturday	5.00 pm (Vigil for Sunday)
Sunday	8.45 am & 10.30 am
Tue, Wed, Thurs, Fri	9.15 am
Confessions	Saturday 10 – 10.30 am <i>(In church through both side doors)</i>
Baptisms	2nd Saturday of the month (by appointment)
Marriages	By appointment with at least 6 months notice

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Monday	Christian Meditation	7 - 8 pm Parish Centre (contact Chris Rowland 0411 440 746)
Tuesday	Italian Ladies Prayer Group	10.00 am Meeting Room
	Charismatic Prayer Group	7.30 pm Church
Wednesday	Drop-In Centre	1 - 3 pm Church/Parish Centre
Thursday	St Vincent de Paul	5.30 pm Meeting Room <i>(last Thursday of the month)</i>

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>

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 2/3 OCTOBER 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Response to the Psalm: **May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Though many, we are one bread, one body, for we all partake in the one Bread and one Chalice.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: Deacon Charles English, Anna Lobosco

Anniversaries: Ivy Dowling

Those who are ill: Marie Virag, Amelie Gutierrez, Reg Whiting, Frances Tamayo, Ocean Goldsmith, Dalmiro Bellio, Kath Kath Layden, Lamberto Cruz, Monica Wickerson, Pasquale Buonomo, Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE: PASCOE VALE AND COBURG

Join the new Facebook page for Pascoe Vale and Coburg.

<https://www.facebook.com/pascoealecoburg>



At St Oliver's parish we aim to create a child-safe and 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, use, 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.



Plenary Council - First Assembly 3-10 October

Over three years ago the decision was announced to hold a Plenary Council and the People of God began preparing for this Historic moment by listening to God and by listening to one another's stories of Faith. After this time of listening and journeying the Catholic Church of Australia will gather for the first assembly of the Plenary Council from 3-10th October 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the First Assembly will be held via 'one device-one person' mode. Seventeen members will participate in this gathering called from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The Plenary Council website will provide daily livestreams of parts of the opening Plenary sessions and Masses (including the Opening Mass on Sunday 3rd October). <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/>

Plenary Council Masses and daily morning prayer booklets for full participation are available here: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/prayer/>

PRAYER OF PETITION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

A prayer used before every session of the Second Vatican Council.

Let us join in this prayer every day of the Assembly.

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware that we gather in your name. Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts.

Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for All enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favour. Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in your name may we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants, Amen.

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

<https://bit.ly/CDFpayPascoeVale>

You can also donate directly to the Presbytery Account

BSB: 083-347

ACC: 53102 0158

We are very grateful for your support at this time.