

“LOVE – AND DO WHAT YOU LIKE” is a statement attributed to the great St Augustine. He did not say simply, “Do what you like” but “LOVE, and do what you like.” The word ‘love’ changes the meaning of the statement completely. We have a similar theme in today’s Gospel. It touches on the very heart of the Christian message and indeed of all human living.

These “commands” to love God and those around us are not really commands. Love is not love unless it is free and spontaneous. What Jesus proposes are not just commands or rules but a whole approach to life and to our relationship with others.

There is only one “commandment” consisting of two inseparable parts. The key word is “love” but there are really three loves involved: love of God, love of others and love of self. Ultimately, love of God, the source of all being and life, comes first. Then comes, as a natural outcome, love for all those in whom God dwells and whom God creates. Because they are the objects of his love, they must also be the objects of mine. Lastly, there is the love of self. I also am worthy of being loved.

Most of the time, God shows his love for me through the people that enter my life. He loves me when they love me; and I am loving him when I love them.

In the end, there are not three kinds of love but only one. “Where there is love, there is God,” says the First Letter of John. All real love is a manifestation of God’s presence.

This person – this me – with all my strengths and weaknesses, this person with whom I have learnt to be perfectly comfortable, lives a life of loving and being loved. At the centre of it all is the source of all love – God.

Finally, we need to say that this love is not necessarily an emotional and romantic love. It is a love, as the First Reading indicates, which involves treating every single person with deep respect, with justice, with compassion. It reaches out even to those who behave badly or wish to harm me. It is a deep down desire that wishes that every person experience what is the very best for them. It is a way of relating to people that helps them also to become more caring and loving – of themselves, of others, and of God. As Paul tells the Thessalonians today, “You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you...and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord.” That is the core of all evangelisation. It is not just a question of “converting” people and getting them to the baptismal font as Catholics. It is rather gently to lead them so that they find the God who loves them and find God in loving those around them.

What I am to myself becomes what I am to others and vice versa. And together we all go to God as he comes to us. In love.

Sacred Space

O L I V E R I A N

ST OLIVER’S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

ADMINISTRATOR	Fr Michael Kong
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Parish Secretary	Tricia Lee
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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.

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 24/25 OCTOBER 2020

Entrance Antiphon: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength, constantly seek his face.

Response to the Psalm: I love you, Lord, my strength.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, as a fragrant offering to God.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died:

Anniversaries: Grace Marino

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.

Proclaim: The Office for Mission Renewal has produced a unique offering, which we hope may be a source of inspiration and enjoyment for families, encouraging them to come together to pray.

The [Ready, Set, Pray! Children's Liturgy of the Word @ Home](#) video series provides an engaging space for families to encounter Jesus through the Sunday gospel.

Each week, families are invited to create and gather in their own prayer space, to sing, hear the Gospel, pray and respond creatively through an activity.

This weekly resource follows the familiar Children's Liturgy of the Word format provided in many parishes – but moved to an online setting. Each weekly session runs for 15–20 minutes. It may be used by families in their homes, and also by teachers and catechists.

The series will run every Sunday until Christmas. **Just click on this link**

<https://bit.ly/ReadySetPray>

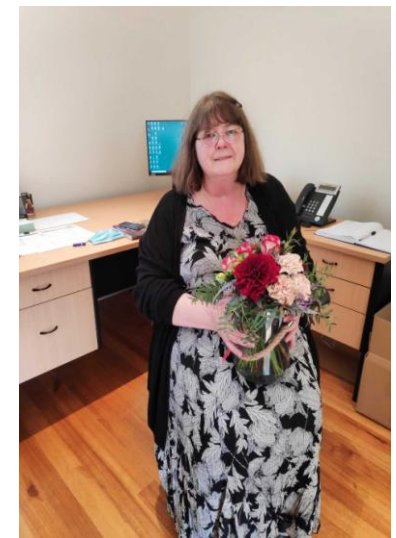
We hope this experience of gathering for prayer will encourage families at a time when they cannot gather for parish celebrations of the Eucharist.

Dear Parishioners and friends,

I wanted to let you all know that I have retired as Parish Secretary for St Oliver's. My last day was Wednesday the 21 October. This was not an easy decision but it was the right one for me. The past 18 years have been a wonderful time in my life – mainly due to all of you. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all at St Oliver's – you have become my extended family. I will miss you all dearly. If you would like to contact me in the future the parish will give you my contact details. Thank you again for your support and friendship during my time at St Oliver's.

Please continue to support Fr Michael and Marthese on their pastoral journey.

Keep in touch! Trish



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.