

and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 OCTOBER 2020

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

When faced with the question in today’s Gospel concerning which of the commandments of the law is the greatest, Jesus has no hesitation in uniting two commandments already found in the scriptures of Israel.

The command to love God with all one’s heart and soul and mind comes from Deuteronomy (6:4-5). It is a command that every Israelite is summoned to recite each morning on rising (the ‘Schema’ prayer). So the Christian tradition has inherited from Israel the truth that God is worthy of love, worship and dedication of life simply for God’s sake alone. Love is the supreme factor in the relationship that God desires to have with us.

The second command, ‘to love one’s neighbour as oneself’, occurs in Leviticus 19:18. It is ‘like’ the first because it flows from the nature of Israel’s God, who has identified so intimately with the situation of human beings. To love God with all one’s heart and soul and mind is to love those whom God loves: one’s fellow human beings, especially the vulnerable and the poor.

Down the ages there have been many interpretations as to what loving one’s neighbour as oneself might mean. Primarily it would seem to mean putting oneself—at least imaginatively—in the neighbour’s shoes and asking how I would like to be treated in their situation. Better still, perhaps, it means taking pains to find out from the neighbour what exactly their desire might be. All effective works of charity and justice begin from a similar base: from *com-passion* (‘feeling with’) in the deepest sense of that term.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

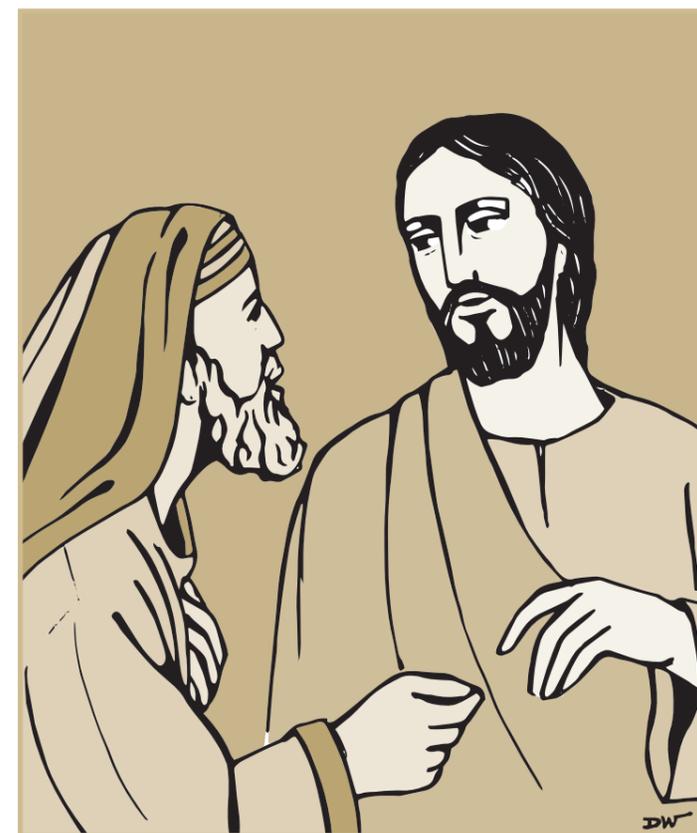
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / He has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:5-10

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

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God

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St Patrick's Parish Kilmore

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel about loving God and loving our neighbour we have surely heard many times. But this message is ever true.

There is a legend handed down from the early church about John, the beloved disciple of Jesus. Of all the 12 Apostles, only John lived to a ripe old age. In his later years, not only his body but also his eyesight and his mind began to fail him. Eventually according to the legend, John's mind had deteriorated to the point that he could speak only five words, one sentence, which he would repeat over and over. We can imagine the high regard in which the early Church must have held the last surviving Apostle of Jesus. Every Lord's Day John would be carried into the midst of the congregation that had assembled in the church at Ephesus, where John spent the last years of his life. Total silence would fall over the congregation, even though they already knew what John was going to say. Then John would speak the words. "My Children love one another" over and over, he would repeat them until he grew tired from talking, and no-one yawned, or gazed off into space. They listened to John, preaching his five words homily "My Children, love one another".

We hear the same message again Love one another. Jesus often answered people's question with one of his own. But in this case, He gives an answer. Here He responded immediately to their question by combining two commandments. "You must Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. The heart was considered as the centre of knowing and feeling, the soul as principle of life and the source of all energies, and the mind is centre of perception.

The first commandment summarizes the first four of the Ten Commandments and the second one summarizes the last six of the Ten Commandments given to Moses.

On the streets of Kolkotta, Mother Teresa noticed a slum boy of 10 years old every day standing before a shoe store, barefooted, peering through the window. Mother approached the young boy and asked why are you in such a deep thought staring in that window? The boy replied, "When I asked my mum for sandals she said ask God and I was asking God to give a pair of sandals". Then the Mother took him by the hand, went into the store. She got him a basin of water and a towel. She knelt down, washed his little feet, dried them with the towel and got him a pair of sandals. She patted him on the head and said, "no doubt, you will be more comfortable now". As she turned to go the boy held her by the hand, looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes asked her "Are you God?" Mother Teresa said "No I am only a child of God" The boy smiled and said "I knew it all the time, that you are some relation of God.

In Kolkotta there is a Shishubhaven Children's home founded by Mother Teresa. On the wall of this home hangs a sign, which reads.

Cont....

Cont.... homily.

1. If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives
DO GOOD ANYWAY
2. If you are successful you win false friends and true enemies
SUCCEED ANYWAY
3. The good you do will be forgotten tomorrow
DO GOOD ANYWAY
4. Honesty and Frankness make you vulnerable
BE HONEST AND FRANK ANYWAY
5. What you spent years building, may be destroyed overnight.
BUILD ANYWAY
6. People really need help, but may attack you if you help them.
HELP PEOPLE ANYWAY
7. Give the world the best you have and you will get kicked off.
GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE GOT ANYWAY.
8. People are unreasonable, illogical, self-centred.
LOVE THEM ANYWAY

Let me conclude, Now it's Pope Francis' appeal in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*: 'Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all.'

Fr Prakash

Weekday Mass for 10 people to take place outside the Presbytery

Tuesday 27th October: 10 am
Please phone Fr Prakash on 5782 1084 to book for weekday Masses

November Masses:

There will be outdoor Masses on All Saints Day 1st November and on All Souls Day 2nd November
Please remember to have your deceased loved ones prayed for during November Masses. You can email the Office or Phone the Office number 57821084 to add your family members onto the Lists for the November prayers. (November Offering Envelopes can be picked up at the Office.) Fr Prakash will pray for one family in each of his weekday Masses during November.

THIS WEEKEND SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER AT Our Lady of the Way Church WALLAN

DRIVE THRU CHURCH 8.45am – 9.00am No need to book, just drive into the carpark near the Wallan Church and Fr Prakash will come to the car to meet you and give you a blessing if you wish and off you drive.

Mass at 9.00-9.30 am in the open air for 15 people.

Book with Pauline Cornfoot 0404 313 535 for attendance at Wallan Mass.

THIS WEEKEND SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER AT St Patrick's Church KILMORE

DRIVE THRU CHURCH 10.15am – 10.30am No need to book, just drive into the carpark in front of Church and Fr Prakash will come to the car to meet you and give you a blessing if you wish and off you drive.

Mass at 10.30-11.00am Mass in the open air for 15 people.

Book with Pauline Cornfoot 0404 313 535 or Fr Prakash for attendance at Kilmore Mass.

MASS ONLINE:

Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne:

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/>

Available for viewing from 6 pm Saturday 24th October onwards. Click the link below to view Mass at St Patrick's Church Kilmore

<https://youtu.be/30a1QQEDwsl>

'Closed captions' (sub-titles) are available on this Mass for the hard-of-hearing. To view these please go to the bottom right of your screen and click on the box containing the letters CC.

Thanks to:

Reader: Lance Phillips

Recorders: Janette & Mick Hinchcliffe

Prakash Cutinha is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Meet and Greet with Fr Prakash

Time: Oct 27, 2020 11:00 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8921325502?pwd=VldVTVF2NWlvTUICaDRnK3dPa0x4dz09>

Meeting ID: 892 132 5502

Passcode: W7y5vF

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Email: principal@assumption.vic.edu.au

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Sick List:

Kerri Murphy (seriously ill); Kate Austin, Mick Ahearn, Shae Newey, Steven Campbell, Rene Campbell, Wendy Davie, Michael Skehan, Claudia Tabernaberi, Mary Fogarty, Eva Aschberger, Richard Lloyd, Kevin and Phyllis Skehan, Scott Birrell, Joe Annetts, Christine Children, Sue Kanidiadis, Natalie Ruiz, Juan Lagarde, Jamile Cadavid, Heliou & Helia Munoz, Olivia Jennings, Juan Savolokin, Joshua Boran, Thomas Redmond, Christine Hogan, David Martini, Eva Marti, Joseph and Michael Murphy, Susan Foster, Maryleen Allen, Charlie Hudson, Denis Jones, David Kiddy, Barry Gibo, Charlie Watson, Alicia Stevenson, Brian Harding, Taylor Doherty, Mary Rose Barrotta, Claudia Allenson, Dr Emma Vieira and all the sick of the parish.

The recently deceased: Peter McLaughlin

Remembrance:

The Anniversaries: Audrey Meier, David Camilleri, Brendan Coustley, Colin Wigney, Norm Denham, Teresa Bartolo, Josephine Schembri, Tony McDonald, John Joseph Leahy, Kevin Chard, Norah Harrington, Brian McEntree, Michael Joseph O'Connell and the anniversaries of all which occur at this time as well as all people who are in need of our prayers.

Cemetery clean-up

As many of you will be aware, we have been running two working bees a year (before Easter and late October) to clean up the cemetery.

Because of COVID the Easter one was called off and things don't look promising for an October working bee. Nevertheless, that shouldn't deter any of you visiting the cemetery at your own time over the next few weeks to do a bit of weeding, whipper-snipping, mowing etc.

Brian Clancy (Cemetery Committee)