

The Tidings

1ST NOVEMBER 2020



PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Michael Moody

PHONE: 9743 6515 **FAX:** 9747 8603

EMAIL: melton@cam.org.au

WEBSITE: pol.org.au/melton

PARISH SECRETARY: Margaret Cassar

PARISH OFFICE — 10 Unitt St Melton
(if using Google Maps—20-22 Unitt St, Melton)
Office Hours — CLOSED

POSTAL ADDRESS — PO BOX 96, Melton, 3337

CHILD SAFETY OFFICER: Liz Coustley

Child Safety Officer Phone— 0490 885 515

Child Safety Officer Email— cso.melton@gmail.com

The Parish Office reopens on Wednesday 4 November.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:

Please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH OF MELTON SERVING THE AREAS OF:

Melton, Melton West, Aintree, Boonie Brook,
Harkness, Grangefields, Kurunjang, Plumpton,
Rockbank, & Toolern Vale

MASS TIMES

St Catherine of Siena Church

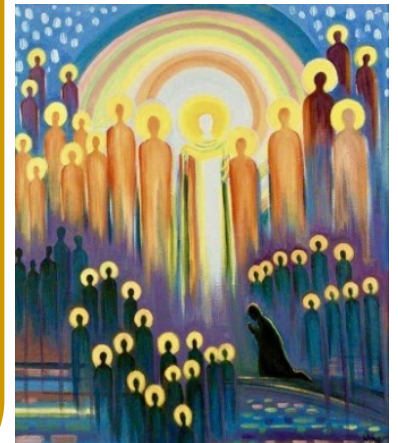
108 Bulmans Road, Melton West

All Masses have been suspended due to
the COVID-19 measures.

St Dominic's Church

Church Street, Melton

All Masses have been suspended due to
the COVID-19 measures.



A MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL

This week has seen the majority of the week working out the practicalities of opening up again. I often say that the opening up will be harder than the shutting down!

This week also saw some children at St Catherine of Siena Primary School be conferred with the sacrament of Penance. The Children took the altered format of the ceremony in their stride. It was a special event as the children were meant to receive this sacrament just as the shutdown occurred. Each child took the time to reflect and encounter Jesus Christ in this sacred way. The sacred space created by the Religious Education Leader, Caroline Madigan, the teachers and students helped bring a sense of calm and quiet reflection to the simple ceremony. We congratulate the students on taking their next step on their faith journey.

On Sunday 1 November we will be holding Communion Services from 9.30am—11.00am. The ceremonies will be similar to those we perform in hospitals. A modest service that will allow those taking part, an opportunity to receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first time in over 7 months. The ceremony will be performed in groups of 10 inside St Catherine of Siena Church and you will be invited to then light a candle and walk the stations of the cross at the conclusion of the ceremony. We ask for your patience as we go through each group.

Many have asked about returning to Mass. This week we tested *Trybooking*—an online booking system. We have taken the step to try outside Mass in the Pergola in the Presbytery garden which is adjacent to St Dominic's Church. This format allows for 20 people to attend Mass instead of 10 inside the "little Church" or at St Catherine of Siena Church. Links to the event will be placed in The Tidings, on our website & Facebook page each week. We ask that you be mindful of the number of services you attend and allow others the opportunity to join.

We have also reopened bookings for Baptisms. For those that have eagerly awaited this moment, the timetable can be found on our website and a link has been posed on our Facebook page. The day and format has changed due to the current restrictions in place. Please spread the word because I think I am behind by over 150 baptisms!

As always...stay safe and stay connected—See you at the Church.—*Fr Michael Moody*

RECENTLY DECEASED

Wullie Dean

Philip Caruana

ANNIVERSARIES:

**31st October—6th
November**

**Neil Crowley, Russell
Jardine, Erlinda Perez,
Roger Pereira,
Josephine Bugeja,
Emelita Suniga, John
Logan nr, May
McConnell, John Victor
Wilson, Hilda Alice
Callanan, Eugenia
Muscat, George
Farrugia, Fred Rosario,
Jose Snr Jeng, Eddie
Bernard, Tin Tin
Simbulan, Felix Prulan,
Aileen Lacey, Wton
Rowley, Deana
Alexandra Shakila,
Margaret & Carmello
Cutajar, Anthony &
Emanuella Abraham.**

COLUMBAN CALANDERS FOR 2021 NOW AVAILABLE

Sick of 2020? Look forward to 2021 with next year's Columban Calendar—only \$10. To obtain your copy, please call (and leave a message) or email the Parish Office.

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE MELTON 2022 INTERVIEWS

A reminder to all parents with children in Grade 5 that have applied for CRC Melton—you must see Father Michael for your interview before an offer is made. Details of the interview will be emailed to you this week for those that have yet to see him.

PARISH OFFICE RE OPENS ON WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER.

PLEASE NOTE—The Parish office will be reopen on Wednesday 4 November 2020. The Parish office hours are 9.00am—3.00pm.

Outdoor Holy Communion Available

Sunday
1st November
9.30am - 11am

St Catherine of Siena
Church
Bulmans Rd
Melton West



01

Holy Communion is available to groups of 10 at a time, on Sunday 9.30am - 11.00am at **St Catherine of Siena Church**

TEN

02

We will be at the main entrance of the Church. You will need to provide your name and telephone number as per government requirements.



03

Sanitiser will be available as you will need to wash your hands before receiving Holy Communion.



04

You are asked to receive Communion on the hand. The rite will take approximately 5 minutes and you will then be invited to walk the stations of the cross.



The Parish of Melton is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults



First Aid is located in the Lay-Sacristy. The Defibrillator is located in the foyer of St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.
Surely everyone who entertains this hope
must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Brendan Byrne SJ

The Gospel for today (Mt 5:1-12) introduces the great Sermon (Sermon on the Mount, 5:1-7:29) which is the real beginning of Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel according to Matthew. As we have noted from the start, of all four evangelists, Matthew is the one most concerned to relate the Christian community to its Jewish heritage. Central to that heritage is Israel's possession of the Law or Torah of Moses. For Matthew Jesus does not sweep away the Torah but 'brings it to fulfilment' (5:17). With an authority far in excess of that of Moses, he does this by giving it an authoritative interpretation valid for the time of the Kingdom of Heaven that he proclaims. As the Jewish community has in the Law of Moses, the Torah, that shapes its life, so the Christian community should find in the Sermon the Torah that is to shape and characterise *its* life.

For this reason it is important to note the context in which Jesus gives the Sermon. If we look back to the concluding verses of the previous chapter, we shall see that Jesus addresses his disciples in the presence of 'all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics and paralytics, ... great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan' (4:24-25). 'Seeing the crowds' (5:1a), Jesus ascends the mountain, sits down and his disciples come to him – as to a Teacher – for instruction. He is going to tell them who they must be and how they should live, not just for themselves, but for the sake of that burdened mass of humanity that is down there on the plain waiting for his – and ultimately their – ministry.

This is the essential context for the Beatitudes with which the Sermon begins (vv 2-12). The Beatitudes are not commandments bluntly instructing the disciples about how they should live. They are rather invitations to adopt certain attitudes and live out certain values in the light of a particular vision of God. Those who choose to live in this way may seem to place themselves at a disadvantage here and now in terms of values prized by the world. But, in the light of God's faithfulness, they are really placing themselves in the most advantageous and fruitful position of all. The biblical sense of 'blessed those who ...' lying behind the Beatitudes is basically that of 'Congratulations!' – the sort of thing we say to someone who has won the lottery. We are not commending them for being virtuous. We are acknowledging their good fortune and sharing their joy; we're saying, 'You're in a good place!'

Other things being equal, the attitudes and situations that Jesus here commends are not in themselves a recipe for getting on in the world. All cohere around the core idea of living in a non-competitive, non-grasping way. To be poor in spirit (as well as being actually poor); to be gentle and unselfish, rather than on the make; to be prepared to weep alongside the unfortunate rather than avoid them; to work for justice and peace; to exercise mercy and be single-minded in pursuit of the good ('pure in heart'); to be ready to endure persecution and calumny for the sake of the gospel: all these things make one vulnerable here and now, entailing much loss. But then we have to note the second clause in each beatitude, stating the reason for the 'blessedness' in each case. All those passives: 'shall be comforted', 'shall be satisfied', 'shall have mercy shown to them', and so forth, indicate, in biblical parlance, the action of God. To live in this way, according to these values, makes supreme sense if God truly is as Jesus reveals God to be. It is only in the context of faith in such a God that living according to the Beatitudes makes sense and is, in fact, the supreme wisdom. Now it may involve vulnerability and loss; in the perspective of faith and the hope for the Kingdom of Heaven that faith holds out, it is simply hard-headed commonsense. That is why those who, following Jesus, adopt this way of life, are to be 'congratulated', why they are 'Blessed'.

STEWARDSHIP: FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2020

Weekly Pledged:

\$7,753.69

Weekly Amount Given:

\$5,343.54

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