

The Tidings

19TH SEPTEMBER 2021



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Child Safety Officer Phone— 0490 885 515

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**The Parish Office is not open Weekends or
Public Holidays**

**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

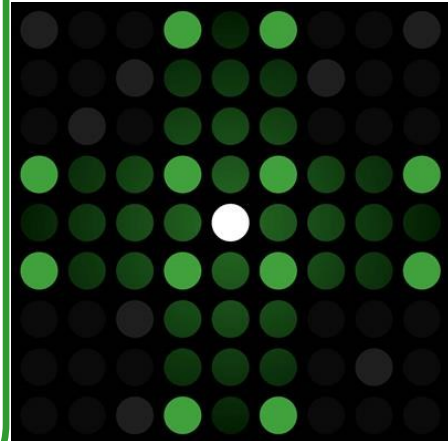
**No Mass during COVID-19
Lockdown**

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:

Please contact the Parish Office.

St Dominic's Church

**Church Street, Melton
No Mass during COVID-19
Lockdown**



MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL—

Hello!

Recently, I have been drawn to the teachings of Pope Francis. In the light of this weeks Gospel and the happenings of the week, I have reflected on his call 'to be a shepherd with the smell of sheep'. This simple yet powerful image of service and connectedness speaks to me. My interest was further roused after speaking to a farmer whose knowledge of sheep was impressive! The images he conjured in me as he spoke will probably surface in a future homily or two!

On a trip to the local supermarket, I saw some familiar faces. We were able to check up on each other's wellbeing as we shopped (I am still not sure how they recognize me in my mask!). This is a simple way we smell like sheep—we mingle, we connect and we enter into communion with each other. Listening and sharing is the way we go out into the paddock and get the smell of sheep. These small exchanges left quite an impression!

On Sunday we hope to hear from Premier Dan Andrews on the road back to joining up in person once more! This will hopefully give us some more information about what the future will be. I will keep you informed of any changes to religious ceremonies, funerals and weddings! Until then, be sure to enjoy your extra freedoms and the ability to exercise for longer and picnic!

On another note, there is another article from the Archdiocesan 'Proclaim' team. Please have a read and let me know your thoughts!

Please keep safe and join us for online Mass —*Fr Michael*

ANNIVERSARIES:

18th— 24th September

Antonia Cutajar, George Cassar, Bill Rayner, Rexle Nathaniel Obtinalla, Feda Ferraro, Peter Rashilla, Glen Rushbury, George Mercieca, Fred Bailey, Peter Cabrerros, Norman Wight, Ursula Milligan, Jessie Ball, Christopher Burge, Joe Cutajar, Terrano Rael, Sam Micallef, Ann Hevey, Benjamin Smith, Laurie Birtles, Mararia Cueno, Carmen Portelli, Maria Spiteri, Aureen Patterson, Janet Edmonston, Rose Mifsud, Olimpia Rosina Tulipano, Fred Gant, Kevin Gant, Antonia Zingale, Rita Dalli, Sam Cilia, Emmanuel Caruana, Sr Paschal Murphy, Les Scott, Evan Hoare, Rose McGuinness, Dan Lane, Kath McGuane, Carment Camilleri.

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.

REMEMBER YOU ARE ABLE TO GIVE ONLINE

<https://melbourne.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=192>

This portal allows you to make one-off or regular payments to either the **Presbytery** (this is the first collection at Mass which goes towards the running & maintenance of the Presbytery, the priest and Archdiocese of Melbourne) or the **Parish Stewardship** (this is the second collection at Mass when you place your envelopes. This offering goes towards activities within the parish, the parish staff, maintenance and the expenses for the Churches in our Parish).

When giving to the **Parish** we ask that you place your **Envelope Number & Surname in the notes field** [example - SG123SMITH]. This assists us to match your contribution to your account. **To give - simply click the quick link on the CDFPay for Parishes logo below!**

CATHOLIC REGIONAL COLLEGE MELTON YEAR 7, 2023

Applications for enrolment in Year 7, 2023 at both the CRC Melton West Melton campus and new Cobblebank campus are now overdue.

**STEWARDSHIP: FOR
THE MONTH OF JULY
2021**

Weekly Pledged:

\$8,113.96

Weekly Amount Given:

\$6,518.47



Lockdown Light Week 3

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown...

Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations below.

RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Navigating marriage and family life

Making the most of lockdown

In this blog post, local Melbourne mum of six, Kate Moriarty, shares some fun and creative ideas to help families make the most of their time together in lockdown. Read at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving3

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

Resources to help you explore the Bible

Opening up the Old Testament

Getting started: This video by Bible Snap brings you the Old Testament in 8 minutes, with a comprehensive overview of where the books and people fit in the timeline of history. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted3

Going deeper: Exodus is one of the key books of the Old Testament. Hear about the pivotal events in Exodus from a range of other Christian Biblical scholars and theological experts in this 10-minute video. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper3

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Parish missionary renewal: challenging our mindset

By Lorraine McCarthy



Why your parish photocopier is a great model for mission in your parish.

The 'Take the Way of the Gospel' process is asking us to revisit the core of who we are as a parish community. This article is intended to promote discussion and conversation and to help you and your parish team to engage in serious thought, ultimately discerning what it might mean to be a more missionary parish in your local context.

Who have we been called to be in our twenty-first-century neighbourhood? In the midst of this pandemic? When we feel weary and dispirited?

Pope Francis is challenging us to make the forming of missionary disciples our core activity as parishes.

What's your parish model?

We all have an ideal, and maybe subconscious, image of what a parish is for. Differing understandings of the purpose of a parish can lead to confusion or lack of cohesiveness within parish leadership teams and our parish community. These differences in understanding can thwart the mission of your parish to make disciples and grow. Here are six common (and slightly tongue-in-cheek) models or mindsets that can hinder your parish's mission:

1. Parish as a social club

This model sees the parish as a place to promote leisure and social activities (bingo, concerts, dinners, outings). The focus is on 'community-building'. **But:**

- Are we building Christian community?
- There is a difference between socialising and fellowship. Socialising is when we gather with people like us. When Christ is our common bond, socialising has purpose and becomes fellowship, where we are radically open and welcoming to people who may not look or think like us but who are joined to us through Christ.
- A heavy emphasis on socialising can hinder the mission of a parish by tying up energy and resources that would be better directed towards evangelising and fellowship.

2. Parish as a service station

This model sees the parish priest and staff as providers of sacramental 'services' such as baptisms, funerals and weddings, often for people with little or no church affiliation. This is seen as an important part of the provision of pastoral care, and the priest's time and the parish facilities are directed towards this. **But:**

- According to a recent International Theological Commission [report](#), there are serious questions about how fruitfully these sacraments are being received.

- The way we offer sacraments has the potential to cripple our missionary efforts when they monopolise time and parish resources that could perhaps be better directed towards more fruitful ministries.
- To be more intentionally missionary, guidelines may need to be negotiated, including asking questions about how we might best accompany those families seeking sacraments who are not currently part of the parish community.

3. Parish as a museum

In a 'museum' model, change is seen as negative, and stagnation is seen as 'stability'. There can be a fixation on the physical buildings in the parish and on maintaining things from the past. In extreme instances, parishes can end up spending the vast majority of parish finances in maintaining, insuring and running their buildings. **But:**

- As Winston Churchill said, 'We shape our buildings and then they shape us.' Are we wedded to our established way of doing things? Or are we committed to our overall mission? Are our buildings and facilities serving the mission of our parish today?
- There can sometimes be an uncomfortable tension between preserving traditions, on the one hand, and equipping disciples for the twenty-first-century context, on the other. Funds tied up in extra buildings or in buildings no longer 'fit for purpose' might be redeployed for current parish priorities and resources (staff or facility upgrades) that assist the parish in its evangelising mission.

4. Parish as a school

The 'school' model sees the parish school as the major focus of the parish's financial and missionary energy. Too often we have a Catholic school with a 'parish' attached, with parish funds and staff resources primarily used in the school. **But:**

- Jesus told us to teach the adults and bless the children. Yet traditionally in parishes, we teach the children and bless the adults!
- In a missionary parish, the evangelising and teaching priority is adults, who are intentionally led into a relationship with Jesus and are then formed into missionary disciples.
- Missionary disciples will bring their kids to the parish for formation and the sacraments.



5. Parish as a bank

In the 'bank' model, the primary focus of the parish is on debt reduction and having money in the bank. When funds are short, the first response can be to reduce staff or limit programs. **But:**

- Casting a strong vision, and giving parishioners something to aim for, frequently results in strong 'buy-in'.
- The question should not be 'How much did we save?' but rather 'Who was saved?' Disciples are made through relationships, but people and programs are needed to enable this.
- When you make disciples, you have more committed members who give more money, so you can hire more staff to make more disciples, and so on. Aim to spend almost every cent.

6. Parish as soup kitchen

The 'soup kitchen' model sees the primary purpose of the parish as providing services to parishioners and the local community by serving the poor and working for social justice. The 'parishioner' is seen as someone in need of care and support, which the priest and parish staff or volunteers provide. **But:**

- Pope Francis reminds us that justice and charity must not lose their link to the Gospel: 'the worst discrimination which the poor suffer is the lack of spiritual care ... Our preferential option for the poor must mainly translate into a privileged and preferential religious care' (*Evangeliium Gaudium*, 2013, §200).
- A missionary parish primarily uses its resources to focus on forming competent apostles, who are sent out to bring Christ to the world through acts of love, charity and mercy.

We can find ourselves working out of a 'therapeutic' model of pastoral care, in which parishioners are viewed as coming to us in need of services and care, and in which we see our purpose as priests and leaders as pastorally caring for people. They come to us and we help them.

Rather, what a missionary parish does is form competent apostles who are equipped and ready to meet the challenges that face them in the world. Each of our parishioners is called by God and has a special role to play—a unique mission to accomplish. Our role as pastors is to form and equip our parishioners so that they are effective witnesses of God's love in their workplaces, their local community and the world.

What, then, is a useful model for a parish which prioritises the making of missionary disciples?

The parish as photocopier: a model of evangelisation, discipling and missioning

The parish photocopier can serve as an illustration of what a missionary parish looks like.

Paper trays

Evangelisation (kerygma): drawing people in

Everything we do as a parish needs to be an 'in-tray' feeding people into the heart of the parish ('photocopier'), which is relationship with Jesus. There are different in-trays for different people.

- Parish social events intentionally build trust and introduce people to our community's life.
- An Alpha course or another kerygmatic process proclaims the good news of Jesus and invites people into a close and personal relationship with him.
- Sacramental programs invite parents to meet Jesus and then draw their children into the life of the Church.

Imprinting the image

Discipling: baptising, teaching, forming

- People receive the imprint of Jesus on their hearts, through baptism and the reception of the sacraments.
- Lives are changed and transformed as formation in the parish results in an ever-deepening discipling.

Printed document

Mission: sending out

- People are 'sent out' from the parish to the world.
- Parishioners bear the imprint of Jesus, who is an indelible and integral part of who they now are. Their whole lives bear witness to his love.

Characteristics of a missionary parish

Our parishes can be like jammed photocopiers, drawing people in but then jamming them inside the machine. Such a 'jammed' parish fails to send properly equipped missionary disciples out into the world. Instead, the missionary parish:

- is united in how it understands its mission and its communal identity as focussed on making disciples
- has a culture that expects, nurtures and sustains the ongoing work of conversion in individuals
- transmits the faith through an intentional and systematic offering of pre-evangelisation, kerygma and catechesis, thus creating a clear and simple path for individuals to become missionary disciples
- clearly communicates this discipleship pathway, and the community understands that it has priority—all other experiences of the parish flow from this path or flow to it.

It is indeed possible to become a more missionary parish! Parishes have seen this pandemic as an opportunity to dream about a more intentional missionary focus. Let's not put a box around our expectations of what we think God can do in this time. Instead, may we catch Pope Francis' dream 'for a "missionary option", that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world' (*Evangeliium Gaudium*, 2013, §27).

This article is a summary of the 'Models of parish which hinder your mission' workshop, and is designed to provoke discussion in parish teams. The ideas in this article are taken from a talk given by Fr James Mallon.

The Proclaim team is available to facilitate this workshop (remotely) with your parish team. Contact Lorraine on 0402 217 123 or at lorraine.mccarthy@cam.org.au.

