

26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: YEAR A

The Tidings

27TH SEPTEMBER 2020



PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Michael Moody

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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— cs.o.melton@gmail.com

The Parish Office is not open during lockdown.

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

“When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves” - Viktor Frankl (Man’s Search for Meaning)

Greetings once again... This week I have spent time reflecting on the above quote while watching the COVID-19 numbers move up and down. It feels a little like watching the stock exchange, wondering what will be the outcome of the next announcement from the Premier. Much has changed since my last trip out of Melton in February! Then I battled traffic and struggled to find parking in the City. Now the roads are clearer as many ‘telecommute’ from their home. I cannot tell you when I was last at the petrol station (5kms is not that far). I give thanks daily to Dr John O’Sullivan, Dr Terry Percival, Diet Ostry, Graham Daniels and John Deane for inventing WIFI because without it I could not attend the various zoom meetings I have been to or connect with parish families and staff in the manner I do presently. The change required in myself, has at times been a challenge that has required me to ‘dig deep’, to think and pray and discern. But as I say frequently “We will one day be telling stories of this time”.

The progress for the new high school in Cobblebank is taking shape. The bones of project are starting to come together. The heart, lungs and other organs will soon begin to form. The team are meeting regularly, creating and reviewing each new plan that is being developed.

With Christmas fast approaching we are cultivating some ideas on the many ways we can celebrate even with the likelihood of restrictions. We will need to see what level of restrictions are in place to finally decide on the planned approach for making this Christmas as special and prayerful as that of Christmases past.

For now I leave you with another quote, this time from Pope Francis— “Prayer gives us nobility; it is able to protect one’s relationship with God, who is the true companion along humanity’s journey, amidst thousands of hardships in life, good or bad, but always with prayer,” . As always...stay safe and stay connected—See you at ‘Cuppa After Mass’ — *Fr Michael Moody*

ANNIVERSARIES:

**26th September—
2nd October**

**Marianna Diliberto,
Donald Sutterland,
Leocadia Abrenica, Leslie
Butler, RS Irving, Rose
Sarmiento, Ann
McKeown, Chris Said,
Emanuel Zarb, Emanuel
Calleja, Peter Calleja,
Toni Calleja, Patricia
Dean, Dulce Corason
Caanan, Domenico
Morabito, Gerry Gomez,
Krystyna Drozd, Athony
Gatt, Corazon
Menalabag, Robert
Patterson, Robert Hoare,
Sr Catherine Quilligan,
Colleen O’Meara, Joseph
Glowacki, Phyllis Woods,
Paul Cara, Sonny Parnis,
Dominic Santa Maria,
Melville Callanan, Don
Tallent, Pricila Rodriguez,
Vin Gerber, Melville
Callanan,
Daniela DiSante,
Sigmund Hoenig Snr.**

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.

PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED DURING LOCKDOWN.

PLEASE NOTE—The Parish office will be closed during the Stage 4 lockdown period. The office will reopen when restrictions are lifted. If you wish to contact the office please do so by email—melton@cam.org.au

OCTOBER—HOLY ROSARY MONTH

October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. We will be celebrating on our Facebook page during October. Please remember to like our page—www.facebook.com/catholicparishmelton.



GIVING TO THE MELTON PARISH



CDFPay for Parishes

Give online through the new payment portal. You can select a one-off payment or regular payment to either the Presbytery (1st collection) and/or the Parish (2nd Collection). The link is on our website.



Direct Debit

Email the Parish Office or visit our website [pol.org.au/melton] to obtain the form.



Credit Card

Email the Parish Office or visit our website [pol.org.au/melton] to obtain the form.



Envelopes

Place your weekly envelopes in the No Contact drop off box at the Parish Office.



Having trouble or want to change the way you give?

If you have any questions or are having any issues, please contact the parish office on (03) 9743 6515 or email us at melton@cam.org.au

Contact us!

Web | www.pol.org.au/melton
Email | melton@cam.org.au
Phone | (03) 9743 6515

STEWARDSHIP: FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2020

Weekly Pledged:

\$7,679.84

Weekly Amount Given:

\$4,331.23

A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

MY JESUS, I believe that You are present in this 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 I unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen



JOIN US ON SUNDAY
AT 10.30AM FOR...

Cuppa After Mass

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THIS WEEK'S READINGS

First reading

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm

((R.)) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

MELTON PARISH

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catholicparishmelton

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Brendan Byrne SJ

At first glance, not perhaps the most promising readings this week! Even the usual link between the reading from the Old Testament and the Gospel is not all that easy to find. What the readings do seem to have in common is the theme of personal responsibility for salvation. While salvation is from beginning to end the product of divine grace, we are free to say 'Yes' and 'No' to God's invitation. God wants us to share eternal life as friends drawn by love, rather than puppets pulled by strings. And – the readings today suggest – God is prepared to take from us a lot of 'No's' in the hope that finally our freedom to say 'Yes' will prevail.

The **First Reading**, from Ezekiel 18:25-28, actually sets this direction, even if, seen out of context as it is here, it seems to take us into a rather grim world. Preachers would in fact be advised to read the whole of Ezekiel chapter 18 to see what the prophet is trying to say. He is vigorously challenging the notion that people are punished for the wrongdoing of their parents – an idea that Jesus himself had to refute in his day (see John 9:2-3). Ezekiel is making two points of capital significance in the development of biblical faith. The first is that of individual responsibility: no one is punished or deprived of life for wrongdoing they did not themselves commit. The second has to do with conversion: conversion from an evil pattern of life turns a person's destiny completely towards the positive outcome that God – far from wanting to punish – longs to bring about.

Of course, even this more attractive message needs careful handling. Bad things happen to good people – creating a problem that other writers in the Old Testament, notably the author of Job, felt obliged to address. When evil befalls a person, it is always foolish to conclude that they are being punished; suffering is the lot of virtuous and evil alike.

Without removing the mystery of suffering in people's lives, the New Testament takes the issue of salvation to a transcendent level: one's personal decision and pattern of life can affect whether one comes to share or miss out on eternal life with God.

The brief parable that makes up most of the **Gospel**, Matthew 21:28-32, can be understood on various levels. In Jesus' own context it probably served to defend his practice, shocking to the religious authorities, of celebrating the discovery of God's mercy with those considered outcasts and sinners. In respect to such people, Jesus' fidelity to the will of his Father involves his acting *inclusively* rather than exclusively. At a deeper level, the parable powerfully makes the point that what God looks to – and can wait with infinite patience for – is the final outcome in people's lives. God can put up with an initial 'No' and a lot of other 'No's' besides on the way to a final and lasting 'Yes'. On the other hand, people who appear religious and obedient from the start may never have sufficiently plumbed the depth of God's mercy to know God as God really is. Conversion at depth gives the capacity to say 'Yes' with an abundance of freedom that overflows into a pattern of life truly reflective of God's grace. A judgmental attitude towards others may indicate lack of true conversion and real knowledge of God: something that may keep such people waiting at the door, while those they have thought far less worthy enter before them.

What will ultimately determine fitness for eternal life is conformity of the human heart to the heart of God. None of us could ever amass sufficient good works to merit even a second of life with God. The latter will be God's gift in abundance if only we have grown – sometimes in the course of a very winding and to-and-fro life journey – into the capacity to receive it.

It is here perhaps that the **Second Reading**, from Philippians 2:1-11, does have some bearing on the theme. It contains one of the great treasures of the New Testament: the very early 'Christ-Hymn' that Paul quotes in order to remind the community in Philippi that the heart of good community relations is a sharing of the 'mind' (disposition) of Christ. At all three stages of his 'career', so to speak – pre-existent life with God; earthly life; exalted risen life – Christ displayed self-emptying love, something that issued forth in an 'obedience unto death', even to the extremity of the cross. This is what being 'in a divine state', being 'equal to God', meant. Christian community life ought to be energised by the overflow of divine love that wells up within them through their existence 'in Christ'.

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