

29TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: YEAR A

The Tidings

18TH OCTOBER 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 – 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.

29TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME



A MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL

Welcome to another week!

In these unprecedented times we have been called to relook at many of our usual tasks in a new light. This time has affected us all and our parish is not immune from these changes. With the current restrictions being maintained for funerals and Masses, we have had to look at new ways to go forward. This week we made a large brave step towards being able to provide livestreaming at St Catherine of Siena Church. We hope to make this a regular offering for funerals, weddings and Masses—especially Masses that celebrate special occasions such as those during Holy Week and Christmas. Even in 'normal' times, many families and friends find it difficult to travel for various reasons therefore livestreaming will give us the ability to connect with those that cannot join us in person. It seems fitting that Carlo Acutis, a fifteen year old boy from Milan, Italy was made blessed on the 10th of October this year and is on the path of become the first Catholic 'cyber saint'. He used his computer skills to document Eucharistic miracles around the world and catalogue them all onto a website that he created in the months before his death from leukemia. The ability to bring the Word of God and the celebration of the Eucharist to many despite the current conditions has now become more important than ever.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parishioners that have continued to support the parish during this time whether it be by envelopes, online or through credit card or direct debit. Your grace and generosity over the last 7 month we have had no Sunday collection is humbling. The pride our parishioners have in our churches and our community has been at times overwhelming. We are able to continue to run the parish as well as be able to bring this technology to those that require it at this time through your generosity. I thank you very much for your trust and support. We look forward to testing out this new equipment...stay tuned

As always...stay safe and stay connected—See you at 'Cuppa After Mass'

—Fr Michael Moody

RECENTLY DECEASED

Heinrich Walland

ANNIVERSARIES:

17th— 23rd October

Angelo Azzopardi, Francis

Rowan, Wilfredo

DeGuzmanSr., Conching

Ventura, Florunce Poli,

Lawrence Dillon, Troy

Shepherd, Bruce Smith,

Vito Negrin, Leo Mahoney,

Marlene Williams,

Faustino De Leon, Rogelio

Gonzales, Kathryn Dervish-

Ali, Eileen Kennedy, Alice

Masterson, Kaushal de

Silva, Carmen Mifsud,

Carmen Enriquez, Tom

Sullivan, Gwen

Drape, Emanuel Mallia,

Monica Burke, Gordon

Bartolo, Esme Seamen.

Daryl Leonard, Des

McCormick, Anna Surace,

Sr. Mary-Rose Bonn, Si

Jung Sim, Stanley Zagata,

Joseph Trethowan,

Vincenzo De Vellis, Efren

Menalabag.

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.

ONLINE SAFETY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND CARERS

The eSafety Commissioner has recently published a free e-book resource 'Online safety for grandparents and carers' which provides advice about online safety issues that children and young people may experience. This resource provides “key advice about online safety issues that can affect children and young people” including practical tips to help grandparents and carers to talk about these issues with children and young people and manage them. Helpful topics include: setting up devices safely; managing time online; preventing unsafe contact from strangers as well as a guide to some of the most popular sites and apps.

Grandparents and carers can order a hard copy or download and view the resource online:
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/seniors/online-safety-grandparents-carers>

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.

OCTOBER—HOLY ROSARY MONTH

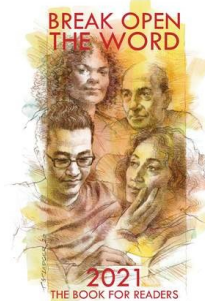
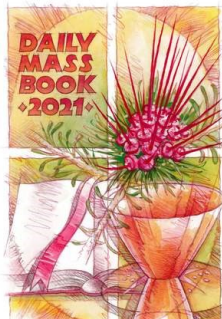
October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. We will be celebrating on our Facebook page during October. Please remember to like our page—www.facebook.com/catholicparishmelton.

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

BREAK OPEN THE WORD, ORDO & DAILY MASS BOOK 2021

If you would like to order a copy of Break Open The Word (\$22), ORDO 2021 (\$12) or Daily Mass Book (\$22) for 2021, Please contact the Parish Office via email—melton@cam.org.au.



STEWARDSHIP: FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2020

Weekly Pledged:

\$7,679.84

Weekly Amount Given:

\$4,331.23

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Mary MacKillop Prayer

Ever generous God, You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and constant in bringing hope and encouragement to those who were disheartened, lonely or needy. With confidence in your generous providence and through the intercession of Saint Mary MacKillop We ask that you grant our request (*state request*) We ask that our faith and hope be fired afresh by the Holy Spirit so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live with courage, trust and openness. Ever generous God hear our prayer. We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.



HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

We wish Bernie and Sheila Jongbloed every blessing for their anniversary. May God bless you both.



CUPPA AFTER MASS



SUNDAY 10.30AM

MELTON PARISH

FACEBOOK
facebook.com/catholicparishmelton

CONNECT ONLINE

YOUTUBE
Melton Parish

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THIS WEEK'S READINGS

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. (R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second reading

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

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

by Brendan Byrne SJ

Uniting the readings this week is the issue of Christian responsibility to the state.

This issue, emerging from the Gospel, has presumably prompted the choice for the **First Reading**, Isaiah 45:1, 4-6, where the non-Israelite ruler, Cyrus of Persia, is portrayed as God's chosen instrument for the liberation of Israel from exile in Babylon.

Granted the attitude to foreign rulers normally displayed in the Old Testament, this presentation of Cyrus is really quite striking. Just before this passage (44:28) he has actually been called 'my shepherd', a title and a role otherwise reserved for Israel's own kings. What the prophet wants to bring out is that, while Cyrus, as conqueror of Israel's Babylonian captors, is her liberator on a political and military level, at a deeper level he is merely the instrument of Israel's God, now understood to be sole God of the entire universe. Israel's real liberator from her Babylonian Exile, as from her former Egyptian slavery, is the Lord her God.

While this is the what the text principally asserts, implied is also the significant – and for its time, novel – truth that behind foreign rulers, as behind Israelite ones, stands the power and authority of God. This not simply the case in a punitive sense, as when such rulers become instruments of divine chastisement, but also in a saving sense, as is the case here with Cyrus. The positive portrayal of a non-Israelite ruler in this text paves the way for the episode related in the Gospel.

Traditionally, the question put to Jesus in the **Gospel**, Matthew 22:15-21, concerning the legitimacy of paying of taxes to the Roman Emperor has been the occasion for addressing Christian responsibility to the state. Taken in itself, however, the main point is not to present Jesus giving an instruction on this issue. We are at a point in the Gospel where Jesus, having entered Jerusalem as its messianic king, is engaged in a power struggle with representatives of various groups who, under the overall control of the Romans, currently wield authority in the city. They, rightly, perceive the threat posed by Jesus to their hold upon the people and seek to bring him down. They want to portray him as dangerous to the Romans and also to lessen his authority with the people by getting the better of him in public dispute.

The tax question offers a perfect stratagem to achieve these ends. It proceeds from an unlikely alliance between Pharisees (who, in general, would be hostile to paying taxes to Rome) and the Herodians (who, on the contrary, represent the chief collaborators and instruments of the Roman occupation). If Jesus supports the payment of the highly unpopular poll tax, he will lose standing with the people. If he rejects payment, he runs the risk of being identified with groups (such as those later known as Zealots) who were in more or less perpetual rebellion against Rome, and so of appearing as a significant threat to peace and public order.

Jesus' majestic response not only frees him from the dilemma but actually goes onto the offensive against his adversaries. By calling for *them* to produce a coin with Caesar's image on it he shows them up as people who carry around the offensive coinage, something he does not himself do. In this sense they are revealed as already collaborating whereas his own position is not disclosed.

Then his dual 'Render' instruction throws back the dilemma upon them. They had set the issue simply in terms of obligation to Rome; they had not brought God into the equation at all – though they would claim to be religious authorities. Jesus takes possession of the religious and moral high ground by setting responsibility to the civil power (which he does not deny) within the broader and higher framework of obedience to God. It is difficult to derive from Jesus' response any clear indication of his attitude to the Roman military occupation. Certainly, he distanced himself from the kind of Zealot fundamentalism that required absolute theocracy in the name of God – a religious attitude all too resurgent in our world today. His followers, especially as portrayed by Luke (Gospel and Acts), would commend a peaceful and loyal existence within the Roman Empire so long as allegiance to Christ Jesus and the Rule of God had priority (Acts 5:29). The later Christian sense of the separation of Church and State has its origins here, along with the recognition that believers have responsibilities in both realms that oblige in conscience before God.

The **Second Reading**, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, features the opening words of what is generally held to be the earliest document in the New Testament. Note the triad – faith, love and hope – in Paul's commendation of the community.

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