

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF MENTONE - PARKDALE

SAINT PATRICK - SAINT JOHN VIANNEY



Second Sunday of Advent, Year C: 9th December 2018

FATHER MICHAEL'S MESSAGE

Today's reflection is my translation of Pope Francis' general audience on November 28th. The video shows 7,000 pairs of eyes fixed intently on the pope. I hope you enjoy it.

In reflecting today upon the Tenth Commandment, I will focus on the desires of the heart. This will enable us to see the entire Ten Commandments in one perspective, namely in the light of the fullness of revelation in Christ.

I began these reflections on the Commandments by noting that our gratitude is the foundation of a relationship lived in trust and obedience with God. I asked, 'Why does God expect our obedience?' Remember that God never asks something of us without having already given us much more. Our obedience is our protection against the deception of idols. Any form of idolatry can exert so much power over us.

Once we let ourselves look for personal fulfilment from the worldly attractions all around us, we are on the path to emptiness and enslavement to our idols. However, our true fulfilment is found through the relationship we have with God. That relationship confers true stature and coherence upon us. In Christ, thanks to his fatherly love, God makes us his beloved daughters and sons. (Cf. Eph 3:14-16: *'This is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every fatherhood, in heaven or on earth, takes its name. In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self.'*)

God's fatherly relation with us introduces us to an experience of blessing and liberation, in which we find true rest, as Psalm 62.2 says: *'Only in God is my soul at rest, from Him comes my salvation.'* Freed from an authentic life in God's presence, we are capable of accepting our personal history, of being reconciled and at peace with all that has occurred beginning with our infancy up to the present.

In experiencing this, we are given our status as adults, capable of evaluating correctly the events and the people who are part of our life. Once this is accomplished, we find ourselves on the way to a particular relationship with our neighbour. Starting from the love that God shows us in Jesus Christ, we discover that we are called to bring about something beautiful by living a life of fidelity, generosity and authenticity.

However, in order to live this life of fidelity, generosity and authenticity we need a renewed heart. We need the Holy Spirit dwelling in our heart. *'I shall give them a single heart and I shall put a new spirit in them; I shall remove the heart of stone from their bodies and give them a heart of flesh.'* (Ex 11:19) How on earth is this 'transplant' possible? How is the 'old' heart transformed into a 'new' heart?

St Paul has shown us the way: *'Those who are living by their natural inclinations have their minds on the things that human nature desires; those who live in the Spirit have their minds on spiritual things. And human nature has nothing to look forward to but death, while the Spirit looks forward to life and peace.'* (Rm 8:5-6)

The Spirit endows us with new desires, sown in us by the grace of God. Our new heart is the fruit of a particular grace, communicated by Jesus as he perfected the commandments through his teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, especially the Beatitudes. (Cf. Mt 5:1-12; 17-46).

Indeed, if we pause to contemplate the kind of life described in the Ten Commandments, we find, almost without expecting it, that we are contemplating Christ himself. The Commandments call for a life that is grateful, free, authentic, beneficent, adult, devoted to the protection and love of life, faithful, generous and sincere. Aren't these the qualities of Christ, his 'X Ray' so to speak?

This is how the Holy Spirit makes our hearts fruitful, sowing there the desires that are his gift, the desires of the Spirit. We come to desire according to

the Spirit, according to the 'rhythm' and 'music' of the Spirit.

Gazing on Christ, we see beauty, goodness and truth. The Spirit generates a way of life through which we adopt the Spirit's own desires. Accordingly, our existence is indistinguishable from faith, hope and charity.

This is the key to understanding what our Lord meant when he said that he had come, not to abolish the Law, but to bring it to fulfilment, to make it grow to its perfection.

The law according to the flesh was a series of prescriptions and prohibitions, but the law of the Spirit brings life (Cf. Jn 6:63 *'The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.'*) This is so because the law is no longer a norm, but the flesh of Christ himself who loves us, who seeks us out, who pardons us, who consoles us, and who, in his Body the Church, re-establishes the communion with his Father that was lost by the disobedience of sin.

In this way, the negative literary form of the Commandments, 'do not steal' etc., is transformed into a positive attitude: 'love my neighbour, make a place for her or him in my heart.'

This is the perfection of the Law that Jesus came to bring to us. In Christ alone, the Ten Commandments ceases to bring condemnation (Cf. Rm 8:1) and becomes the authentic truth of human existence. True humanity is a desire to love, a desire for what is good, a desire for joy, for peace, for magnanimity, for benevolence, for goodness, for faithfulness, meekness and self-control. From those 'nots', we reach an affirmation, 'yes', of God's gift of life. This is the work of a heart opened up by the power of the Spirit.

Continued page two ...

Advent Organ Concert Series

Each Saturday 5pm throughout
Advent.

this **Saturday 15th December**
BEN MACKAY

See flyer on Church noticeboard

Presbytery & Office: 10 Rogers Street, Mentone 3194. Ph: 9583 2103

• Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Michael McEntee Ph: 0417 673 857 • Hon Associate Priest: Rev. Fr. Ramsay Williams OLSC

• Pastoral Associate: Sr Damian SPC Ph: 0410 002 270 • Convent: Sisters of St Paul de Chartres

• Director of Music: Myfanwy McIndoe Ph: 0484 079 880

• St Patrick's School: Ph: 9583 5033 • St John Vianney's School: Ph: 9580 5812

Website: stpatricksmentone.org.au Email: MentoneParkdaleEast@cam.org.au

Recently Deceased

Kenneth McKeown

Anniversaries

Anthony Kenny, Tony Bova, Jessie Ward

Prayer for the Sick



Darren Lacey, Greg McLeod, Leo Soulsby, John Hannan, Maureen Oswald, Madeline Wesson, Jim Lacey, Patricia Walker, Rita Buckner, Greta Sprague, Joan Nolan, Carmen Lotzniker, Molly Shannon,

Hector Burra, Patricia M, Patricia Power, Nanette Woodbridge, Patrick Kelly, Sebastian Wolfenden, Ellen Farrugia-Merlo, Monica Alderton, Anthony Mannion, Paul Smiles and those on the continuing prayer list.

(PLEASE LET US KNOW IF A NAME SHOULD BE REMOVED)

Prayer / Meditation

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Each day the Church is open from 8:30am to 6:00pm. Please choose a time (1/2 hour) to spend in Adoration. Each Friday the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration following the 9:15am Mass until 4:30pm, when Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is given.



Rosary:

1. In St Patrick's Church the Rosary is prayed each day before morning Mass at 8:45am. All welcome.
2. The Rosary is also prayed on Thursday after 10:30am OLSC Mass and on Wednesday evenings, 5pm at Bridie's (9585 5142).

Divine Mercy Devotions:

Are held in St Patrick's Church each Friday at 3:00pm.

Special Prayer Groups:

Mother's Prayer Group:

Our meetings are held in the old convent on the 1st Tuesday of each month 10:00 - 11:45am.

NOTE: No meetings in January & February 2019.

1st Collection:

Presbytery: \$1,628.85

2nd Collection:

Thanksgiving: \$2,895.55
Loose Money \$501.45

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Summing up, it is good to look for Christ in the Ten Commandments so that our heart will be fruitful, overflowing with love and open to allow God to work within us. Whenever a person takes upon themselves the desire to live as Christ the door to salvation is opened, and salvation will surely be given because God the Father is generous. In the words of the Catechism (n. 2560), 'God thirsts for our thirst for him.'

It is true that bad desires become our ruination (Cf. Mt 15: 18-20), while the Holy Spirit places his holy desires in our hearts. They are the seed from which the new life grows (Cf. 1 Jn 3:9). The new life is not a strenuous effort to be coherent in observing a norm, but it is the very Spirit of God who begins to guide us to gather his fruits. There is a blessed synergy between our joy at being so loved and his joy in loving us. The two joys meet: God's joy in loving us and our joy at being loved.

The Ten Commandments for a Christian are the steady contemplation of Christ in order to become open to receiving his heart, his desires, his Holy Spirit.

Parish Events

Christmas Working Bee:

There will be a Working Bee at St Patrick's on **Tuesday 18th December** after the 9.15 am morning Mass to prepare the Church for Christmas. We are calling on you to help clean and prepare the Church in readiness for Christmas. Are **you** handy with a sweeping brush or chux cloth?



Christmas Tree Gift Appeal

St Vincent de Paul

Society - East Parkdale

We invite parishioners to participate in the above by selecting a heart from the Christmas Tree located in the church foyer at St John Vianney. The heart will have details for you to provide a Christmas gift that will be distributed to a family we assist in the community. We thank you for your help with this appeal.



15/16 DECEMBER 2018

Parish of Mentone-Parkdale Rosters

Readers:

6:00 pm - T Howe (SP)
9:00 am - J O'Donoghue, K Lowe (SJV)
11:00 am - S Tobin (SP)
5:00 pm - K Ady (SP)

Extraordinary Ministers:

6:00 pm - D McDonald, R Razga (SP)
9:00 am - M Webster (SJV)
11:00 am - A Earle, M Scalzo (SP)
5:00 pm - H Collins (SP)

Procession of Gifts:

6:00 pm - Marshall Family (SP)
9:00 am - Swadling Family (SJV)
11:00 am - Hirst Family (SP)

Extraordinary Minister to the Sick:

J Green (SJV)

Counters: Team 11:

H Commins, A Rasiah
B John, A & C Smit

Sacristans:

St Patrick's - Group 3:
M Zickett, K Lyons

SJV - F & J O'Donoghue

Pilgrim Statues:

This Week:

Mount Family, 1/46 Third St (SP)

Next Week:

Walton Family, 13 Leichhardt Ct (SP)

This Week:

Webster Family, 22 Mountview Ave (SJV)

Next Week:

Stewart Family, 15 Rivette St (SJV)

Adoration Roster:

Week 1 - Christ, The Priest

Travelling Chalice



This week beginning: 9 Dec
tba

Next week beginning: 16 Dec
tba

Parish and Diocesan News

Pope's Intentions:

December 2018

In the Service of the
Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

Vocation View

John the Baptist cried out and made ready for the Lord. Promote the gospel in our community.

Please pray for Vocations

JOHN WAS THE PROPHET

John was the prophet of the Lord
To go before his face;
The herald which the Prince of Peace
Sent to prepare his ways.

"Behold the Lamb of God," he cries,
"That takes our guilt away;
I saw the Spirit o'er his head,
On his baptising day.

"Be every vale exalted high,
Sink every mountain low;
The proud must stoop, and humble souls
Shall his salvation know.

"Behold the Morning Star arise,
Ye that in darkness sit;
He marks the path that leads to peace,
And guides our doubtful feet."

Isaac Watts (1674-1748).



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE - MONDAY, 24 DECEMBER

6.00pm: Vigil Mass of Christmas: (SP)

8.00pm: Vigil Mass of Christmas: (SJV)
(preceded by carols from 7.30pm)

Midnight: Solemn Mass of Christmas: (SP)
(preceded by Carols from 11.30pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY - TUESDAY, 25 DECEMBER

10.00am: Mass of Christmas Day (SP)

**(please note there are no other
Masses on Christmas Day at
St Patrick's and St John Vianney)**

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SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (Confessions)

TUESDAY, 18th DECEMBER
9.45am following 9.15am Mass, (SP)

WEDNESDAY, 19th DECEMBER
9.45am following 9.15am Mass, (SP)
11.00am following 10.30am Mass, (SJV)

THURSDAY, 20th DECEMBER
9.45am following 9.15am Mass, (SP)

FRIDAY 21st DECEMBER
9.45am following 9.15am Mass, (SP)
5:45pm following 5.15pm Mass, (SJV)

SATURDAY, 22nd DECEMBER
9.45am following 9.15am Mass, (SP)
5:15pm Before the 6.00pm Mass, (SP)

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Parish Events

Melbourne Overseas Mission 2018 Appeal

Melbourne Overseas Missions (MOM)
Appeal will take place **this weekend**
8th/9th December.

To: Catholic Parents whose children are not attending catholic schools:

Sunday Catechism Classes for Students who are not attending Catholic schools will start from **17 February 2019 at 10am** (for 45 min.) and are held **every Sunday in the Victoria School Terms** in the Prep. Block of St Patrick Primary School, Mentone.

Registration at 10am, Sunday 10th Feb., 2019, in the All-Purpose Room of St Patrick's Catholic Primary School. We welcome children aged 6 or above, and in particular, those who wish to be prepared for First Reconciliation and Holy Communion as well as for Confirmation. "Let children come to me" said Jesus, "and do not hinder them. For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Luke 18:16)

Cards Group

Join the small group who now have their card gathering in the Convent behind the Parish Office. The next card day will be **Monday 10th December at 2pm.** At 4pm we stop playing to enjoy some light refreshments and tea/coffee. Contact: Tony 9558 3646 or the Parish Office, 9583 2103. All welcome.

Piety Stalls

The 2019 Columban Calendars are now available for purchase at the St Patrick's and St John Vianney's Our Piety Stalls are open following 9:00am Mass (Parkdale) and from 10:30am (Mentone).

SJV Choir Practice

St John Vianney Choir Rehearsals for Christmas each Thursday in December at 7.00pm.

Other Events

Share a message of compassion this Christmas

Send a Christmas message to those you love, and help save the lives of mothers and babies in vulnerable communities.

**Order Global Gift cards online at
www.globalgifts.org.au or call us on
1800 024 413.**

KSC International Essay Competition

Knights of the Southern Cross are inviting students 16-18 years of age, in their final three years of secondary school to an International Essay Competition. The topic is 'Walking in joy to serve the Lord'. The competition closes on **28th February 2019.** Full details available on the IACK website <http://iack.org> under NEWS CHANNEL.

In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals. This parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in legislation. A copy of the Parish Policy is available by contacting the Parish Office.

The Liturgy for the 2nd Sunday in Advent: 9th December 2018

Mass Response

Psalm Response: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, Alleluia!**
Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight his paths;
all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

Legend: "CWBII" Catholic Worship Book II

6:00 pm Vigil Mass (Saturday) - St Patrick's

Mass Setting: Mass of Our Lady Help of Christians - Connolly
Entrance: CWBII 250
Offertory: CWBII 244
Communion: CWBII 242
Recessional: *John was the Prophet (inside bulletin)*

9:00am (Sunday) - St John Vianney's

Mass Setting: Mass of Our Lady Help of Christians - Connolly
Entrance: CWBII 250
Offertory: CWBII 244
Communion: CWBII 242
Recessional: *John was the Prophet (inside bulletin)*

11:00am Choral Mass (Sunday) - St Patrick's

Mass Setting: Mass of Our Lady Help of Christians - Connolly
Russian Kyrie (arr. Bell)
Entrance: CWBII 244
Offertory: *Prepare the way, O Zion- Swedish Carol*
Communion: *Jerusalem surge*
Words CWBII 552 - tune CWBII 449
Recessional: *John was the Prophet (inside bulletin)*

5:00 pm (Sunday) - St Patrick's

Mass Setting: Mass of Our Lady Help of Christians - Connolly
Entrance: CWBII 244
Offertory: CWBII 232
Communion: Words CWBII 552 - tune CWBII 449
Recessional: *John was the Prophet (inside bulletin)*

Readings Next Week:

Third Sunday in Advent: Year C:

Zephaniah: 3:14-18
Philippians: 4:4-7
Luke: 3:10-18

MASSES THIS WEEK

(SP) St Patrick's Church; (SJV) St John Vianney's Church

WEEK DAY MORNING MASSES

Monday, 10th December NO MASS

Tuesday, 11th December

9:15 am (SP) Optional: St Damasus I, pope

Wednesday, 12th December

9:15 am (SP) Optional: Our Lady of Guadalupe
10:30 am (SJV) Mass

Thursday, 13th December

9:15 am (SP) Memorial: St Lucy, virgin, martyr
10:30 am (SP) **Ordinarie Mass**

Friday, 14th December

9:15 am (SP) Memorial: St John of the Cross,
priest, doctor
5:15 pm (SJV) Mass

Saturday, 15th December

9:15 am (SP) Saturday of 2nd week of Advent

WEEKEND MASSES

(Vigil) Saturday: 6:00 pm (SP)
Sunday: 9:00 am (SJV)
Sunday: 9:30 am (SP) (**Ordinarie Mass**)
Sunday: 11:00 am (SP) (Choral Mass)
Sunday: 5:00 pm (SP)

RECONCILIATION

After the 9:15 am Mass on Wednesday & Saturday
mornings (SP) and 5:15 pm Saturday (SP)

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
THIS FRIDAY: BENEDICTION 4:30 PM (SP)**