

Risen



Christ

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9 July 2023 - Year A

The Catholic Communities of Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham & St Francis Xavier, Montmorency

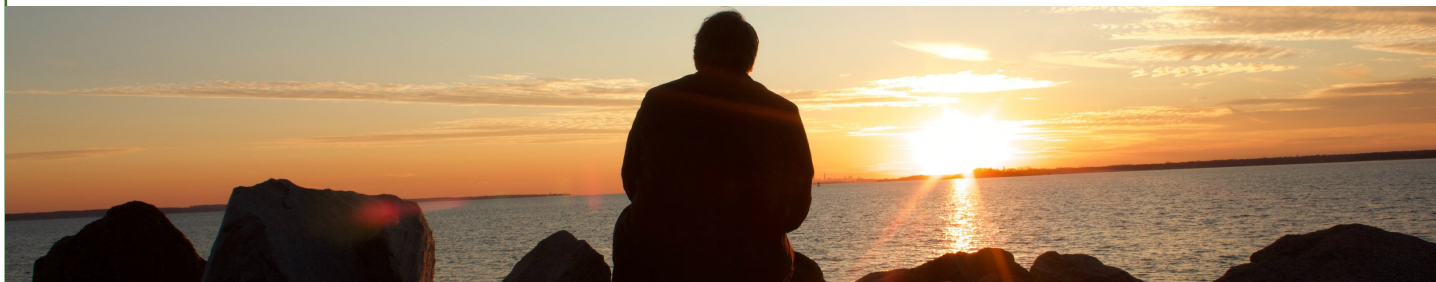


We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to the elders past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nation.

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gently and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'



Reflection:

The material omitted from the lectionary between last Sunday's gospel and this is dark and difficult. The imprisoned John the Baptist is troubled by doubts about Jesus. Then Jesus scolds his contemporaries for their unbelief and pronounces judgement on towns that have been particularly obstinate. After these deep shadows, today's text comes as a ray of heavenly light.

As has often been observed, the first part of the passage could well be an import from John's gospel, given its disclosure of the intimate relationship between Father and Son. Less well realized, perhaps, is that the second part echoes themes from the wisdom literature of the Old Testament. In the book of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) for example, wisdom exclaims, "Come close to me, you uninstructed... put your necks under her yoke and let your souls receive instruction" (51:23, 26).

The whole reading is still consonant with Matthew's concern to present Jesus as the authentic interpreter of the Law in contrast with the religious authorities of his day. As he says repeatedly in the sermon on the mount, "you have learnt... but I say this to you...". While his teaching there seems even more demanding than that of the scribes and Pharisees, it becomes easy when shouldered in solidarity with him.

The reading begins with a short burst of praise before changing gear to instruction. The second part combines invitation and promise. Ministers of the word will be mindful of these subtle shifts of discourse.

Break Open the Word 2023

This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community. We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.



PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION

OUR PEOPLE & OUR CONTACT DETAILS



Parish Priest

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

Michael.Sierakowski@cam.org.au

Parish Office

all correspondence to:

86 Mayona Road,
Montmorency Vic 3094
9435 4742

RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary
Tue-Fri 9am-3pm

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer
RisenChristChildSafety@cam.org.au

Kerry Mash:

Volunteer
Wed & Fri 10am-3pm

Website:

www.pol.org.au/montmorency OR
www.pol.org.au/eltham

Facebook:

Risen Christ Parish

Risen Christ Parish Bulletin items:

RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au

Schools

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Acting Principal: Mark Pinkerton: 9439 7824

school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

available half an hour before
any weekday or weekend Parish Mass.

Collections: 18 & 25 June 2023

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving		
Cash	\$507.00	\$1,080.00
Electronic	\$2,984.00	\$2,839.00
Presbytery		
Cash	\$709.75	\$754.15
Electronic	\$920.00	\$700.00

Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
March	\$5,590.48	\$10,815.00	\$16,405.48
April	\$6,822.52	\$10,517.00	\$17,339.52
May	\$6,620.26	\$8,507.00	\$15,127.26

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Friday 7

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham
11:00am Funeral: Richard Hoolohan Montmorency

Saturday 8

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 9

8:30am Mass Montmorency
10:00am Mass Eltham

Tuesday 11

9:00am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
2:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 12

6:30am Meditation Montmorency
9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Thursday 13

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Friday 14

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Saturday 15

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 16

8:30am Mass Montmorency
10:00am Mass Eltham

Monday 17

12:00pm Funeral: Lorraine Quilty Montmorency

Tuesday 18

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
10:00am Craft Group Montmorency
11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham
2:00pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 19

6:30am Meditation Montmorency
9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham
1:00pm Small Church Community Montmorency
7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 20

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Friday 21

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Saturday 22

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 23

8:30am Mass Montmorency
10:00am Mass Eltham

Tuesday 25

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
2:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 26

6:30am Meditation Montmorency
9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Thursday 27

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Support
Montmorency
Catholic Community
by giving with CDFpay



Support
Eltham
Catholic Community
by giving with CDFpay





Let us pray for all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith ...

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Richard Hoolohan, Lorraine Quilty

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Montagna Mustica

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Gay, Gayle, Helen, Maurice, Edwinda Bacani, Perly Bacani, Rita Bevanda, Kim Brisbane, Feliksa Chwasta, Pat Collins, Allan Dooley, Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Ysabelle Fanlo, Alana Foulds, Bob Fraser, Melanie Lam, Cindy Morrissey, Andrew Pighin, Garry Pollard, Aquatha Spina

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

Ian Sturman

(brother-in-law to Denise Battershell)

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Violetta, Michael Bonicci, Maurice Brosnan, Shannon Donahoo, Peter Gaffney, Jade McAlear, Beth Morganti, Fiona Rogers, Rosemary Scully, James Sutton, Sarah Thompson

To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office 9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.au.

R.C.I.A. - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

An open invitation is extended to people who are not Catholic or as Adults have not received the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation and would like to fully participate in the Mass with the reception of the Eucharist. Please contact us and let's begin our enquiry time together. Eltham and Montmorency Catholic Communities welcome your participation.

What is RCIA? The RCIA, which stands for **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, is a process through which non-baptised men and women enter the Catholic Church. It includes several stages marked by study, prayer and rites at Mass. Participants in the RCIA are known as catechumens - and it's a wonderful adult journey of Christian discovery and personal renewal.

If you know of anyone in your family or friendship groups or neighbourhood that might like to begin this "enquiry" time, with no obligation to continue in the process to Easter 2024, then please feel free to ask them. Please let Kate (in the parish office) know by calling (9435 4742) or emailing (Eltham@cam.org.au or Montmorency@cam.org.au).



Small Church Communities



Dear friends,

There will be a meeting of Facilitators of **Small Church Communities** on Sunday 23rd July after 8:30am Mass.

Due to Covid it is a while since we have gathered. Though our Communities

continue to meet, recent changes of our Parish invite us to reflect on our presence in the light of our new identity.

Venue to be advised. Patsy: 0429 439 675



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 8 July 2023

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Matthew Thomas Bell	First Eucharist
Archie Emrys Holland-Baker	First Eucharist
Charlie Rossiter	First Eucharist
Ellie Nance Tobin	First Eucharist

Roster for week ending: 8/9 July

Armstrong, Miranda	C10:00
Armstrong, Miranda	H10:00
Azzopardi, Michael	E10:00
Ballenger, Nima	E10:00
Bucknell, Dom	R10:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	W8:30
Dopheide, Marlis	H10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Scully, Helen	ASE
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Stewart Family	PRSE
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00

Roster for week ending: 15/16 July

Bylsma, John	H10:00
Bylsma, Zvonka	H10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Love, Philip	W8:30
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Williams, Peter	R10:00
Williams, Peter	W6:00
Zavdil Family	PRSE
	ASE

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham; C = Commentator; E = Euch. Minister; H = Hospitality; M = Music; PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham; W = Minister of the Word; R = Reader



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

This month **Aid to the Church in Need** is raising money to build a parish house in Sierra Leone. The parishioners of the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour have been trying to help their priest who is living in a house that is decaying due to heavy rainfall and salt-laden sea air but they themselves are poor and have little to give. ACN has promised to help but we need your help to make this possible. To learn more and to make an offering visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject.

Follow your conscience

Having spent years searching her own memories, speaking to people who knew her, and reading Dorothy Day's diaries, articles, letters and books, her granddaughter suggests nine personal signposts or watchwords for those who are seeking to follow her - the second is to listen to 'the still, small voice within' / **By Kate Hennessy**

In the history of the Catholic Worker, the question of following one's conscience was most agonizingly examined when young men came to Dorothy asking if they should go to war. She had no easy answers. "Follow your conscience," she relied. She added that it's good to have a well-informed conscience, but follow it even if it isn't. This could be a life-and-death decision even if one became a conscientious objector. You must be prepared, she said, to sacrifice just as much as the soldier does.

One of the most difficult, lonely and personally dangerous times for Dorothy was when she followed her conscience during the Second World War, when very few supported her, many were actively hostile, and the CW paper lost the majority of its readers. Following one's conscience can seem utterly useless, but as Dorothy said: "We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world."

Dorothy forged a path of such complexity, this embrace of church teachings and the primacy of the conscience, that many just don't know what to make of it. How far would Dorothy's faith have led her if she hadn't been able to find a way to express this? She believed following one's conscience is acting on one's faith. Her relationship with the Archdiocese of New York was cordial but uneasy, and she was often called to the Chancery to respond to a complaint (after which she often visited the Metropolitan Museum of Art).

But she had such inner authority of knowing she was following the Gospels that she believed any trouble would sort itself out. (She did say during the 1960s that it's best to

dress ordinarily when doing extraordinary things, for example, looking like a suburban grandmother while being arrested for civil disobedience against nuclear weapons.)

Dorothy found great freedom within the Church to follow her conscience, even with the Church's uneasiness, but my mother, Dorothy's daughter Tamar, did not. For her, leaving the Church was a refusal to live in opposition to her conscience, and it came at a great price. Some of Tamar's last words as she lay dying were, "I lost my faith." I don't know what it was she longed for, so full of regret, but I could not help but feel the unworkable tension between some church teachings and her conscience.

What a peculiar and mysterious thing - this still, small voice within. Where does it come from? And how do you know it? How do you strengthen it?

I think that perhaps we can begin by letting go of protecting oneself, whether individually or institutionally. By trusting in the innate sense of good within ourselves in our own judgement and courage. By developing good judgement so we are less likely to fool ourselves into believing we are following our conscience when we are following our ego or fear. By building up courage - you don't know how your family or community will respond, and yet there is every chance it may be in wonderful ways. And by being careful of relinquishing all responsibility to others - to laws, strictures, societal pressures, or mob thinking. Conventional wisdom can be spectacularly wrong and is rarely able to answer the most vexing of human problems.

I think of conscience as a muscle -



the less you use it, the weaker it is. Start with a small weight-bearing load, and maybe this will be all that we can do. Maybe it doesn't have to be a loud act at all. We have endless opportunities to follow our conscience; there just needs to be a willingness. When you do it, you will know the feeling of it. When you don't do it, you won't be able to forget it. Your conscience will keep coming back, no matter how repressed, denied or starved.

There is such utter power and yet utter vulnerability in the one who takes a conscientious stance. It's hard to forget Franz Jägerstätter or Martin Luther King Jr, and it's easy to feel following one's conscience is not for us mere mortals. But I don't think it's possible to create a life where you are never confronted with your conscience.

There's a feeling of homecoming, a sense of one's true self, and an inherent joy and breathless wonder in this. Could this be true? That I have within me a sense of conscience that retains its integrity, no matter what? Dorothy believed that we can never lose that sense, and with a bit of encouragement, a small step towards it, it will leap in gladness towards you.

Kate Hennessy is the author of *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved By Beauty - An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother* (Scribner).

Follow your conscience

There is little point in simply admiring the founder of the Catholic Worker. If you're going to pay attention to her, you must be prepared for your life to be turned on its head. This week, we reach the third in her granddaughter's series of nine signposts for those who are looking to follow Dorothy Day in their own way / **By Kate Hennessy**

Dorothy said: "You will know your vocation by the joy it brings you." She added that it would be good if your work can be in the context of the works of mercy, but the essential thing is joy.

Dorothy's vocation was as a writer, which she began in childhood, writing short stories on a Lake Michigan pier with her sister, and ended nine days before her death at Maryhouse in NYC. Her writing was evocative, detailed, with an eye for the unusual and beautiful, and fuelled by constant curiosity. In all the years of the Catholic Worker, very few people other than Dorothy have been able to capture that elusive beauty, that wild improbability of joy and love amid tragedy, illness, destitution and death that is the movement's story.

"Work is so necessary and so healing," my mother said to me when I was young and searching for my place in the world. "Find your vocation. What you are good at."

How do you live a life in which you aren't divided against yourself, where your work is an expression of the best of yourself?

The artist Robert Henri said that we are not here to do what has already been done. He also said that art is a matter of doing things, anything, well. This is no light matter, and few have the courage and stamina. If you succeed, even in some small measure, you may have to sacrifice for it, as well as take delight in it, all your life. I think this could be said of all those who live authentic vocations.

I think with a true vocation every aspect of your life is involved. We are shaped by our work - physically, emotionally and spiritually. It is how you live in the world, and this is

nothing to be careless about. The beauty of individual callings is that they can be found in any kind of work, but there does need to be some sort of reckoning with the common good. I can't see it being possible to feel joy doing something that your conscience tells you is wrong.

In the 1980s, when Joseph Campbell was broadcasting his advice, "Follow your bliss", my mother cried out, "Yes!" But what a societal backlash followed. You can't do that - you can't follow your bliss. Who would do all the real work, then?

For many, recognizing and being able to follow one's vocation is no easy task. It can be a provocation to oneself and to one's family, community and society. There can also be a confusion between vocation and career, and you may need to separate your vocation from earning money.

There are many ways we kill our own calling and the calling of others. Be realistic, don't be selfish, how are you going to pay the bills? You owe it to your family. Aren't you fiddling while Rome burns? Your parents didn't get to do this - what makes you worthy? But what right do we have to crush someone else's dream, or even our own?

Sometimes your vocation is deliberately, actively kept from you, usually for reasons that are dehumanizing. What to do then? Maybe choose your battles, your priorities. Be creative, or be a warrior. If it doesn't change for you, it may change for someone else coming after you.

Maybe seeing the joy in another's face as they do their work can allow us the generosity to see it within ourselves. Following one's vocation



is an act of generosity in and of itself, and it will be contagious. What a wonderful gift to give, this joy in one's own work, this inner power of living a fulfilling life.

We either believe each of us, no matter what colour, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic bracket or abilities, has a vocation, or we don't. What a powerful act to look around at individuals, whether you know them or not, and believe that they each have a calling. What a way to instantly change one's perception of a person. How then can you not be affected by the injustices of others not being able to pursue their calling? Isn't it then our obligation to do what we are called to do?

Our calling may require us to live with an awareness of the gaping difference between what we imagine we can do and what we can actually do, but if you deny your vocation, like your conscience, it will keep returning, no matter how many years pass. And once you accept it, you will feel like an arrow sent on its way with no turning back.

And it will be part of the works of mercy.

Kate Hennessy is the author of *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved By Beauty - An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother* (Scribner).

The CW website is: www.catholicworker.org.

Face your fears

All the admiration and accolades, even the canonization process, are for nothing if Dorothy Day doesn't crack your heart wide open, leaving you breathless with wonder and possibility. This week, we reach the fourth in her granddaughter's series of nine signposts for those who are seeking to follow her / **By Kate Hennessy**

During the turmoil of the 1960s, Dorothy once said: "I know what human fear is, and how often it keeps us from following our conscience." She spoke of many kinds of fear - of losing material goods, of poverty, and "there is the strange business of bodily fear", which she experienced when she was shot at while visiting the integrated community of Koinonia, Georgia, during the civil rights movement.

Dorothy had a penetrating gaze, unnervingly direct and unsettling. Her daughter Tamar, y mother, referred to it as "the Look", which she had, too. I can still feel this Look from two women who knew much of the human condition, yet kept their fierce and loving eye on it. I can try to be no less courageous and honest than they, but if I'm not careful, this discussion of fear could be a long one.

There is fear of speaking the truth; of not being enough; of other people's neediness; of one's own conscience or vocation; of commitment and of sacrifice. There is fear of making a fool of yourself, and what is that but fear of revealing your deepest self only to have people attack or ridicule it? In response to this, Dorothy said, so be it - we are fools. And there are those who live in a constant, indescribable fear for their own lives of the lives of their families and communities. I can't speak for this fear.

But there is one fear I feel compelled to write of above all others - fear for the Earth and her creatures. I can't help but wish deeply that science and religion would come together to face this most dire fear. We now all live, I am sure, whether admitted or not, with a deep hum of

anxiety and fear. And of sadness.

My mother quoted often to me from Liberty Hyde Bailey, horticulturist and author of *The Holy Earth*, published more than 100 years ago, in which he called for a spiritual relationship with the land and cooperation rather than dominion. He said: "Of all the disturbing living factors, man is the greatest." It isn't easy to see all land as holy. It is hard for me to see Staten Island as sacred, where Dorothy began her conversion, Tamar was conceived and where both were baptized. It has been abused for decades, including containing at one point the world's largest man-made structure, the Staten Island dump. But Dorothy had an extraordinary sense of the Earth's beauty. She had an instinctive awareness of what the Irish philosopher John Moriarty meant when he said the land never loses its integrity.

"We need a reverence for the Earth," Dorothy wrote. "I took my grandchildren one day out ... and said, 'Come on out and let's kiss the Earth.'" What if we all, biologists and theologians included, get up from our tasks, from our pews and research labs, desks and assembly lines, and run outside as if the very devil were at our heels, to kiss the Earth? Why is it so hard to express love for the ground we stand on, this giant globe pulsing with mycelium and lava, microbes and all manner of beings? Is it because we have so thoroughly bought into the notion of dominion that to bend ourselves to the Earth is an impossibility? Or is it because the fear of its loss is unbearable?

How I wish that we all look about at our landscape and feel such love and beauty that we will do whatever



is in our power to protect it and to help it be what it longs to be in every particle of its being. To see the Earth glow and sparkle with creation and feel full of love for it, even as we may be overwhelmed by fear for its destruction.

Can we allow ourselves to grieve for what we are losing and yet not be afraid? Can we find the courage to do what needs to be done? Let's give courage to one another. Let's be curious and not afraid. Dorothy said that we need to trust Christ when he tells us to not be afraid.

Seamus Heaney and his wife, Marie, often visited Connemara in Ireland where my husband and I lived for years, and occasionally we would see them walking down the streets of Clifden. While I never spoke to him, I felt that moment of grace we receive from a person who sees the world as it is and yet still loves it dearly; perhaps even more so, the Look of a poet. The last words Seamus Heaney texted to his wife before he died, were *Noli timere*, "Be not afraid".

Kate Hennessy is the author of *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved By Beauty - An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother* (Scribner).

The CW website is: www.catholicworker.org.



Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne - Job Vacancies

- Parish Secretary - St Kevin's Parish, Hampton Park
- Administration Manager - The Redemptorist Community, Kew
- Engagement and Projects Lead - Melbourne

A symbol of welcome

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MAY NEVER BOUNCE BACK: CATHOLIC EDUCATION CHIEF



Catholic Schools NSW chief Dallas McInerney says there is a risk attendance levels will never return to normal, calling for an inquiry into the long-term consequences of shutting down schools during the pandemic.

Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/07/07/school-attendance-may-never-bounce-back-catholic-education-chief>

BISHOP HOLOHAN SHARES INSIGHTS INTO LIFE AS A BISHOP



Trauma from constantly being told “the horrors” of sexual assaults has caused Bunbury Bishop Gerard Holohan to call it a day after 22 years in the job.

Source: *South Western Times*.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/07/07/bishops-holohan-shares-insights-into-life-as-a-bishop>

FAITH LEADERS BACK MOOTED CHANGES TO NSW ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS



Faith leaders have welcomed proposed changes to New South Wales’ anti-discrimination laws to outlaw vilification on religious grounds, as part of efforts to address religious freedom in the state.

Source: *The Catholic Weekly*.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/07/07/faith-leaders-back-mooted-changes-to-nsw-anti-discrimination-laws>

VATICAN’S NEW DOCTRINAL CHIEF SAYS BLESSINGS FOR GAY COUPLES MUST BE ANALYSED



Pope Francis’ choice to lead the Vatican’s influential doctrinal office says that questions surrounding blessings for gay couples must be further studied.

Source: *NCR Online*.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/07/07/vaticans-new-doctrinal-chief-says-blessings-for-gay-couples-must-be-analysed>

‘OUR ABORIGINAL SPIRITUALITY COMES TOGETHER IN THE MASS AND IT’S VERY MEANINGFUL’



Recent celebrations in the Kimberley in Western Australia have shown that the Catholic faith and Indigenous culture in the region are alive and thriving.

Source: *Broome Diocese*.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/07/07/our-aboriginal-spirituality-comes-together-in-the-mass-and-its-very-meaningful>

In 1986, when Pope John Paul II spoke to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Alice Springs, he said that ‘the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.’



At the beginning of NAIDOC Week, the Aboriginal Catholic community of Victoria presented the Church in Melbourne with a new message stick - a living symbol of welcome and a gesture of friendship and hospitality. We take a closer look at the design of

the new message stick and what it means.

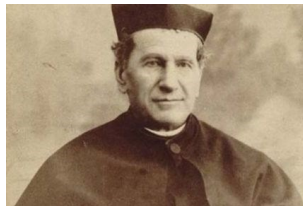
<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/new-message-stick-presented-to-st-patricks-cathedral-at-start-of-2023-naidoc-week>



With great sadness, we also mark the passing this week of Rev Professor Austin Cooper OMI AM, a man whose long and distinguished academic career, deep prayerfulness and pastoral sensitivity helped to form countless students in the spiritual traditions

of the Catholic faith.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-passion-for-the-mission-of-christ-remembering-rev-professor-austin-cooper-omi-am>



We hear about the Australian tour of the relic statue of St John Bosco as part of the centenary celebrations of the Salesians’ arrival in Australia;

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/relic-statue-of-st-john-bosco-to-tour-australia>



Sr Marian McClelland SSS, the last remaining Servants of the Blessed Sacrament sister in Australia, talks to us about her call to ‘be present to God and others’;

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/sr-marian-mcclelland-sss-a-woman-of-presence-and-love>



some recent converts to Catholicism at Our Lady’s parish Craigieburn and Roxburgh share their stories;

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/converts-tell-their-stories-our-ladys-parish-craigieburn-and-roxburgh>



and we hear about an upcoming workshop on building vibrant and vital parishes.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/leading-missionary-parishes-a-workshop-to-explore-vital-and-vibrant-parishes>

For more information: www.melbournecatholic.org

We invite you to participate in an

At-home Retreat Moments that are Grace

This retreat spans five weeks, beginning with an introductory session on Monday, 31 July 2023 @ 2.00 pm, and concludes with a closing reflection on Monday, 31 August 2023 @ 2.30 pm.

The retreat offers an opportunity for you

- * to spend some time daily in prayerful reflection, remembering and savouring your day's moments of grace,
- * to be accompanied by a retreat-companion once a week, at a mutually-suitable time.

A weekly reflection sheet to help focus your prayer will be made available.

If interested, please apply before 21 July 2023 on our website or email.

A small donation is welcomed.

<https://www.heartoflife.melbourne/product/donation/>



Heart of Life

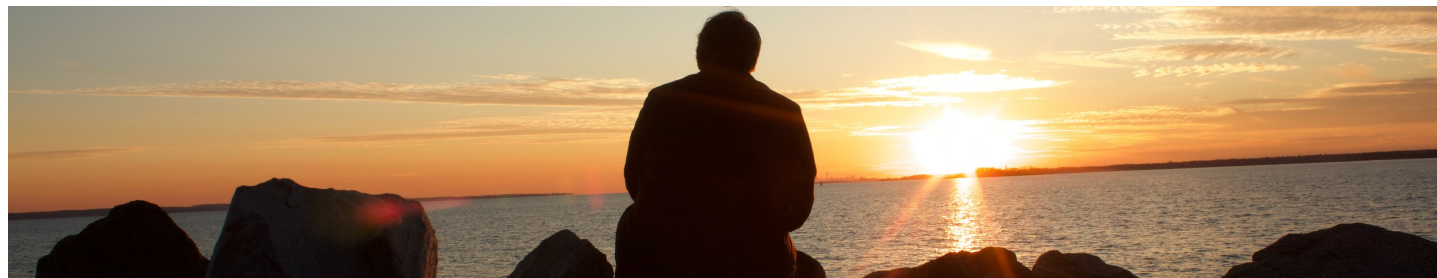
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Prayers of the Faithful for 9 July 2023 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Loving God, you who are 'kind and full of compassion', listen to our prayers offered today.

For the Church and all its people: may we as Catholics place the Eucharist at the centre of our lives so that we are transformed and open to the work of God in the universal Church.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those receiving the Eucharist for the first time: may they develop an understanding of the awesome presence of Jesus in the bread and wine.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in power: may our world leaders watch over a just sharing of the world's resources and respect the dignity of the most vulnerable.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those suffering from trauma, aggression or injustice: may they find comfort and peace. We remember especially those in Ukraine.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick, especially those named in the Bulletin: may they find comfort in the joy of the Gospel and experience the healing power of God's love in their lives.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died, especially *Richard Hoolohan, Lorraine Quilty & Ian Sturman* and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Montagna Mustica* may they rest forever in the eternal love of God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, through your boundless love, answer these prayers and those in our hearts. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**