

PARISH NEWS SHEET

Welcome to the Partnered Parishes of
St Peter Toorak and Our Lady of Lourdes Armadale
Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B
29th August 2021

**THIS SUNDAY'S MASS WILL BE BROADCAST ONLY.
THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC MASS IN EITHER CHURCH
A LINK WILL BE EMAILED AT 9.30am THIS SUNDAY**

WEEKDAY MASSES

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Our Lady of Lourdes | Tuesday | 31 st August | NO MASS THIS WEEK |
| Our Lady of Lourdes | Wednesday | 1 st September | NO MASS THIS WEEK |
| St Peter's | Thursday | 2 nd September | NO MASS THIS WEEK |
| St Peter's | Friday | 3 rd September | NO MASS THIS WEEK |

Reconciliation

St Peter's and
Our Lady Of Lourdes

By appointment only for
the time being

Baptisms

Our Lady of Lourdes
and St Peter's

Please ring the Parish Secretaries to make
arrangements

Marriages

By arrangement with the Parish Priest



Parish Priest
Business Manager
Pastoral Associate
Parish Secretary
Office
Office Hours
Email
Parish Website
Presbytery:

Father Brendan Hayes, Episcopal Vicar of the Southern Region
Mr Frank Glynn
Miss Delisa Gonsalves
Mrs Madeline Dimasi Assistant Secretary: Mrs Carmel Negline
583 Toorak Road Toorak 3142
Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3.30pm **Tel: 9068 8600**
armadale.toorak@cam.org.au
pol.org.au/toorak
631 High Street Prahran 3181 **Tel: A/H 9510 5042**

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School

Principal Mrs Francine Walsh
School Office 7 Wynnstay Road Prahran East 3181 **Tel: 9510 6688**
Email principal@olprahranecatholic.edu.au

St Peter's Early Learning Centre

Director Mrs Kathleen Brohier
581 Toorak Road, Toorak 3142 **Tel: 9827 7233**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



[Jesus] "...called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what can defile."

Today's gospel Mark 7:14-15 New RSV translation

These two verses form the climax of the longer extract from Mark's gospel which is appointed for this Sunday's Mass. The gospel passage also needs to be read with the text of the first reading, from the book of Deuteronomy, one of the books of The Law. The full text is in the Bulletin as usual.

I have to state that I often feel uncomfortable when I come across these and similar passages in the New Testament because there are some passages which record esteem for the faith of Pharisees. Think of the dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus in chapter 3 of John's gospel and the support offered to the Apostles by Gamaliel in chapter 5, verses 17-42 in the Acts of the Apostles. The Pharisees were not all baddies.

I also have great esteem for our Jewish brothers and sisters today who observe the dietary and dress codes and other strict obligations enjoined by the Torah, (the Law of Moses), in the first 5 books of the Bible. As with Catholics themselves, there are degrees of observance among the Jewish people, but I presume you see the point I make.

There is a good story about all this business of drawing conclusions about religious observance which can be strict or more relaxed, tolerant or intolerant, in a book by (Fr) Geoffrey Plant: *Releasing the Captive, Reflections for the Year of Mark*, Garrett publishing, 2011, pages 310-315.

A New York Jewish journalist, A.J. Jacobs, grew up in an agnostic family. So, as a good investigative journalist, Jacobs decided to immerse himself in religion by a complete and careful reading of the whole Bible. He drew up a list of 'every rule, every guideline, every suggestion, every nugget of advice' he could find.

His result was a long list of 72 pages and 700 plus rules which he attempted to put into practice. After some attempts at putting these into practice he decided that it was impossible to observe all these injunctions literally because: "Almost everyone's literalism consisted of picking and choosing. People plucked out the parts that fit their agenda, whether that agenda was to the right or the left."

That statement raises the whole issue of selective interpretation which is really what lies behind Jesus's having a go at the Pharisees. They substituted their take on the Law for the Law itself. Their strict and partial interpretation suited the lifestyle which they had developed and which they insisted was the only way to perfection.

For his part, Jesus states that the heart is really the moral centre of the person, the place of importance in our relationship with God. Moral defilement begins in the heart of the person, not from outside. If our hearts and minds are constantly at work on taking other people down, doing shifty deals, white-anting reputations, rorting the system, fomenting discord and jealousy, then we are far from observing God's Law that gives life.

On the other hand, if our hearts and minds are exercised with the cultivation of prayer, peace, happiness, generosity, mindfulness, social concern, the exercise of justice and impartiality of judgment, then we are observing God's Law that gives life and we are enjoying that life to the full.

Fr Hayes



Social Justice Sunday 2021

Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor

The Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2021-22: ***Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor***, affirms that "we human beings need a change of heart, mind, and behaviour". It draws from Scripture, from the theological tradition, from Catholic Social Teaching, and from the wisdom of the world, including the insights of the First Nations.

The Social Justice Statement 2021-22 provides theological foundations to ground and inspire efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. The Statement reflects on creation in and through the Trinity; the sacramentality of all created things; the wonder and beauty available to the contemplative eye; and the need for conversion and change of life.

You can download a copy of the Statement here: ['Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor'](#)

SICK LIST Jane Wetzler, Claire & Doug Mitchell, Therese O'Hehir, Paul Mohan, Peter Lindley, Noela & John Gibb, Robert & Bobby Panton, Mary Lennox, Dr Bill Mitchell, Dr David Phillips, Ranjan Gregory, Isuzu Nishimura, Peter Renehan, Mark Ryan, John Bongiorno (in USA), Dympna Brady, Adrian Mitchell, Teresa Sheehan, Jean Ryan, Helen Hudson, Patricia Webb, Evelyn Hughes, Adrian Gazzard (gravely ill), Dr Jean Allison (parishioner of TUC), David Blake, Abigail McMeekin, Cathy Moore, Alan Molyneux and Dr Giuseppe Pagliaro

RECENTLY DECEASED: John Somerville, Lynette Cook (daughter of Patricia McLean), Dr Donna Merwick Dening, Michael O'Loughlin

ANNIVERSARIES: Marie Dawes (1st), Debbie Mercovich, Dr Frank Spruce, Fr Frank Martin, Corinne Lewis, Ivo and Josephine Mattei

READINGS – 5th September

First reading [Is 35:4-7](#)
Psalm [Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1](#)
Second reading [Jas 2:1-5](#)
Gospel [Mk 7:31-37](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PARISHIONERS

COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

As of 8.00pm Thursday 5th August 2021 the following 'snap lockdown' measures will be applied across Victoria, and will extend until the 2nd September or as otherwise notified..

Religious Ceremonies:

No in-person gatherings permitted. Livestreaming and Broadcast is permitted with a total of 5 people present including technicians.

Funerals: Permitted with no more than 10 people (and those necessary to conduct the funeral). Children under 12 months old are not counted towards this cap.

Weddings: Not permitted unless end of life or for deportation reasons. Involves only 5 persons (including the two persons being married, celebrant, two witnesses).

This week on the Journey (Ep 421)

On the Journey this week: Dr Sandie Cornish explains this year's social justice statement. Fr Mark De Battista says the gospel calls for ruthless honesty with ourselves and the willingness to see the truth about ourselves as it really is. Plus, Mother Hilda on our true heritage & identity with God, our Father and Trish McCarthy about simplicity, being intentional, and compassionate. Plus, more great music! Visit www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au where you can listen anytime and subscribe to weekly shows by email. Got friends or family who you'd like to hear this show ever week? All you've got to do is send them this email and they can subscribe by **clicking here**.

FIRST READING [Dt 4:1-2, 6-8](#)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
Moses said to the people: ‘Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, “No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation.” And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?’

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

[Ps 14:2-5. R. v.1](#)

Response:

The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

SECOND READING [Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27](#)

A reading from the letter of St James

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

A GENTLE REMINDER

As the current lockdown has been extended and we still do not know if we will be out of it by the 2nd September, may I ask that you keep in mind the desirability of continuing to support our partnered parishes and your parish priest.

If you would like to make a credit card or direct debit payment, please call the parish office during office hours as per the front page of this Newsletter. Parishioners were very thoughtful during the long lockdown of last year and your continuing generosity will be of great benefit to everybody in the partnered parishes.

Fr Hayes

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL [Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23](#)

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?’ He answered, ‘It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.’

He called the people to him again and said, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand.

Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men’s hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.’



PRAYER DURING LOCKDOWN

Dear Parishioners,

In this difficult time which we face could I suggest that you set aside 15 minutes, Monday to Friday, noon to 12.15pm to pray.

Suitable intentions could be:

For people in Australia who have COVID,
for those who look after them,
for children and teenagers doing home-schooling,
for people who live by themselves and
for parents and other people who have to work from home, for people overseas who have COVID, especially in developing countries, and
for the people of Afghanistan whose freedom is seriously threatened.

You could say a decade of the Rosary or read from your Book of Prayers or a passage from the Bible.

Fr Hayes

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday: August 31st

St. Raymond Nonnatus, Order of Mercy, is a saint from Catalonia in Spain. His nickname, *Not Born* refers to his birth by Caesarean section, his mother having died while giving birth to him. Raymond is the patron saint of childbirth, midwives, children, pregnant women, and priests defending the Confidentiality of confession. Canonized: 1657, by Pope Alexander VII. Devotees of *Call the Midwife*, will remember that the name of the Sisters' Convent is Nonnatus House.

Friday 3rd September Pope Saint Gregory the Great was the bishop of Rome from 3 September 590 to his death. He is known for instigating the first recorded large-scale mission from Rome, the Gregorian Mission, to convert the pagan Anglo-Saxons in England to Christianity.

Sunday 5th September

St. Teresa of Calcutta founder of the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, Congregation of women dedicated to the poor, particularly to the destitute of India. She was the recipient of numerous honours, including the 1979 Nobel Prize for Peace.

In accordance with Archdiocesan Policy, the Parish Communities of St Peter and Our Lady of Lourdes are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.