



**Sacred Heart / Emmaus Parish
St Albans / Sydenham Western Plains Deanery
Parish Priest: Fr. Maurie Cooney**



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A - 10th September 2023

Parish Details:

Address: 4 Winifred Street, St Albans 3021
Phone: 9366 2146

Finance: Lorraine Stafford: StAlbans.Finance@cam.org.au

Parish Office: Lauren Maslaris: StAlbans@cam.org.au

Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 9:30am—4:00pm

Wednesday-Friday: 9:30am—2:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sacred Heart English Saturday 10.30am
Maltese every 4th Saturday 4.00pm

Baptism: Eight weeks notice is required

Marriage: Six months noticed required

Sacred Heart Mass Times:

Weekdays:

Tuesday - Friday 7.30am
Saturday 9.00am

Weekend:

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 7:30am, 10:30am
Polish 9.00am

Slovene 2nd Sunday of month at 5:00pm

Emmaus Mass Times:

Saturday 6:30pm
Sunday 9:00am

Website: <http://pol.org.au/stalbanssydenham/Home.aspx>

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Sacred Heart/Emmaus Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. The Parish takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and upholds that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. To report issues and concerns, contact: stalbans.csc@cam.org.au or 0413 841 936

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Sacred Heart-Emmaus Parish acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation, the traditional owners of the land where we gather. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

READINGS

This Week: First Reading: [Ezekiel 33:7-9](#) Second Reading: [Romans 13:8-10](#) Gospel: [Matthew 18:15-20](#)
Next Week: First Reading: [Sirach 27:30 – 28:7](#) Second Reading: [Romans 14:7-9](#) Gospel: [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

REFLECTION

How do you handle it when someone has done something wrong?

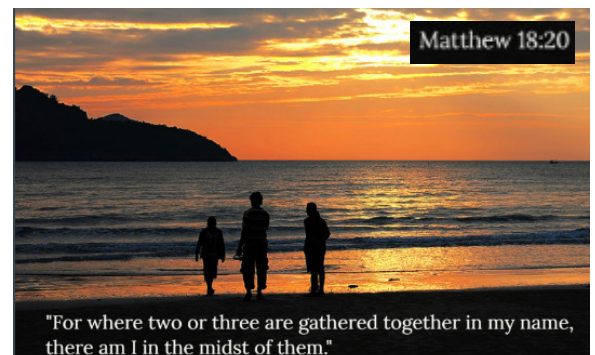
The Gospel reading today outlines a process by which we can hold people to account for their actions. Then, as preached by Jesus so often, there has to be forgiveness. As we know, however, forgiveness is not easy. And forgiveness never means 'that's alright' – there are some actions and attitudes that are never right, that must be called out, and from which society is to be protected: this is part of the teaching of Jesus.

Forgiveness is often not the ready human reaction. More often we want revenge, to get even with the person who has offended. But then, imitating Jesus, living in his way, is not easy. Choosing to forgive is a Jesus characteristic: forgiveness is a central message of Jesus to his followers. Forgiveness can free us from being bound into the wrong that has occurred. The challenge to forgive is one that Jesus repeatedly proclaimed directly and through parables.

Those who accept this Jesus invitation to forgive will find that this choice often runs counter to a strong societal value.

"People of peace must not think about recriminations and retribution. Courageous people do not fear forgiving" (*Nelson Mandela*). Forgiveness is not the action of the weak but rather the virtue of the brave. The process of forgiveness takes time and patience and is never an easy journey. The fact that forgiveness is not easy demands that adequate time be given to work through the attending issues. Forgiveness can be a slow process. If one rushes the process and tries to oversimplify it, the result can be half-hearted. Are there situations where we will not be able to forgive?

Thankfully God forgives us ... and again ... and again!



"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

RECENT DEATHS: Ivor Johnson, Santo Licandro, Gertruda Kryzysik, Sam Zammit, Daniela Zarafa, Frank & Francess Azzopardi, Roslind Vincent, Fr. Steve Bohan

ANNIVERSARIES: Aaron D'Souza, Prudence & Gwendoline Fraser, Michael Vella, Angela Xuereb, Michael & Josephine Piacentini, Joe Xuereb, Lewis, Paul & Joe Psaila, Sam & Luke Cassar, Margaret Borg, Emmanuel & Frank Grech, Benjamin Rubio Dionisio Sr., Tessie Farrugia, Joseph Grech, William Jessup, Don Adams, George Borg, Ronald Stokes, Tony Tanti, Joeanne Martin, Clarrie James, Paul Aquilina, Fr. Joshua, Peter Muscat & Muscat Family, Ernesta Luna, Lourdes Pedro, Joseph Peel, Eusebio Darmanin, Saviour Anastasi, Frank Camilleri, Carmenu Falzon, Charlie Camilleri, Patrick, Kathleen, Noel & Raymond Guest, Albert Muscat, Daniela Zarafa, Pero Kilsanin, Anna Pribaz, Fredericko Martinez, Cecilia & Frank Cordina, Joseph & Maria Orsini, Matthew Sultana, Edna D'Souza, Sr. Mary Joseph

OUR PASTORAL, SOCIAL & SCHOOL EVENTS



catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023

Supporting Safe Communities

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2023
10 SEPTEMBER

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK AND SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY (10 SEPTEMBER)

Child Protection Week is a national campaign held each year to raise awareness of child-abuse prevention in our communities. In 2023, the overarching message that 'Every child in every community needs a fair go' will be complemented with the theme 'Where we start matters':

o Where we start our lives in terms of where we live, the resources available to us and the opportunities presented to us makes a significant difference to our life outcomes.

o Where we start as a Catholic community in offering children and their families support and assistance makes a significant difference to life outcomes.

Where we start as decision-makers in addressing large, complex problems such as child abuse and neglect also has a significant impact on personal, social and economic outcomes.

Child Protection Week is a good time for us to think about how we, as adults, can address some of these issues that affect children and to consider how we can change things to make a difference.

In the Catholic Church, Child Protection Week is highlighted through Safeguarding Sunday, 10 September. Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts. It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly.

Members of our Parish's Safeguarding Committee will speak at each Mass this weekend.

If you have concerns in this matter, contact phone [9926 5621](tel:99265621), email safeguardingunit@cam.org.au; stalbens.csc@cam.org.au, website www.melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding

**PRIESTS RETIREMENT
FOUNDATION**



Caring for those who cared

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT FOUNDATION - Contributions

The annual 'Fathers' Day' collection for the care of retired diocesan Priests and those on sick leave extends into this weekend. Return your envelope in the collection baskets. Or take a new envelope from the foyers and seats and return your contribution next week.



Ministry Update's - Meeting at Sacred Heart Presbytery:

- Bereavement Group this Thursday 14th September at 7pm

Please email Lauren at the Parish Office to indicate whether you will/will not be joining us:

stalbens@cam.org.au

Ministry is needed so that we can "carry forward the life of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit".

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Truly our great God will be gratified by the love and zeal of many. Mary MacKillop 30 June 1873