



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



**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A - 17th September 2023**

**Parish Details:**

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

**Finance:** Lorraine Stafford: [StAlbans.Finance@cam.org.au](mailto:StAlbans.Finance@cam.org.au)

**Parish Office:** Lauren Maslaris: [StAlbans@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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: [Sirach 27:30 – 28:7](#) Second Reading: [Romans 14:7-9](#) Gospel: [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

**Next Week:** First Reading: [Isaiah 55:6-9](#) Second Reading: [Philippians 1:20-24, 27](#) Gospel: [Matthew 20:1-16](#)

**REFLECTION**

*How many times should I forgive? Really??*

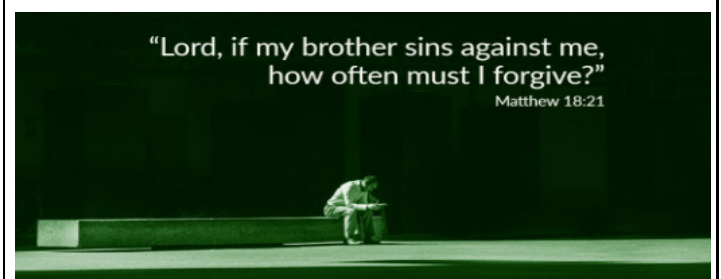
The call of the gospel is so demanding at times. Last week's Word urged us to stand up for the values and actions which we consider to be right; today's Word now asks us to forgive those who act against us! There is a tension between these two. However this is how God is towards us – the call is to us to live truly as part of the People of God.

Some find it difficult to forgive because they fear that such a decision will convey the impression that forgiveness approves the behaviour of the offender. Forgiveness does not address the wrongdoing of the offender. It speaks of the courage, compassion, wisdom and mercy of the forgiver. When Pope John Paul II forgave his would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Agca, he never indicated that Agca's actions were justifiable. Some things that people do are not right!

The motivation for forgiving includes the factor that we need to be healed ourselves – from the heavy burden of carrying a grudge, which runs the risk of turning us into a negative person. We want to be whole and to be people of hope and life. Jesus said that he had come that we might have life and have it to the full. Retaining anger drains that very life from us.

"I'm not asking you to forgive that person because what they did was acceptable; it was hurtful and selfish. I'm asking you to forgive because you're letting that person live in your head and turn you into a bitter, angry person."

*Lord, accepting Your forgiveness is easy for us. You pardon us and we feel great peace and joy. It is like walking tall again. But being the forgiver of others who have offended us is not so easy for us. Help us break through the difficulty of forgiving. We know your promise to forgive us - give us your strength to shake off whatever it is in us that has us digging our heels in and holds us bound. And so may your new life be renewed around us!*



## WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

**RECENT DEATHS:** Antoinette Mangion, Ivor Johnson, Lewis Kaucic, Santo Licandro, Gertruda Kryzysik, Sam Zammit, Frank & Frances Azzopardi,

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Aaron D'Souza, Patrick Joseph Stahlmann, Gloria Rodrigues, Michael Vella, Esther Coleiro, Angela Xuereb, Pero Kilsanin, Michael & Josephine Piacentini, Paul Aquilina, Joe Xuereb, Lewis, Paul & Joe Psaila, Sam & Luke Cassar, Margaret Borg, Emmanuel & Frank Grech, Joseph Grech, Cecilia & Frank Cordina, Joseph & Maria Orsini, Tessie Farrugia, Fr. Joshua, Peter Muscat, Albert Muscat, Peter & Grace Muscat, Leli Bugeja, Carmenu Falzon, Charlie Camilleri, Loretta, Gorg, Fredi, Anglu Camilleri, Anna & Anthony Cardona, Gloria Rodrigues, Nikola & Marija Mrden, Prudence & Gwendoline Fraser, John Nguyen Ngoc Nhung, Felomena Dany Hui Lau, Marija Maloca

## OUR PASTORAL, SOCIAL & SCHOOL EVENTS



# PROJECT COMPASSION

## FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

**CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION PRESENTED TO**

St Albans Catholic Parish  
\$4,534.50

# THANK YOU.

Your generosity during Project Compassion this year will support our neighbours worldwide, empowering the most vulnerable people to build a just future for their families and communities.

*Kirsty Robertson*  
Caritas Australia CEO

*Gwen Michener*  
Community Representative



[caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) 1800 024 413 #projectcompassion



### 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. Thank you!

### Ministry Meetings

- Parish Advisory Group: Wed 20<sup>th</sup> September @ 7pm
- Baptism Team: Tue 26<sup>th</sup> September @ 7pm

**Location: Sacred Heart Presbytery Office**

## Ministry Updates - Vinnies Conference Ministers needed

The society of St Vincent De Paul (Vinnies) is a worldwide Catholic organization that tries to live the Gospel by providing practical support to those in our community that are struggling. The Keilor Downs conference is based at St Mary Mackillop Church, we service the local area including Keilor Downs, Taylors lakes & Sydenham.

**We are looking for Volunteers to join us in this rewarding Ministry.**

**For Further information please contact:**

Armando 0400 255 172 or [armandobianco748@gmail.com](mailto:armandobianco748@gmail.com)  
Michalina 0428 818 906 or [mrruberto@bigpond.com](mailto:mrruberto@bigpond.com)

**For material assistance contact the Call Centre 1800 305 330**

**To learn more about the St Vincent De Paul Society Victoria go to: [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)**

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



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*

**St Mary of the Cross MacKillop**

I would rather be judged for any other sin than for un-charitableness. Mary MacKillop 1874