



The Parish of Saint Anthony Glen Huntly

Parish Office

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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY 28-29 DECEMBER 2019

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste,
And found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
2nd Reading: Colossians 3:12-21
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

MASSES AT ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH GLEN HUNTLY

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 11am, 5pm

Wednesday 1 January 9.15am *New Year's Day*
Thursday 2 January 9.15am
Friday 3 January 9.15am

Holy Rosary Wednesday to Friday 8.45am
Reconciliation Friday 9.45am

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH OFFICE

Re-opens Thursday 9 January 10am—2pm

MEDITATION

In the course of his hidden life in Nazareth Jesus stayed in the silence of an ordinary existence. This allows us to enter into fellowship with him in the holiness to be found in a daily life marked by prayer, simplicity, work and family love. His obedience to Mary and to Joseph, his foster teacher, is an image of his filial obedience to the Father. Mary and Joseph accepted with faith the mystery of Jesus even though they did not always understand it.

Compendium n104

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD 4-5 JANUARY 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Behold the Lord, the Mighty One, has come:
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
We have seen his star in the East;
And have come to adore the Lord.
Alleluia!

LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Isaiah: 60:1-6
2nd Reading: Ephesians: 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew: 2:1-12

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We have seen his star in the East,
And have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

MASSES AT ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH GLEN HUNTLY

We welcome Fr Trevor Tibbertsma Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass
Saturday Vigil Mass: 6pm
Sunday 8.30am, 11am, 5pm

12 noon Daily Mass Monday—Saturday
Fatima Centre 205 Poath Rd Murrumbreena

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH OFFICE

Thursday 9 January 10am—2pm

MEDITATION

At Christmas the glory of heaven is shown forth in the weakness of a baby; the circumcision of Jesus is a sign of his belonging to the Hebrew people and is a prefiguration of our Baptism; the Epiphany is the manifestation of the Messiah King of Israel to all the nations; at the presentation in the temple, Simeon and Anna symbolize all the anticipation of Israel awaiting its encounter with its Saviour; the flight into Egypt and the massacre of the innocents proclaim that the entire life of Christ will be under the sign of persecution; the departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents Jesus as the new Moses and the true and definitive liberator. *Compendium CCC n103*

Lord, Teach us to Pray 1

There are many ways to pray. There are the traditional prayers that we learned as children. There are the heartfelt petitions that we offer to God. There are the prayers of the Mass. But as different as all these types of prayer are, they have one goal in common: an encounter with God.

Here's how St Therese of Lisieux, Carmelite nun from the 19th century, described prayer: "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love." That sounds a lot like what Amanda experienced when she first heard her parents' voices. It's the experience of our hearts connecting with our own heavenly Father: God himself.

This month we want to explore how we can experience God's presence more deeply when we pray. We want to ask how we can encounter God as Therese did, how we can hear his voice as Amanda heard her parents, and how we can respond to that voice in a way that changes our lives.

Scripture tells us that God created us in his image and likeness. It teaches that God has hardwired us to seek him and to find him. That means that deep in our hearts, we all long to be connected to God. Even in the midst of our sin, "man remains an image of his Creator, and retains the desire for the one who calls him into existence" Or as Ecclesiastes says, God has placed "the timeless into our hearts" so that we all sense that we belong to eternity and the eternal God.

Yet while we all long for God, we don't always recognize that it is God we are yearning for. Often, we try to quench our thirst for the eternal God with fleeting things. Pleasure and power, prestige and possessions may attract us, but they provide only temporary relief.

While good attractions, like education, accomplishments at work, or success in our marriage and family, can help soothe us, even these can leave us unsatisfied. We long for something more. That's because, as St Augustine said, we were made for God and "our hearts are restless until they find rest" in him.

But we aren't the only ones who are thirsting. God himself thirsts for us! He has always longed for us to encounter him. Psalm 139 tells us that he knows when we sit and when we stand; he sifts through our travel and our rest. He is always watching over us, offering us his guidance so that we can find our way to him.

From the moment our first parents fell into sin until today, our God has been calling out to us: "Where are you?" "Return to me with your whole heart". "Man may forget his Creator or hide far from his face," the Catechism tells us. "He may run after idols or accuse the deity of having abandoned him; yet the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer".

On the cross, Jesus gave us the clearest revelation of his longing for us. When he cried out "I thirst," he was telling us how much he wanted us to be joined to him. He was also showing us the lengths to which he would go to bring us back to him. Even today, 2000 years after he made his declaration, Jesus continues to thirst for our love. He never stops longing to gather us into his arms of love and mercy. Jesus is longing for you.

Do you remember the story of Jesus' conversation with "the woman at the well?" He was resting by a well in the Samaritan town of Sychar when a woman came to draw water. Seeing her, he said, "Give me a drink". Now, there's more to this request than Jesus asking for a cup of water on a hot day. St Augustine tells us, "Although Jesus asked for a drink, his real thirst was for this woman's faith." According to St Therese, "When he said, Give me a drink,' it was the love of his poor creature that the Creator of the universe was seeking. He was thirsty for love."

As the story unfolds, we learn that Jesus knew about this woman's past. He knew that she had been married five times and that the man she was living with wasn't her husband. He knew that she was avoiding scandal by coming to the well at the hottest part of the day, when no one else would be there. But Jesus wasn't put off by her past sins or her current situation. "If you know the gift of God," he told her, "and who is saying to you 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water". His words laid bare the thirst that she had tried to quench with the other "loves" in her life.

Jesus then led the woman from shame and isolation to faith and a loving relationship with God. He showed her that she need never thirst again. For her part, the woman has tasted the living water of Jesus' presence and his love. She was so excited, in fact, that she ran and told all the townsfolk about Jesus and the living water that he wanted to give them. Finally, she found what she had been longing for all along. And finally, there at the well, God's thirst for her was satisfied.

So how can you quench your thirst? How can your deepest longings be fulfilled? By encountering Jesus in prayer. And not just once, but everyday—in your home, at Mass, during Adoration, as you pray the Rosary, and any other way you pray. Remember, Jesus thirsts for you too, so he doesn't want to make it hard for you. Like the Samaritan woman, you can come and spend time with Jesus; you can have a conversation with him. By sitting at his feet in prayer day after day, you will put yourself in a place where you can experience his lavish love for you and the "living water" of his presence.

This is not to say that prayer is always going to be easy. Sometimes we feel dry or distracted or anxious. It can be difficult to find the time or even the desire to pray. Maybe you view prayer as a religious obligation, a demand that God is making on you. Maybe you feel guilty that you aren't praying enough or that you go to God only when you need help from him. Of course, God is always happy to hear from you, even when it's only a five second plea for help. But he wants so much more, and he wants you to experience so much more. He longs for an exchange of love, that "surge of the heart" that St Therese wrote about.

