

### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good  
will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten  
Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father, have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

#### FIRST READING *1 Kings 19:9,11-13*

*Go out and stand on the mountain before  
the Lord God.*

When Elijah reached Horeb, the  
mountain of God, he went into the cave  
and spent the night in it. Then he was  
told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain  
before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself  
went by. There came a mighty wind, so  
strong it tore the mountains and shattered  
the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord  
was not in the wind. After the wind came  
an earthquake. But the Lord was not in  
the earthquake. After the earthquake  
came a fire. But the Lord was not in the  
fire. And after the fire there came the  
sound of a gentle breeze. And when  
Elijah heard this, he covered his face with  
his cloak and went out and stood at the  
entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 84:9-14. R. v. 8*

*R. Lord, show us your mercy and  
love, and grant us your salvation.*

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to  
say, a voice that speaks of peace.  
His help is near for those who fear  
him and his glory will dwell in our  
land. *R.*
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the  
earth and justice look down from  
heaven. *R.*
3. The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. *R.*

#### SECOND READING *Romans 9:1-5*

*I would willingly be condemned if it  
could help my people.*

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it  
in union with Christ – it is the truth – my  
conscience in union with the Holy Spirit  
assures me of it too. What I want to say  
is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental  
anguish so endless, I would willingly be  
condemned and be cut off from Christ if  
it could help my brothers of Israel, my  
own flesh and blood. They were adopted  
as sons, they were given the glory and the  
covenants; the Law and the ritual were  
drawn up for them, and the promises  
were made to them. They are descended  
from the patriarchs and from their flesh  
and blood came Christ who is above all,  
God for ever blessed! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Ps 129:5*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I hope in the Lord,  
I trust in his word.  
Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL *Mt 14:22-33*

*Command me to come to you over the  
water.*

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat  
and go on ahead to the other side while  
he would send the crowds away. After  
sending the crowds away he went up into  
the hills by himself to pray. When

evening came, he was there alone, while  
the boat, by now far out on the lake, was  
battling with a heavy sea, for there was a  
head-wind. In the fourth watch of the  
night he went towards them, walking on  
the lake, and when the disciples saw him  
walking on the lake they were terrified.  
'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in  
fear. But at once Jesus called out to them,  
saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be  
afraid.' It was Peter who answered.  
'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to  
come to you across the water.' 'Come'  
said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat  
and started walking towards Jesus across  
the water, but as soon as he felt the force  
of the wind, he took fright and began to  
sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put  
out his hand at once and held him. 'Man  
of little faith,' he said 'why did you  
doubt?' And as they got into the boat the  
wind dropped. The men in the boat  
bowed down before him and said, 'Truly,  
you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### CREED

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord,  
*(All bow during these two lines)*  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again  
from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

## **A Prophet's Depression, an Apostle's Grief, a Disciple's Fear**

*Biblical Reflection for 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time A*

### **Mountaintop experiences.**

In today's first reading from 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a, Elijah must learn that God is not encountered in the sound and fury of loud and spectacular events. God will not be conjured up by the zealous or boisterous activity of the prophet who now stands quiet and distressed atop the Lord's mountain. Though various phenomena, such as wind, storms, earthquakes, fire (Exodus 19:18-19), may indeed herald the divine presence, they do not constitute the presence itself which, like the tiny whispering sound, is imperceptible and reveals in a deep way the true face and presence of God. The Hebrew expression "still small voice" literally means "a voice of low whispers, a sound of gentle stillness." Though the wretched Jezebel was thundering, she was not in control. Though God was silent, he was not absent. Elijah's God and our God is the God of signs and wonders but he is also the God of whispers and gentleness. Only when Elijah's mind and heart are finally depleted of ambition and self-promotion, is God ultimately heard.

Mount Horeb is the place forever associated with the source and essence of Israelite faith. Elijah arrived at the sacred mountain where he spent the night in a dark cave. The dark cave and the dark night are reflective of his "dark night of the soul." The story of Elijah in the cave on Mount Horeb is the classic example of one struggling with depression and burnout. Eventually it touches everyone -- even God's chosen people, his fiery prophets and leaders, his apostles and disciples!

### **Great sorrow and anguish.**

Today's second reading (Romans 9:1-5) presents us with Paul, a man who had an unbelievable willingness to be sacrificed for his people. He was willing to be accursed, separated from Christ, if it would save his people. He was willing to swap his salvation for their doom if it would lead to their salvation. Paul felt the deepest emotion, love, and concern for his own people. Paul addresses himself to the essential question of how the divine plan could be frustrated by Israel's unbelief.

### **"Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."**

In today's moving Gospel story (Matthew 14:22-23) set on the lake, the disciples, laboring against the turbulent sea, are saved by Jesus. Jesus' power is expressed by his walking on the choppy waters (Matthew 14:25; Psalm 77:20; Job 9:8). Jesus challenges Peter to also walk on the waters! Because of Peter's fear and weak faith, he begins to sink. When Jesus stretches out his hand and catches Peter, he reminds his disciples and the Church in every generation of his constant care for us. He teaches us that no storm will overturn the boat in which we sail, and no water will swallow us up in darkness.

At certain times in our contemporary Church history, everything seems to indicate shipwreck, fear, drowning and death. But let us be honest and realize that the Church goes on, saving souls and journeying to its final harbor. In that blessed realm, beyond the seas of this life, all the things which threaten God's Church in this world will be gone for ever. At those times, we must listen to the Lord, as Peter did, and cast the nets again into the deep -- for it is our faith that is being tested -- not as to whether we profess it or not -- but as to whether we are ready to do something about it or not.

### **He calms the storms of life.**

Let us never forget this fact: We are on the waters with Jesus. He is in the boat with us, during the night and during the storms. The Lord does not abandon those who come seeking his mercy and his forgiveness. He walks upon the waters. He calms the storm. He guides the boat into safe harbor, and brings with him the great catch, the great feast, to which we are all summoned -- the daily feast of his Body and Blood, our food for eternal life. This is cause for rejoicing!

**By Father Thomas Rosica, CSB**

[Readings: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a; Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14; Romans 9:1-5; and Matthew 14:22-33]

# ST PAUL'S PARISH

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Parish Priest: Fr. Raymond Bugeja

Parish Secretary: Mrs Loretta Meilak

St Paul's School Principal: Mrs Maria Mercuri

School Tel: 9354-8970

*St Paul's Parish strives to create an environment where children are safe, respected and cared for.*



## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Friday: 10.30am to 3.30 pm.

## MASSES:

**Weekends: Saturday:** 6:00 pm (vigil),  
8.00pm (Neo Catechumenate)

**Sunday:** 9:00am, 10.30am (Italian),

**Weekdays: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri:** 10.00 am.

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturdays - 11am and 6.45pm

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month-9am Mass

**ADORATION:** First Friday of the month: 10.30 am to 12pm

**BAPTISMS:** Sundays at 12.00 pm.

**BAPTISM PREPERATION MEETINGS:** Once Monthly

**MARRIAGE PREP MEETINGS:** Wed 8pm or Sat 4pm

**WEDDING REHEARSALS:** Mon or Fri – 8pm

**COMMUNION TO THE HOUSEBOUND:** Thurs & Fri.

**COMMUNION TO SICK at Bupa & Northern Gardens:**  
every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** 2 times a year (Lent & Advent).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 10am

**YOUTH & KIDS GROUP:** 4th Friday of the month.

**ITALIAN PRAYER GROUP:** Wednesdays at 10.30 am

**Legion of Mary:** Monday mornings at 10.30 am.

**Knights of the Southern Cross:** Monday mornings.

## JOKE OF THE WEEK:



## THANKSGIVING – DIRECT DEPOSIT BANK DETAILS

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 67541 0884

Account Name: St Paul's Catholic Church.

**JULY THANKSGIVING OFFERING: \$1744.00**

**Presbytery: \$ 460.85**

*Thanks for your support in these challenging times.*

## THE WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS:

### THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE WHOLE WORLD STOPS:

No more sports.

No more concerts.

No more large social gatherings.

No more intimate get-togethers with friends.

No more travel.

No more sense of security.

And for some,

loss of money,

loss of employment,

loss of business,

loss of health,

loss of loved ones or

loss of life.

We have been stripped. Stripped of much of what we thought we were, and much of what we thought we needed. Such a process of detachment is hard, painful and sometimes very scary.



## PRAYER AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

Coronavirus, I rebuke you in Jesus name.

I cast you out. You have no place here.

Lord, protect us from this disease. Have mercy on us.

Loose your healing on us, Lord.

Deliver us from this virus and all other infections.

Cover us with the blood of Jesus.

Scripture says that by your stripes we are healed.

So, we call on your healing powers, today. Please heal us all.

Thank you for hearing our plea, Oh Lord. In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.

## WE PRAY FOR

We pray for those in our local community who are **sick** and vulnerable: may they see in us the followers of a God who heals and serves.

**Let us pray for those who have died recently**, Italia Gallo, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, Maria Randone (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.), Edwin V Spiteri (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv), Guza Formosa, Pasquale Mondelli, that they may enter the peace of God.

## STEWARDSHIP:

**“He said, “Come”. Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.” - MATTHEW 14:29**

When you hear Jesus calling, do you respond immediately and trust that He knows what He’s doing? If so, you are walking on water! When we say “yes” to Jesus, we feel the power of his presence in our lives. We can feel the freedom it gives us! Listen how Jesus is calling you to live the extraordinary life He has in mind for you..

## REFLECTION: A WHISPER IN THE SILENCE

**After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave. 1 Kings 19:12-13**

I have sought God in many ways over the course of my life. I searched in the busyness and “doing” of my life, hoping that if I worked hard enough I might be loved. I cried out in times of sickness and confusion, hoping I might be heard. I have no doubt that God has seen and heard me. But this ancient story of the prophet Elijah reminds us that sometimes the best way to find God is just the opposite of our kicking, screaming, doing and crying. Very often, the most direct way to God is in the silence “at the back of the cave.” We need to retreat from the noise, lower our voices and be quiet enough to hear the voice that whispers, “Here I am.”

*Father God, come to me in the silence of prayer.*

*Steve Givens*

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we respond obediently to God’s call and have the confidence to walk on water.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Counting our blessings

We never know the worth of water until the well is dry.  
English Proverb

## VOCATION VIEW

We pray for vocations to priesthood and consecrated life from our community. Lord hear us.

**Fr Karol Kulczycki SDS, new Bishop of Port Pirie.**



## NEWS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

**CatholicCare Sunday Appeal, 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020.** CatholicCare has been part of the fabric of the Catholic community in Greater Melbourne, Geelong and Gippsland, helping those on the fringes of society for the past 85 years. As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues, now more than ever, Victorian families are in need of our help as they struggle to make ends meet.

We understand that parish life has been profoundly affected by the social restrictions in place to help manage the spread of COVID-19. We truly appreciate the energy and support you are providing to us to help make this year’s Sunday Appeal possible.

The funds you raise during this year’s Sunday Appeal will impact more than just an individual – you are providing the opportunity to help those who are most vulnerable to overcome the challenges they face, and rebuild their lives for the better.

**Thank you again for helping to support the thousands of people we assist each year – by strengthening their relationships, increasing their resilience and improving quality of life.**

Yours in gratitude,

Netty Horton

Chief Executive Officer | CatholicCare

**Pope Francis has appointed Fr Karol Kulczycki SDS, the former head of the Salvatorians in Australia, as the new bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie** in regional South Australia. Fr Kulczycki was born in Poland in 1966, ordained to the priesthood in Trzebinia in 1994, and is currently based in Poland. He spent 21 years serving the Church in Western Australia, including in parish ministry, as vocations director and as a college chaplain.

In February 2018, while still serving in Australia, Fr Kulczycki was elected vice-provincial of the Polish province of the Society of the Divine Saviour – widely known as the Salvatorians. Two-and-a-half years on, Pope Francis has appointed him Bishop of Port Pirie.

“Just a few weeks ago I had an interview for our Salvatorian newsletter and was asked how and where I see myself in 10 or 20 years. I replied that I would be where God sent me. I did not expect that God would act so quickly in my life,” Fr Kulczycki said.

Fr Kulczycki will become the 12th Bishop of Port Pirie – including the bishops who led what was from 1887 until 1951 the Diocese of Port Augusta.

He succeeds Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ, who has been Bishop of Port Pirie since 2009. Bishop O’Kelly also served as apostolic administrator of the Archdiocese of Adelaide for almost two years.

It is not yet known when Fr Kulczycki will arrive in Australia, nor when he will be ordained bishop.