

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 79:2-3,15-16,18-19 R. v. 4

R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. R.
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. R
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again; give us

life that we may call upon your name. R.

SECOND READING

1 Cor 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalms 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

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.

LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE:

We have gone without much in 2020. This strange year has taken a toll on so many people in so many ways. So how can our parish communities look towards the coming weeks, months, year? We look with hope. We look forward, mindful of what this past year has revealed, mindful of what we have gone without, what we have lost, what we must not take for granted, what we must remember to hold as precious.

Introducing Proclaim:

The Office for Mission Renewal

Proclaim: The Office for Mission Renewal was established in early 2020 to serve our archdiocesan community and to support it in striving for the missionary option. The Proclaim team seeks to work with, inspire and empower parishes and local communities to proclaim and live the joy of the Gospel.

ST PAUL'S PARISH

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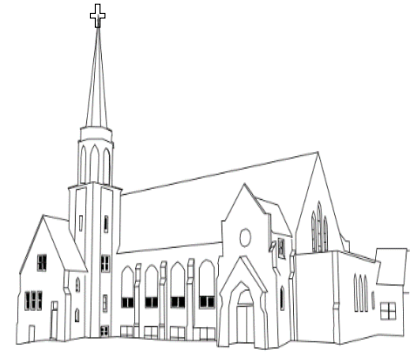
Parish Priest: Fr. Raymond Bugeja

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

JOKE OF THE WEEK



THANKSGIVING – DIRECT DEPOSIT BANK DETAILS

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 67541 0884

Account Name: St Paul's Catholic Church.

Credit Card payments:

<https://bit.ly/CDfpayCoburg>

NOV 1st – 15th THANKSGIVING OFFERING \$2116.10

Presbytery:

Works done recently: Presbytery roof: \$40,000

Painting of presbytery inside: \$12,400

Thanks for your support in these challenging times.

PARISH NEWS

CHURCH NUMBERS IN THE WORLD. The **vitality of the Church** and, above all, the faith that animates her pastors and her faithful cannot be measured by numbers and statistics. Only God knows the mysterious and unique relationship that unites him to people who profess themselves Catholic. This is what constitutes the essence of the faith.

Yet the Church, like every visible human reality, cannot live outside the dimensions of space and time and should not refrain measuring her own **quantitative dimensions** in some way, without expecting them to convey more than they can offer. For this reason the Central Office of Statistics of the Church has edited the Pontifical Yearbook 2020 and the Annuarium Statisticum Ecclesiae 2018.

First, we report **some statistics** that help to form an idea of the changes that have occurred in the dimensions of the Church itself and its members. The comparisons were made between 2013 and 2018, that is, for the first 5 years of the pontificate of Pope Francis.

In terms of **new structures**, we see, as of 2019, 4 bishoprics, 1 eparchy, 2 territorial prelatures, 1 apostolic exarchate and 1 area of apostolic administration. The number of bishops in the world has increased from 5,173 to 5,377 (3.9 percent). The biggest increases (more than 4 percent) were in Oceania, the Americas, Asia and Europe, while in Africa they increased 1.4 percent.

With regard to **baptized Catholics**, between 2013 and 2018 there has been a reduction in the relative numbers in European and North American countries and an increase in all other geographical areas. Catholics in the world in those years increased by almost 6 percent, from 1.254 billion to 1.329 billion, an increase of 75 million. At the end of 2018 Catholics made up just under 18 percent of the world population. This percentage has remained almost unchanged over the years surveyed. To be more precise, the highest percentage is found in the Americas, with 63.7 Catholics per 100 inhabitants, followed by Europe with 39.7 Catholics per 100 inhabitants, Oceania with 26.3 and Africa with 19.4. The lowest incidence is that of Asia (3.3 Catholics per 100 inhabitants), due to the significant number of non-Christian believers on this continent.

The **number of priests** decreased by 0.3 percent, during this five year period, confirming a trend already underway.

(Proceed to column 4)

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, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time: and all the deceased whose names are written on the November Envelopes, that they may enter the peace of God.

STEWARDSHIP:

“Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come.” - MARK 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

REFLECTION: Alert in the Moment

Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. Mark 13:33

I remember the scene in the 1965 movie *The Sound of Music* where the Von Trapp children and the Baroness are tossing a ball to one another without telling who they were tossing it to. The poor Baroness was always caught off guard!

This scene from Mark's Gospel came to mind: "Be watchful, be alert, because you never know when the end is coming." While it is not always easy, it is important to be present to the moment. What one of us knows when we awake in the morning that we will, indeed, be there at day's end to say "good night?"

In going to Mass before boarding the helicopter last January, Kobe Bryant and his daughter did not know that it would crash. They were, however, alert to the importance of being prepared when the end came so unexpectedly.

As tragic as this was, it is a lesson for all of us. Be watchful!

Be alert! You never know when the end time is coming.

Judy Schueneman

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we don't take our time on Earth for granted and look at each day as a gift from God.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Courage

God grant me the courage not to give up what I think is right, even though I think it is hopeless.

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

VOCATION VIEW

In our materialistic society, someone must stand up to speak for our spiritual heritage. Could that be you?

(Continue from column 2)

Between 2013 and 2018, priestly numbers increased by 1,400 in the first two years, and then decreased in the following three years. At the end of 2017, there were 414,582 priests. Encouragingly, they increased in Africa (+14.3 percent) and Asia (+11 percent). In America they remained constant (about 123,000). They decreased in Europe (-7 percent) and Oceania (-1 percent). The distribution of priests in the various continents sees a prevalence of European priests (41.3 percent), whose numbers have decreased greatly in the last three years, followed by American priests. The Asian clergy make up 16.5 percent of the total, the African clergy 11.5 percent and that of Oceania 1.1 percent.

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A rapidly evolving reality in all continents is that of **permanent deacons**, who rose from 43,195 in 2013 to 47,504 in 2018, an increase of about 10 percent.

Some considerations. We have limited ourselves to a few numerical data, from which, however, we can conclude as to some trend lines.

The **number of bishops** is increasing, both because of the desire to make the Church, more Catholic, that is, universal, by creating official structures in every corner of the world, and to make their bishops closer to the faithful.

With the exception of Africa – whose Catholicism is younger and more dynamic – and Asia, the **number of priests and nuns** is constantly decreasing in the regions of "old" Christianity. These are, among other things, the ever more secularized continents, such as Europe and North America, where the number of practicing faithful is decreasing, and so there are fewer vocations. In any case, from the point of view of pastoral activity there is a clear shift toward Africa and Asia as the Church's increasingly vibrant "new" lands.

The rapid growth in the number of **permanent deacons** could be an indicator of the direction in which to seek new pastoral leaders. For some time now there has been lively discussion about the causes of the crisis in religious life. One element giving rise to reflection concerns the need to assign new responsibilities in the Church to women religious, whose enormous and vital contribution is not matched by suitable representation in the Church's core structures. There will, however, always be vocations to an alternative form of religious commitment, such as the cloistered life.



**ADVENT 2021
BEGINS**

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL,
AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL;
THAT MOURNS IN LONELY EXILE HERE,
UNTIL THE SON OF GOD APPEAR.

1

**REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO
THEE, O ISRAEL.**

O COME, THOU WISDOM FROM ON HIGH,
WHO ORD'REST ALL THINGS MIGHTILY;
TO US THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE SHOW,
AND TEACH US IN HER WAYS TO GO.

O COME, DESIRE OF NATIONS, BIND :
IN ONE THE HEARTS OF ALL HUMANKIND;
BID THOU OUR SAD DIVISIONS CEASE,
AND BE THY SELF OUR PRINCE OF PEACE.

IN BREAD WE BRING YOU LORD,
OUR BODIES LABOUR,
IN WINE WE OFFER YOU OUR SPIRITS' GRIEF.
WE DO NOT ASK YOU LORD,
WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?
BUT STAND UNITED NOW, ONE IN BELIEF.
FOR WE HAVE GLADLY HEARD,
YOUR WORD, YOUR HOLY WORD
AND NOW IN ANSWER LORD, OUR GIFTS WE BRING.
OUR FAL'TRING HEARTS MAKE TRUE,
OUR FAILING FAITH RENEW
OUR LIVES BELONG TO YOU, OUR LORD AND KING.

2

THE BREAD WE OFFER YOU, IS BLEST AND BROKEN,
AND IT BECOMES FOR US OUR SPIRITS' FOOD.
OVER THE WINE WE BRING, YOUR WORD IS SPOKEN;
MAKE IT YOUR GIFT TO US, YOUR HEALING BLOOD.
SO THAT OUR DAILY TOIL,
PLANTS IN OUR HEARTS' POOR SOIL
ALL THINGS WE START AND SPOIL,
EACH HOPEFUL DREAM.
THE CHANCES WE HAVE MISSED,
THE GRACES WE RESIST
LORD IN OUR EUCHARIST, TAKE AND REDEEM.

**WE REMEMBER HOW YOU LOVED US
TO YOUR DEATH,
AND STILL WE CELEBRATE,
FOR YOU ARE WITH US HERE;
AND WE BELIEVE THAT WE WILL SEE YOU
WHEN YOU COME, IN YOU GLORY LORD.
WE REMEMBER, WE CELEBRATE, WE BELIEVE.**

3

HERE A MILLION WOUNDED SOULS
ARE YEARNING JUST TO TOUCH YOU AND BE
HEALED.
GATHER ALL YOUR PEOPLE,
AND HOLD THEM TO YOUR HEART.

NOW WE RECREATE YOUR LOVE,
WE BRING THE BREAD AND WINE TO SHARE A MEAL.
SIGN OF GRACE AND MERCY,
THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

CHRIST, THE FATHER'S GREAT "AMEN"
TO ALL THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF EVERY HEART,
PEACE BEYOND ALL TELLING,
AND FREEDOM FROM ALL FEAR.

SEE THE FACE OF CHRIST REVEALED,
IN EVERY PERSON STANDING BY YOUR SIDE,
GIFT TO ONE ANOTHER,
AND TEMPLES OF YOUR LOVE.

I WILL BE YAHWEH WHO WALKS WITH YOU,
YOU WILL BE ALWAYS WITHIN MY HAND;
TAKE YOUR HEART AND GIVE IT ALL TO ME.

4

**STRONG AND CONSTANT IS MY LOVE,
STRONG AND CONSTANT IS MY LOVE.**

SHOULD YOU WANDER FAR AWAY FROM ME,
I WILL SEARCH FOR YOU IN EVERY LAND;
SHOULD YOU CALL THEN YOU WILL TRULY KNOW,

WHEN YOU KNOW SORROW WITHIN YOUR LIFE,
I WILL COME, I WILL EMBRACE YOUR HEART;
THROUGH YOUR PAIN YOU WILL DISCOVER ME,

