

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 *Isaiah 22:19-23*

*I place the key of the House of David
upon his shoulder.*

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna,
the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 137:1-3,6, 8. R. v. 8

*R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not
forsake the work of your hands.*

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my
heart: you have heard the words
of my mouth. Before the angels I
will bless you. I will adore before
your holy temple. *R.*
2. I thank you for your faithfulness
and love, which excel all we ever
knew of you. On the day I called,
you answered; you increased the
strength of my soul. *R.*
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on
the Lowly and the haughty he
knows from afar. Your love, O
Lord, is eternal, discard not the
work of your hands. *R.*

SECOND READING *Rom 11:33-36*

*From him, through him, and in him are
all things.*

How rich are the depths of God – how
deep his wisdom and knowledge – and
how impossible to penetrate his
motives or understand his methods!
Who could ever know the mind of the
Lord? Who could ever be his
counsellor? Who could ever give him
anything or lend him anything? All that
exists comes from him; all is by him
and for him. To him be glory for ever!
Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Mt 16:18*

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will
build my Church; the gates of hell will
not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Mt 16:13-20*

*You are Peter, to you I will give the
keys of the kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of
Caesarea Philippi he put this question
to his disciples, 'Who do people say the
Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some
say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah,
and others Jeremiah or one of the
prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do
you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke
up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the
Son of the living God.' Jesus replied,
'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy
man! Because it was not flesh and
blood that revealed this to you but my
Father in heaven. So I now say to you:
You are Peter and on this rock I will
build my Church. And the gates of the
underworld can never hold out against
it. I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind
on earth shall be considered bound in
heaven; whatever you loose on earth
shall be considered loosed in heaven.'
Then he gave the disciples strict orders
not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

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.

"Who am I to you?" If Jesus questions us deeply.

Biblical Reflection for 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Today, the Gospel proposes two of the hundreds of questions that weave the biblical text: What do people say? What do you say? Jesus, the evangelists report, "did not speak to the people except with parables" (Mt 13:34) and with questions. Jesus chose these two particular forms of language because they make up a generative and engaging method of communication, which does not leave passive spectators. He was a teacher of existence, and he wanted his thinkers and poets of life: «The answers satisfy us and make us stand still, the questions instead oblige us to look ahead and make us walk» (Pier Luigi Ricci).

Jesus asks his people, almost as if for an opinion poll: Who do people say I am? The response of the people is unique, beautiful and wrong together: They say you are a prophet! A creature of fire and light, like Elijah or the Baptist; you are the mouth of God and the mouth of the poor. But Jesus is not a man of the past, even the greatest of all, who returns.

At this point the question arrives explicitly, directly: But who do you say I am? First of all, there is a but, an aversive, almost in opposition to what people say. As if to say: it is not believed by hearsay. But you, you who abandoned boats, you who have been with me for years, you friends whom I have chosen one by one, what am I to you?

In this question lies the beating heart of faith: who am I for you? Jesus does not look for formulas or words, he looks for relationships (I for you). He doesn't want definitions but involvements: what happened to you when you met me? His question resembles those of lovers: how much do I count to you? What importance do I have in your life? Jesus does not need Peter's answer to get information or confirmations, to know if he is better than the other teachers, but to know if Peter is in love, if he has opened his heart. Christ is alive, only if he is alive within us. Our heart can be the cradle or the tomb of God. Christ is not my words, but what of Him burns in me.

Peter's answer is on two levels: You are the Messiah, God who acts in history; and then, beautiful: you are the son of the living God.

Son in the Bible is a technical term: he is the one who does what the father does, who resembles him in everything, who prolongs his life. You are Son of the living God, it is equivalent to: You are the Living One. You are womb pregnant with life, fountain from which life gushes powerful, inexhaustible and unlimited, source of life. If we look beyond words, if we go down to their rising moment, we can still hear Peter's declaration of love: you are my life! Finding you I found life.

Jesus is not a heavy law, a superstition, a work of art, a historical man only, a blind judge, ready to penalize us, but a life experience.

Everyone at some stage must come to Caesarea Philippi and answer the question, "You, who do you say I am?" Where are the Caesarea Philippi places in my life where I have been challenged to identify Christ for whom he really is for me, for the Church and for the world?

Like Peter, do I struggle to accept how God acts in the world -- as Benedict XVI said, "through the defenseless power of love?" How does love transform scenes of tragedy and suffering today? How have I seen the power of God's love at work in the trials and tragedies of my own life? In the storms of life, what consolation have I received because I belong to the Church of Jesus Christ?

ST PAUL'S PARISH

562 SYDNEY ROAD, COBURG. VIC 3058

Tel: 9354-1564

Email: coburg@cam.org.au

Or stpaulcoburg@yahoo.com.au

Website: cam.org.au/coburg

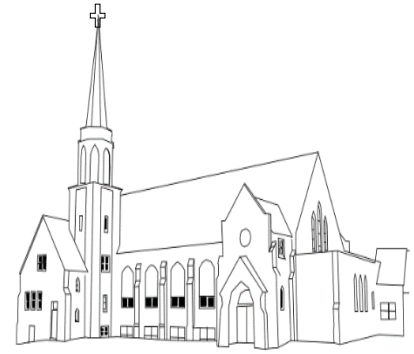
Parish Priest: Fr. Raymond Bugeja

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: 1st & 3rd 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 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10am

THE WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS: ROSARY NOVENA PRAYER



Most Loving Mother Mary,

Be with your children now as we pray this novena of Your Holy Rosary We ask that you please implore your Son Jesus to stretch out his healing hands over our world and put an end to the covid19 pandemic Jesus said to His Apostles "My peace I give you", please ask Him to give that peace now into the hearts of world leaders that they may see their way to solve problems with wisdom, through negotiation, discussion, empathy, caring, sharing and love instead of violence and killing.

Ask him to let His Peace flow into the hearts of those:

- ❖ Who think violence is the answer to all their wants!
- ❖ Who do not protect and cherish children!
- ❖ Who teach children to kill and that killing is lawful!
- ❖ Who are so concerned with getting worldly goods that they abuse their authority!
- ❖ Who are do concerned with making money that they forget integrity!
- ❖ Who out of their own hurt, seek to hurt others!
- ❖ Who seek escape from hurt and confusion in drugs and alcohol!
- ❖ Who think that being involved in the drug trade is acceptable!
- ❖ Who think their own ideas so right that they have the right to force that view on others by any means!
- ❖ Who think they have some right to take or destroy the possessions of others!
- ❖ Who think The Commandments are some old fashioned idea that no longer applies to them!

Please ask The Holy Spirit to shower on the world

- ❖ Knowledge of God's Infinite Love
 - ❖ Understanding of His Forgiveness
 - ❖ Wisdom to find and do only what is right and justice
 - ❖ Council to find solutions to problems rather than waste time just apportioning blame
 - ❖ Fortitude to accept life's problems and pains and ask the help of Jesus and Mary instead of becoming angry and discouraged.
- Let us have a world where
- ❖ Peace, Justice, Integrity, Love and Wisdom reign!
 - ❖ People truly care about each other! God is truly King

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.

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, Violet Mary Darmanin, Frances Micallef, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, Vincent & Rosina Borg, Gino Teuma, that they may enter the peace of God.

STEWARDSHIP:

“Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?” - Rom 11:35. St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot give the Lord anything, because God already owns it all. God made everything. All that we can do is return a portion of God’s many gifts back to Him. Sincere gratitude for our gifts opens our hearts to joyful generosity!

REFLECTION: EXTRAORDINARY IN THE ORDINARY

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! ...For from him and through him and for him are all things. Romans 11:33, 36

This Sunday falls in a section of the Church calendar titled “Ordinary Time”—time not Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter. This is defined as, “time ordained to the everyday living of a Christian life.” Today’s epistle from Paul to the Romans expresses for me the truth that words like “ordinary” cannot fully describe the life we have been given. In every “normal” moment of an “ordinary” day, the wonder of God’s creative love is holding us right here and now. We are invited to open our minds and hearts to that wonder. Demanding responsibilities and multiple distractions eclipse that focus, but, delightfully, wonder can break through. Yesterday, when I was very worried and tired, the grocery cashier, instead of mumbling, “Have a nice day,” smiled, saying, “Have a wonderful day.”

“From him and through him and for him,” all moments of our lives in God’s love are wonder-full. Patricia Livingston

PRAYER OF THE WEEK - Memorare

Remember, most loving Virgin Mary, never was it heard that anyone who turned to you for help was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, though burdened by my sins, I run to your protection for you are my mother. Mother of the Word of God, do not despise my words of pleading, but be merciful and hear my prayer. Amen. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Prayer

When you cannot pray as you would, pray as you can.

VOCATION VIEW

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

INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE.

“There is no alternative: we either build the future together or there will not be a future. As a Christian, for me the most compelling reason for dialogue is the Holy Trinity. God is a community of infinite, eternal love between the Father and the Son which is the Spirit. God is relations! God is dialogue! This love between the three persons overflows in creation and redemption.”

Pope Francis

NEWS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on **30 August 2020**. The 2020–2021 Statement, *To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today*, encourages faith communities, governments and each one of us to make mental health a priority. It is a timely message in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic is affecting many members of our parishes, schools and communities.

Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. The Statement encourages us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community.

LEBANON DISASTER. Dear Caritas Australia staff and volunteers, It is with great heartbreak that we learnt of the explosion in Beirut which killed over 100 people and wounded thousands. Lebanon has suffered multiple waves of conflict and disaster. A drawn-out civil war, followed by years of conflict with her neighbours, has been compounded by the strain on resources caused by the Syrian war and an influx of refugees. Tuesday’s explosion came at a time when the country is already gripped by an economic crisis and reeling from the impacts of COVID-19. The situation is dire. Yet the Caritas network is on the ground, doing what it can to alleviate suffering by delivering emergency food and medical resources at a time of intense crisis.

Caritas Australia has committed to provide immediate response in the form of crucial financial support as part of its already established Middle East Regional Appeal. Additionally, through its in-country staff and partners in Lebanon, the wider Caritas network is working to deliver:

- Food and water.
- Hygiene kits including masks and soap.
- Material for shelter repairs and the clean-up of debris.
- Medication and other health services.

Currently Caritas Australia supports two programs in Lebanon, including a Protection program supporting shelters for women and children who are survivors of gender-based violence, and a Humanitarian program supporting Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese host communities. Caritas Australia will soon have a weblink for interested donors to support our current programs in Lebanon through our Middle East Regional Appeal. They can also call 1800 024 413.

At a time when prayer is so important, Sr Jo has written a beautiful prayer for the people of Lebanon, which is attached.

In solidarity, **Caroline Preston**,

Head of International Programs. If you need further information, please contact me on 0437 118 637.