

### 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 *Jeremiah 20:7-9*

*The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.*

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.' Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 62:2-6, 8-9. R. v. 2*

*R. My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.*

- O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. *R.*
- So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. *R.*
- So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. *R.*
- For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. *R.*

#### SECOND READING *Romans 12:1-2*

*May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.*

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*cf Eph 1:17, 18*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.  
Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL *Mt 16:21-27*

*"Get behind me, Satan!"*

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

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.

Today's Gospel from Matthew 16:21-27 presents us with the first prediction of Jesus' passion. It follows the story told in Mark 8:31-33 and serves as a corrective to an understanding of Jesus' messiahship as solely one of glory and triumph. Matthew's account of the first passion prediction is also about the sufferings of the Son of Man. We are told that in response to Jesus' statement, Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things" (22-23).

**Peter's refusal.** Peter's refusal to accept Jesus' predicted suffering and death (22-23) is seen as a satanic attempt to deflect Jesus from his God-appointed course, and the disciple is addressed in terms that recall Jesus' dismissal of the devil in the temptation account (Matthew 4:10: "Get away, Satan!"). Peter's satanic purpose is emphasized by Matthew's addition to the Marcan source of the words "You are an obstacle to me." A readiness to follow Jesus even to giving up one's life for him is the condition for true discipleship; this will be repaid by the Lord at the final judgment (24-28).

What is behind Peter's refusal to accept Jesus' suffering and death? Peter gives voice to the bewilderment and dismay of the other apostles to Jesus' announcement of imminent suffering and death. "This cannot be, Lord! This should not be! It just isn't fair or right!" Such a reaction portrays Peter's and our own inability to understand the mystery of God at work in Jesus, and in our lives. Peter and the others are confronted with the harsh reality of God's designs, completely unacceptable from the standpoint of human logic. To undergo great suffering at the hands of the religious authorities; to take up a cross; to be killed -- is this all part of Jesus' package? Are there no incentives or benefits? Wouldn't it be better to erase the cross and suffering from the whole package? Is it really necessary? Is Jesus experiencing some form of depression in saying these things?

**From "Rock" to scandalon.** Just last week at Caesarea Philippi, Peter was called "Rock." Now he is called scandalon -- a stumbling block or stone! Jesus reminds Peter that he understands nothing of the reality and mystery of God's designs for him and for us! Jesus tells his disciples if they want to become his followers, they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow him. What does it mean "to deny oneself"? To deny someone (24) is to disown him and to deny oneself is to disown oneself as the center of one's existence. Think for a moment of Peter who would later deny his friend and Lord -- "I do not know him!" It means precisely that for us as well. To deny myself means that I no longer know myself; I no longer take my own life into account; I no longer think of myself. I am no longer at the center of my universe. But the action does not stop there: The entire force of this injunction rests on Jesus' invitation, "Follow me." Everything said before and after are the necessary prerequisites for being able to love Jesus and stay with him, and to continue staying with him.

**Following Jesus.** The teaching that Jesus imparted to the small group of the Twelve can be summed up as follows: "Whoever has accepted the personal call to follow me, must accept me as I am." Following Jesus implies suffering and a cross! The mark of the Messiah is to become the mark of his disciples! They are to get behind him and follow him as he goes up to Jerusalem.

That which gives fullness of meaning to the cross is to carry it behind Jesus, not in a journey of anguished solitude, hopeless wandering or rebellion, but rather in a journey sustained and nourished by the presence of the Lord. Jesus asks us to courageously choose a life similar to his own. Those who would follow Jesus cannot avoid suffering. God's ways are not our ways ... today we are encouraged to conform our ways to God's.

# 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:**

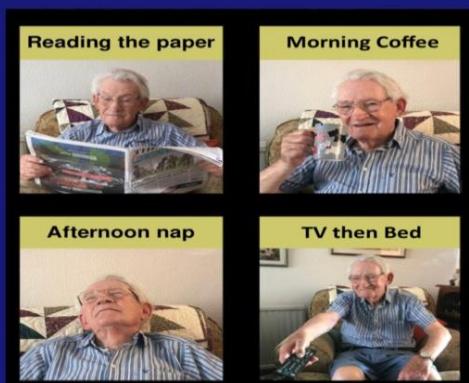
every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month.

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** 10am

## JOKE OF THE WEEK:

**You know you're old when  
life in lockdown is exactly  
the same as it was before!**



## THE WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS:

### A Prayer for Persons Suffering from the Coronavirus

'You shall not fear the terror of the night  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
nor the pestilence that roams in darkness,  
nor the plague that ravages at noon.' Ps 91:5-6  
Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from  
the coronavirus.

May those who are infected receive the proper treatment  
and the comfort of your healing presence.

May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded  
from the onslaught of the virus.

Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones.

Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure,  
that their work may conquer the disease and restore  
communities to wholeness and health.

Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the  
intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes,

and in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

### Pandemic Prayer

Almighty and all-merciful God,  
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,  
in whom there is no shadow of death,  
save us in this time of crisis;

grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;

watch over all medical people

as they tend the sick and work for a cure;

stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;

if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.

By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,

that hope may never die

and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,

may shine upon us and the whole world.

Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.

St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

*By The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of  
Brisbane*

## 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**, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, that they may enter the peace of God.

## STEWARDSHIP:

**“What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” - MATTHEW 16:26**

St. Francis of Assisi once said, “Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else.” We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent and treasure to gain more of the world’s riches. We need to set our priorities based on God’s values and not the values of the material world.

## REFLECTION: Rearview Mirror

**You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do. Matthew 16:23**

I have found that God’s providence is seen most clearly in the rearview mirror. I can see God acting in my life after the fact—the “chance” meeting, the difficult challenge, the wise counsel. God’s will for us is often more difficult to recognize in the present, torn between choices, buffeted by fear and selfishness. The Scripture readings today focus on doing the will of God. In the gospel, Jesus gives us an instructive lesson in his rebuke of Peter’s outburst. Only a few verses after Peter recognizes Jesus as the Messiah, he tries to dissuade Jesus from his prediction of the Passion. Jesus is reminding all of us that, so often, we are thinking not as God does, but as humans do. We want the easy path, the broad road. Jesus wants us to take up our cross. What was not easily seen until later was that that sacrifice, that cross, was God’s will, and what was difficult was also a blessing.

*Lord, even when the path is hard, I long to do your will.*

Greg Erlandson

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That each of us may have the strength and courage to put Jesus first above worldly ways and material gains.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Prayer

Don’t pray when it rains if you don’t pray when the sun shines.

## VOCATION VIEW

Don’t run away from what you are called to be. Christians take the less travelled road. “What does it profit us if we gain the whole world but ruin ourselves in the process?”

**EXILE AND COVID-19.** “I never thought I would see this in my lifetime.” How many people would be saying something like this, especially in Victoria at this difficult time. COVID-19 and government measures to prevent its spread have turned our lives upside down. We have experienced, and some of us are still experiencing massive dislocation in our lives. The bible calls this experience “exile”.

## NEWS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

**Social Justice Sunday** will be celebrated this Sunday, **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.-----

**People of compassion: A message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli** 'The word compassion has two parts to it: com and passio. Com, in its Latin, means *with* and passio means *suffer*. To have compassion is to suffer with, and to be able to reach out to those in need. I'm sure you have that sense of our circumstances that this moment'. In his latest message to the faithful, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli stands before the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and asks us to reflect on what it means to be people of compassion during times of suffering.

**Coping with isolation.** Maintaining a daily or weekly routine can help to create a sense of normality during such an abnormal time. Routine can also give us a sense of control in our lives, increasing feelings of calm and safety. Setting a regular wake up/sleep time is a good place to start! Remember that no matter how lonely or isolated you feel, help is always available. Speaking to a counsellor can, in itself, reduce feelings of isolation and increase connectedness. But counsellors can provide coping strategies and other support too.

**Celebrating 20 years since World Youth Day Rome.** The impact of World Youth Day on the Church cannot be underestimated. Since 1984, millions of young Catholics gone on pilgrimage to join their peers and the Holy Father for a week-long celebration of faith. Countless lives have been changed – faith awakened, reborn, and vocations to the priesthood, religious life and marriage have come forth. This week marks 20 years since World Youth Day Rome and more than 20 years of our Archdiocese supporting young Melbourne Catholics to attend.

**Emergency Appeal for Lebanon.** Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Australia has launched a national emergency appeal for Lebanon, requesting prayers for victims and their families, and raising funds in the wake of the deadly explosion in Beirut on the 4th of August, which has killed at least 135 people, injured 5000 and decimated the capital city. The funds raised will be used to support the most urgent needs in Lebanon (such as emergency food packages) but they will also respond to the physical and spiritual needs that arise in the coming weeks, months and years.

**FATHERS’DAY APPEAL FOR PRIESTS ON SUNDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, FATHERS’ DAY. PLEASE BE GENEROUS.**