

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. 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 *Peter 3:8-14*

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 3:4,6

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, ‘Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not

fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

And this is what [John] proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.” Mark 1:7

John the Baptist has a special place in the Bible. He prepared his contemporaries to recognize Jesus just at the time that Jesus began his public ministry. John did this by what he said and by pointing out Jesus as the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit. Truly, John’s life was a gift for all those who heard and accepted what he said. In every age, gifted people have prepared the way for their contemporaries to know and accept Christ. Authors of books on spirituality have done that for me, along with my parents, spiritual mentors and close friends. By what they said and the way they lived, they helped me to know Christ better and to deepen my relationship with him. Who has done this for you? How have you done this for others? Lord, may I be grateful for all I’ve received and for all I’ve been able to give.

Fr. Kenneth Grabner, C.S.C

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.

ST PAUL'S PARISH

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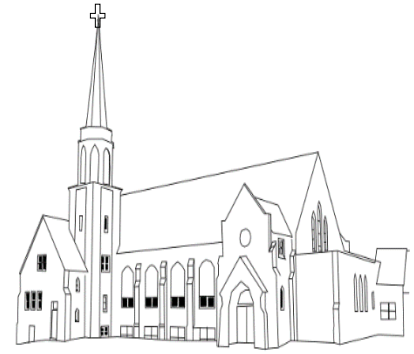
Parish Priest: Fr. Raymond Bugeja

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

PHONE BOOTH 1989



PHONE BOOTH 2019



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 THANKSGIVING OFFERING \$4550.00

Presbytery: \$1873.70

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

Painting of presbytery inside: \$12,400

Thanks for your support in these challenging times.

PARISH NEWS

Melbourne Overseas Missions Annual Appeal

Dear Parishioners,

In a year like no other in living memory, the work of Melbourne Overseas Missions (MOM) has continued to support those in need. Our Holy Father Pope Francis reminds us of the many challenges our brothers and sisters face daily:

In our reflection on the current global pandemic, we have seen that it has made us sensitive to an even graver virus affecting our world: that of social injustice, lack of equal opportunity and the marginalization of the poor and those in greatest need. Christ's example and teaching show us that a preferential option for the poor is an essential criterion of our authenticity as his followers.

Rome, 19 August, 2020

Grateful for recent financial support from MOM, former Melbourne Parish Priest Fr Joe Ruys has noted that in his rural community of Checca in South East Peru, 70% of the population have been forced to seek work in neighbouring cities. The declaration of a national quarantine meant employment opportunities for these labourers ceased and families were forced back to their rural communities. Through the assistance of MOM, Fr Joe is able to assist with basic provisions for his parish community during these challenging times.

MOM has continued to embrace opportunities to change the lives of those who struggle to survive harsh living conditions and extreme poverty especially in this difficult year. Your continued support for Melbourne Overseas Missions Annual Appeal is greatly appreciated. May I ask that we all hold close in our prayers, the generous volunteers serving in Melbourne and overseas.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Archbishop of Melbourne

WE PRAY FOR

NEWLY BAPTISED: Chloe Charlotte Scully.

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, Bernard Paul, Santa Montesano (Funeral Mass, Thurs., 12pm), and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, Teodora Sagum De Jesus, that they may enter the peace of God.

STEWARDSHIP:

“Prepare the way of the Lord...” - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

REFLECTION: Life-giving Patience

The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you... 2 Peter 3:9

When I become aware of my forgetfulness and mistakes, then I become grateful for God’s patience with me. It’s a patience God gives to everyone because we never outgrow our need for it. Patience is a part of God’s forgiveness, and the gospel provides many examples for us to contemplate. The ultimate example was given to us as Jesus hung dying in agony on the cross. He asked his Father to forgive those who put him there because they did not know what they were doing. And then, after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his apostles. Many of them had not understood him well, but Jesus, instead of admonishing them, filled them with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through Jesus’ kindness and patience, the apostles found the strength to spread the gospel message, even at the cost of their lives.

Jesus is the example of life-giving patience. Can we be patient with others as Jesus is patient with us?

Fr. Kenneth E. Grabner, C.S.C.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we are called to live holy lives and invite others to do the same.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Courage

To accept whatever comes, regardless of the consequences, is to be unafraid.

John Cage

VOCATION VIEW

God calls us to proclaim the Good News. How do you share that Good News? Pray for the grace to be a faith-filled witness of God’s love.

Tues, 8th Dec., Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Mass at 10am., in English.

“Melbourne Overseas Missions Annual Appeal - 12th & 13th December 2020” Thank you for your support which has, over the years, made it possible to fund many projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and the many Islands in the Pacific. Some \$200,000 has been provided in clean water, health, education and improved living stands to people who would not otherwise have had this opportunity over the last year. This is especially in the areas of MOM activity, where the effect of the pandemic has been devastating. *Please visit <https://mom.org.au> for more information or to donate.*

Francis: By praying, we change reality

The Pope for this month focuses on the prayer intention “For a life of prayer”.

The Pope himself is a man of prayer, and The Pope Video bears witness to this with images taken from the most emotive moments of 2020, including the prayer service for the pandemic in an empty St Peter’s Square at the height of Italy’s first wave of the pandemic in April.

The text of the December 2020 prayer intention:

The heart of the Church’s mission is prayer.

Prayer is the key for us to be able to enter into dialogue with the Father.

Every time we read a short passage from the Gospel we hear Jesus speaking to us.

We have a conversation with Jesus.

We listen to Jesus and we reply.

And this is prayer.

By praying, we change reality.

And we change our hearts.

Our heart changes when we pray.

We can do many things, but without prayer, it does not work.

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

In silence, everyone, each one in heartfelt prayer.

Are you looking for a gift with meaning this Christmas?

You can give a bauble on our Giving Tree in the name of a loved one or special friend. Every Giving Tree bauble you donate helps provide food hampers and subsidised mental health support to families and individuals in need this Christmas. Your simple act of giving a gift will make sure that Christmas is a happier and brighter time for struggling Victorians this year.



**COME LET US SING TO EVERY NATION:
GREAT IS OUR GOD AND KING!
HE IS THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION
LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS AND SING!**

1

SO SING, FOR WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE;
FOR HE HAS SHOWN US HIS WAYS.
HE GATHERS US TO HIS TABLE,
TO PARTAKE OF HIS GRACE.

SO WHEN THE LORD'S VOICE YOU HEAR,
DON'T FEAR OR HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.
WE KNOW THAT OUR GOD IS NEAR
BY THE WORD HE IMPARTS.

GREAT IS OUR GOD AND KING!

**WHATSOEVER YOU DO TO THE LEAST OF MY
BROTHERS, THAT YOU DO UNTO ME.**

2

WHEN I WAS HUNGRY YOU GAVE ME TO EAT,
WHEN I WAS THIRSTY YOU GAVE ME TO DRINK;
NOW ENTER INTO THE HOME OF MY FATHER.

WHEN I WAS WEARY YOU HELPED ME FIND REST,
WHEN I WAS ANXIOUS YOU CALMED ALL MY FEARS;
NOW ENTER INTO THE HOME OF MY FATHER.

WHEN I WAS LAUGHED AT YOU STOOD BY MY SIDE,
WHEN I WAS HAPPY YOU SHARED IN MY JOY;
NOW ENTER INTO THE HOME OF MY FATHER.

WE'RE WAITING FOR JESUS LIKE MARY
WE'RE WAITING FOR JESUS THE LORD.

3

**COME DOWN, LORD JESUS!
COME QUICKLY, LORD JESUS!
THE WHOLE WORLD IS WAITING FOR LOVE,
THE WHOLE WORLD IS WAITING FOR LOVE.**

WE'RE LAYING THE MANGER FOR MARY,
A MANGER FOR JESUS THE LORD.

WE'RE MAKING IT LOVELY FOR MARY,
SO LOVELY FOR JESUS THE LORD.

GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART
GIVE THANKS TO THE HOLY ONE
GIVE THANKS BECAUSE
HE'S GIVEN JESUS CHRIST, HIS SON.

4

AND NOW, LET THE WEAK SAY, "I AM STRONG",
LET THE POOR SAY, "I AM RICH",
BECAUSE OF WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR US.

GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART
GIVE THANKS TO THE HOLY ONE
GIVE THANKS BECAUSE
HE'S GIVEN JESUS CHRIST, HIS SON.
GIVE THANKS!

SITTING WITH MY BROTHERS,
SITTING WITH MY SISTERS,
SITTING BY THE JESSE TREE.
WAITING WITH MY BROTHERS,
WAITING WITH MY SISTERS,
WAITING BY THE JESSE TREE.
WHY ARE YOU WAITING BOYS?
WHY ARE YOU WAITING GIRLS?
WHO ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

5

**STAND UP AND SING, HERE COMES THE KING,
HERE COMES THE LORD OF LORDS,
THAT'S WHO WE'RE WAITING FOR!**

LITTLE BOYS WILL BRING LIONS TO THE SPRING,
LITTLE GIRLS WILL BRING CALVES THERE TOO.
THE WOLF WILL LIVE IN PEACE WITH THE LAMB,
THE COWS AND THE BEARS WILL MAKE FRIENDS.
NO NEED TO FIGHT, THAT HOLY NIGHT,
THEY KNOW HE'S COMING TOO!

GONNA BE A GREAT DAY,
ALL OUR FEARS WILL FLY AWAY,
WE'LL SING AND DANCE FOR GOD'S OWN SON.
ONE SPECIAL BIRTH; ONE PEACEFUL EARTH,
THAT GREAT DAY WHEN HE COMES

**A PRAYER FOR THE
Second Sunday of Advent**

Jesus, you came among us
with the irresistible power of a baby,
requiring both our hands
and captivating our whole hearts.
Help us to cast aside the sin
and brokenness that we cling to,
so we might be ready to hold you
when you come again.
Amen.

