





Sunday 12th September 2021

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo Assistant Priests: Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Dixon George

Parish Pastoral Associates: Jacinta Bright & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

The Partnered Parishes of:

SACRED HEART 9.00am

Special Minister:

Reader:

MASS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

ST THOMAS VIGIL 6.00pm & 10.30am

Special Minister 6.00pm: Special Minister 10.30am: 6.00pm: Reader:

Commentator: 10.30am: Reader: **Commentator:** Counters:

Cleaners:

Set Up: Set Up:

Mass will still be recorded and uploaded onto our Websites

NO MASSES AT ST PETER'S UNTIL DISTANCE RESTRICTIONS ARE REMOVED

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time: Bridie Burke, Bernice Burke, Miran Kasalo, Martin Leonard, Joan Moran, Catherine Leonard, Tony Ledda, Sarah Drummond, Margaret Holland, Jacob Draper, Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of September that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom

Terry Moran, Michael Holland, Ann Cusack, Andrew O'Dea, George Ind, Peter Thomas, Bernie Fitzgerald and Margaret Fitzgerald, Alexander Libertino, Jean Watson, Maria Scordo, Gennaro Mascia, Bernadette Richardson, Norah Moylan, Jane Tremayne, Tess Natoli, Barry Williamson, Mollie Kerr, Rocco Crea, Bernadette Linehan, Vincent Mascia, Jim Hardwick Snr, Kevin Power, Antonio Lunardello, Ines Lunardello, Vincenzina Varalla John Ryan, Fr Jim Feenan, John Muscat, Francis Goodge,

WORSHIP & PRAYER

<u>PRAYERS FOR THE SICK WITHIN OUR PARISHES</u>: If you wish to have someone added or removed from the sick or Anniversaries list for our newsletter could you please notify **Pat 9401 6361** or **Lisa 9434 7373.**

THE WAY PRAYER GROUP: During lockdown The Way Prayer Group continues to meet on Thursday evenings via zoom with Rosary from 7.30pm-8.00pm. If you wish you would be most welcome to stay on for the evening's activity.

Zoom link is as follows: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85621062547 Passcode 258371

For any further enquiries, please email Rose: roserendina@gmail.com

BAPTISMS WITHIN OUR PARISHES



Please pray for Matilda, Chiara, Ariana, Lia and Solomon who are awaiting Baptism at St Thomas. We look forward to the restrictions easing and welcoming these families into the St Thomas Parish community.

Zoe, Joseph, and Lola have been presented to the Sacred Heart Community and will be celebrating their Baptisms in the coming months.

RECORDED MASSES—HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

Every week since March last year, St Mary's parishioners Troy and Trevor have shared the recording and uploading of the Saturday evening Mass from one of our partnered parishes and Masses during lockdowns. We thank them for their faithful commitment to our communities. However, to continue to offer recorded Masses on a regular basis, help is urgently needed. Troy was married recently and will soon be moving from the parish, and Trevor has an ongoing commitment as projectionist at a Sunday Mass. An invitation is extended to St Mary's, St Thomas' and Sacred Heart parishioners to assist with this valued ministry.



Training will be provided. For more information, please contact *Marian 0409 591 527*.

PLENARY COUNCIL

Together we continue to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit for the Australian church. 'Listen to What the Spirit is Saying'



Fan the Flame

24 Days till Plenary Assembly One October 2021 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine,



let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Mark 8:27-35

There can be no shortcuts, no bypassing the cross or the tomb, to encounter the resurrection. For new life and new hope to emerge, we need to acknowledge that we are a broken, hurt and traumatised Church... by standing in solidarity and compassion with each other, particularly the wounded, the poor and the traumatised.

((Humble, Healing and Merciful – Discernment Paper pp. 12 and 18)

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/fantheflame/

MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE PLENARY COUNCIL

Read the thoughts of Michelle Goh RSM one of the seventeen members of the Plenary Council from the Archdiocese of Melbourne. <u>www.melbournecatholic.org.au/</u> news stories 3rd September or meet Michael Kenny, the youngest member of the Plenary Council, <u>https://mediablog.catholic.org.au</u> The Plenary Council begins on Sunday, 3rd October with the celebration of the Eucharist from Perth.

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK From -Sr Margaret Sapsford

Responding to Pope Francis' message to the People of God, in 2018 Archbishop Comensoli wrote to us:

"Therefore, and looking ahead, it falls to me, as your Archbishop to ensure that our local Church in Melbourne is unequivocally committed to attending to the harm, prioritising the dignity and care of all who are young and vulnerable, rebuilding trust among our people, and creating safe environments in our communities, agencies and organisations. This is the way of Jesus Christ. It must be my way. And I invite you to join with me in making it our common way Gospel way."

The Partnered Parishes are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. May our message be that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult.

So on this Safeguarding Sunday let us affirm our personal commitment to the safety of children and the vulnerable wherever they or we may be. <u>https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/documents/LETTER-TO-THE-FAITHFUL-OF-THE-ARCHDIOCESE</u>



Due to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions and Masses not being able to be said at Parishes, donations to the Father's Day appeal can be made through the Priests Retirement Foundation website.

Donations can be made by your Parishioners through the Priests Retirement Foundation website via debit, credit card or Paypal

where the donor's details are loaded and receipts can be issued.

The site is: www.cam.org.au/foundation

Sincere thanks for your support of the Priests Retirement Foundation.

Kind regards

Fr Mark Reynolds PP EV

Chairman, Priests Retirement Foundation

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FORMATION OF SACRED HEART PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

 \bigstar The following people have generously accepted their nomination to be a member of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council. $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

🛧 Alison Pieper, Ann Marie O'Hare, Clare Zabrowarny, Brian Flynn, Frank Ledda, Judy Hoyne, Margaret Farrell, Maureen Walsh, 🖈 Ted Jenkins, Tonina Sirianni.

Thank you for agreeing to make a commitment to our Parish by joining the PPC. \bigstar

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A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown...

To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the

PODCASTS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

Quality podcasts navigating marriage and family life

Unity in marriage (part 1)

marriage is a union of two broken people, and yet when the love of God is invited in, unity is made possible. Listen at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving2

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

Resources to help you explore the Bible

Exploring the Gospels

As Christians, we have four accounts of the life of Jesus, called Gospels. How should we read them?

<u>Getting started:</u> This video by a Franciscan priest looks at how it's possible to understand different Gospel accounts and stories about Jesus. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted2

Going deeper: This year, we are reading Mark's Gospel at Mass. This video provides Jesus presented. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper2

PRODUCED BY THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

EXPLANATION OF COLLECTIONS

In every Parish, there are two collections and two separate accounts,

The Presbytery collection/account (1st coll.) provides the pastoral stipend and living costs of the Priest. The Church collection/account (2nd coll.) provides for the maintenance, office and staff expenses of the Parish. Our Partner Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

First Reading Is 50:5-9

I gave my body to those who struck me.

The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me?

Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who dare condemn me?

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 114:1-6. 8-9. R. v.9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living. or

(R.) Alleluia!

- I love the Lord for he has heard the cry of my appeal; for he turned his ear to me in the day when I called him. (R.)
- They surrounded me, the snares of death, with anguish of the tomb; they caught me, sorrow and distress. I called on the Lord's name. O Lord my God, deliver me! (*R.*)
- How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion. The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so he saved me! (*R*.)
- 4. He has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling.I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. (*R*.)

Second Reading Jas 2:14-18

Faith without good works is dead.

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty,' without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

Gospel Acclamation Gal 6:14

Alleluia, alleluia! My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 8:27-35

You are the Christ ... the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, '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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'





Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Here in our Australian democracy we hardly feel the force of the famous gospel passage in which Jesus forewarns his disciples of the high cost of following him. We trivialise the meaning of taking up the cross to make it refer to bearing a chronic ailment, or putting up with a particularly irritating family member or work colleague: 'lt/he/she is the cross I have to bear.'

No, our Lord was referring to the terrible reality which could be inflicted on his followers, as even happens today: the beheadings by ISIL in Iraq, the rape and enslavement of women in Nigeria, the displacement from homelands in Syria. The True Cross is not to be found in splinters of wood but in the various means by which suffering is inflicted on those whose allegiance to Jesus Christ does not waiver.

Peter could not, would not, grasp this. His head was full of political fantasy, easy sovereignty. Jesus rebuked Peter quite savagely: 'Satan, get behind me.' Only after the resurrection, believing that our Lord had conquered the worst that death could do, did Peter follow Jesus to crucifixion, upside down at the base of the Vatican Hill.

We could take a moment to pray for and, where possible, give appropriate political support to, our fellow Christians wherever they are persecuted, forced to bear the true cross of suffering. May God give those Christian martyrs victory in the embrace of the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

mtate@bigpond.com

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Sacred Heart, St. Thomas the Apostle & St. Mary's Parishes are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery.