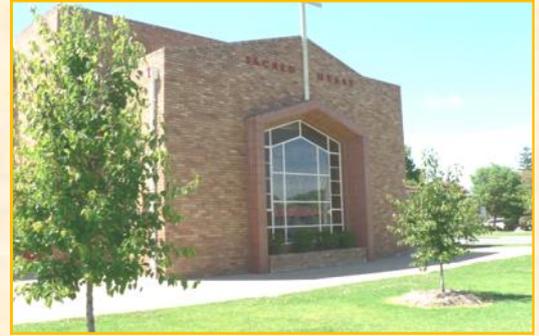


Sacred Heart Parish

North Albury



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9th / 10th September 2017

Parish Clergy

Fr Gabriel Murray

Parish Office

Fran Kernaghan

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 60251516

Fax: 60404016

Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAYS: 9.30 am

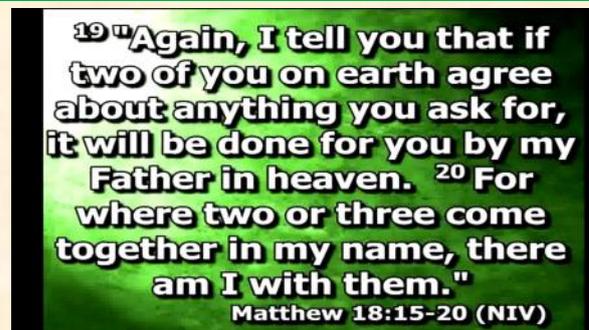
Monday, Wednesday, Friday (Church)

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

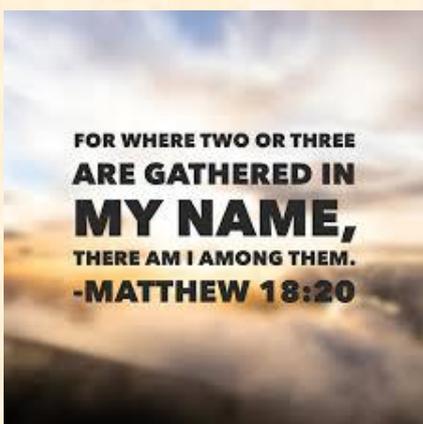
Preparation Course: 0411 883 661



It is difficult for leaders to call people to accountability. Such is the unenviable responsibility of pastors in the parish, coordinators of religious education, members of the parish council, principals in the school, directors of liturgical ministry, to name but a few. Disciples must also engage in the very difficult process of reconciliation. Differences of opinion, misunderstandings, and actual offences tend to alienate people. We see this happen in families, neighbourhoods, parish communities, workplaces. It is not enough to say that we must try to forgive from our hearts. The process of reconciliation requires significant movement toward the admission of guilt as well. Both the one offended and the offender must be willing to be transformed.

Gathering two or three together in prayerful collaboration is not as easy as it sounds. If collaboration is to be effective, we have to be open and honest about our opinions and our biases, and respectful of the opinions and biases of others. We must work for the common good and not merely for what we personally think is best. We must be willing to accept and implement decisions with which we may not totally agree, and we must live with them gracefully. All of this calls for unselfish love. Love fulfils the entire law only: when we honour our personal commitments and the personal commitments of others; when we value the life, dignity and reputation of others; and when we respect their possessions. It is only because love is so demanding that it covers all of our responsibilities.

(Dianne Bergant CSS)



Parish Community



We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Mary McLaurin, Fr. John Morton CSS, Ada McDonnell, Norma Sullivan, Tom Perrin, Geoff Morgan, Paul Hunter.

ANNIVERSARIES: Jan McNamee, Anne Twomey, Allan Wessen, Norm McLaurin, Arthur Walsh, Mario Fabbro, Megan Ryan, Bill Ditchfield, Emily Clark, Jo Handley, Geoff Hore, Bob Kirkwood, John Austin, Geoffrey Loulson, Fr. Brian McEwan, Harold Hopp, Agnes Sutherland, Ken Herbert, Valda Beeber, Frederick Buckhorn, Jack Weber, Jim Newman, Bruno Karwowski, William Gaudrey, Alan Seaton
Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer for the Sick

We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.

May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.

We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 9th / 10th September

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Ed Brown	Roy Thompson
Lector 1	Nano Clancy	Terry Hillman
Lector 2	Justin Clancy	Wendy McFerran
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Hopkins Volunteer	Kansas Michael Kevin Kennedy Volunteer
Cantor Musicians	John Van Lint Judy Foley	Catherine C/ Judy Lindsay Val Hayes
Counters: Jane Togher		Cleaning Group: Group 4

Sat /Sun 16th / 17th September

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Brian Waters	Richard Parkinson
Lector 1	Colleen Day	Leanne Michael
Lector 2	Paula Waters	Bede Hart
Eucharistic Ministers	Pauline Mulquiney Judy Lindsay	Carmel Butts Carey Menz-Dowling, Trish Parkinson, Frank Glennon.
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Bernadette & Wendy
Counters: N Scarvell & Liz Simon		Cleaning Group: Group 5

Prayer for Child Protection Sunday

Gracious God provide us with a listening heart that we see and hear the voice of each of our children. We ask you God to strengthen and guide all in our Catholic communities. Grant us the ability and time to listen carefully when children come to us seeking help. May our institutions and families respect, listen and do what is required to help all children feel safe. Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded initially by abuse, then again through the failure to be heard. We stand in constant need of your healing and help. Let your grace and love fall gently upon our children giving them the inner strength, peace, and resilience to seek out assistance when required. We ask you God to provide each of us with the wisdom to involve children in making institutions and communities safer

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

'A Christian is never bored or sad. Rather, the one who loves Christ is full of joy and radiates joy.'

Parish News

Weekday Masses

Weekday Masses will be celebrated in the Church at 9.30am on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Sandhurst Catholic Charismatic Renewal Annual Conference coming up 23rd & 24th September in Shepparton. A response to Pope Francis' call "to share with everyone the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit". Please see posters or phone Brigita Hore 0412 042 196 for more details. All Welcome.

In the Footsteps of Mary MacKillop

2017 National Pilgrimage

The Sisters of St Joseph invite you to join the National Pilgrimage, giving you the opportunity to journey to significant places in Australia made holy by St Mary MacKillop.

Commence Melbourne 8 November, travel through Victoria & South Australia, conclude in Sydney 18 November 2017.

COST EX SYDNEY: \$3,050.00 (all inclusive: airfares, accommodation, coach travel, admission fees and meals).

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$610.00

For further information or a Pilgrimage brochure, please contact Sr Therese Leydon 02 89124845 or Sr Annie Bond 02 89124818, or at MMP.NationalPilgrimage@sosj.org.au.

Direct Debit for Planned Giving.

For those parishioners wishing to use our Direct Debit system for the Planned Giving Programme, the banking information is as set out below:

BSB; 082 690

Account number: 50 976 3895 quoting your name or reference number which can be obtained from Parish Office.

Feast Days

Tuesday 12th September—Holy Name of Mary

Wednesday 13th September—St John Chrysostom

Thursday 14th September—Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Friday 15th September —Our Lady of Sorrows



Child Protection Week /Sunday

Each year the Australian Catholic Church dedicates the Sunday at the end of Child Protection Week as Child Protection Sunday. In 2017 this falls on Sunday 10 September. See the prayer for this on the previous page.

Prayer for Our Sacred Heart Parish

God of Love,

Source of all hope and good things;

You call us in love, to share in the work and ongoing life of our Sacred Heart Parish.

Bless this parish of ours and lead us to be confident and joyful in serving those around us, so that through us, the world may catch a glimpse of the love you have for each one of us.

Make us instruments of your love to everyone that we encounter in our parish community, at home, at work and in our neighbourhood.

Help us to grow in gratitude so that we can recognise and thank you for all the good things you have given us.

Each day may we come to know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

23rd Sunday of the Year —Year A

Readings: Ez 33: 7-9; Rom 13: 8-10; Matt 18: 15-20

Responsorial Psalm



If to - day you hear his voice, — hard - en not your hearts.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart. (Sung)
O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts . (Said)

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!



Reflection on the Reading

This week's gospel provides us with a lesson that could be well heeded in our contemporary world. Matthew relates a discourse on dealing with a grievance or sin between two 'brothers' – community members; fellow disciples. Matthew advises his audience that the first step is to try to resolve the matter privately between the offender and the one offended. This is a practice that seems to have almost disappeared today. When one person feels offended or hurt by another, it seems the last thing they do is to go and speak to the person, confront them with the hurt and try to resolve it. Soap operas and TV sitcoms promote avoidance of issues. The sub-text of so many TV shows is about lying to cover up a mistake; seeking revenge for some perceived (usually incorrect) insult; or working through others to try to deal with some hurt. If characters on these TV shows were to confront one another with a perceived hurt and seek to resolve the difference between them, then there would be no 'drama' to play out in the show. Admittedly, it doesn't make for great television, but it does make for much better relationships!

Matthew advises his community that only after a failed attempt to address an issue face to face should other members of the community become involved to further confront the offender through witnessing to their fault. The third step is to bring the person before the church community to be confronted with their actions and only after these three attempts to challenge the person fail should they be shunned. There is a very strong message of reconciliation that comes through this process. The person is given every chance to face their error and to seek amends with the one they have hurt. The whole process works towards bringing the community back together in harmony, not to seek revenge and punishment.

The placement of this discourse about confronting your brother within the gospel of Matthew helps to shed light on its meaning. Immediately preceding this passage is the parable of the Lost Sheep, about leaving the 99 to go out in search of the one lost sheep. Immediately following this week's passage is the parable of the unmerciful or unforgiving servant who, despite receiving forgiveness of his own debt from his master, throws a fellow servant in debtors prison for failing to pay back money owed. The three passages together give a detailed discourse on forgiveness and reconciliation – dealing with those who have sinned, even against you personally and the powerful call to compassion and mercy.

It can be very difficult when we feel that someone has hurt us to actually go and speak to them about how we are feeling. It is so much easier to revel in our hurt or seek payback for the hurt. Sometimes we feel that we might ruin a friendship by speaking to our friend about a way in which they have hurt us. But a hurt that goes unaddressed will continue to hurt and will probably be repeated. This week's gospel reminds us of the need to challenge our friends when they hurt us but it also reminds us that when we have hurt others we need to be challenged about it and called to account for our actions.

(Greg Sunter)

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