



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

23rd/ 24th February 2019

Parish Clergy

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week:

Wednesday & Friday 9.30am

**First Tuesday of the month: 11.00 am Mass
at Mercy Place.**

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661

CHURCH STORES.

**Religious gifts and supplies shipped
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Perhaps one of the most difficult lessons to learn is forgiveness of those whom we consider our enemies, those who have wronged us. As challenging as this may be, the Gospel calls us to a very high standard: we must be merciful as God is merciful. If such perfection can become a reality in our lives, we will be able to forgive. Paul assures us that we can indeed attain such perfection, not by ourselves, but through the power of the risen Lord whose image we bear.

Paul plays with the theology of creation. In the beginning, we were made like the first Adam, earthly, limited, weak, concerned about the things of this world, and committed to our own well being. Through baptism we have been fashioned after the image of the second Adam, Christ the risen Lord. Being like Christ, we become godlike, empowered with his saving power, transformed with him into new beings. It is now in our power, which is really the power of the resurrection, to be merciful as God is merciful. In the risen Lord we experience a mystical transformation. From now on, all of our actions can flow from this new reality.

Transformed by the power of the resurrection, we are capable of unprecedented good works. We can live without retaliation; we can render good for evil. We can be prodigal in our generosity toward others; we can relinquish any rights of proprietorship that we might enjoy. We can live with others without unfairly judging them. We can be like God, boundless in our forgiveness. (Dianne Bergant CSA)

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Sherrie Gavin, Louise Szabo, Tony Iverson, Bernie O'Keeffe, Lois Heazlewood, Greg Riley, Jim Brigden, Kathleen Birch, Kylie Dawson, Royce Boyd, Sr Pat Osborne.

ANNIVERSARIES: George & Margaret Azzi, Arnold Fletcher, Mary Corrin, Robert McIntosh, Fr Gerry Iverson, Ethel Herbert, Savina Patten, Megan O'Donoghue, Margaret Morgan, Alexander Irvine, Arnold Russel, Marie Mulligan, Alan Boswell, John Drewe, Roy Mee, Hazel Richardson, Noreen Coyle, Marilyn Pullen, Nancy Flynn, Laszlo Rhedey, Dinny Grentell, May Jones Agnes Lane.

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: 23rd / 24th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Nano Clancy	Bede Hart
Lector 1	Justin Clancy	Roy Thompson
Lector 2	Paula Waters	Wendy McFerran
Eucharistic Ministers	Pauline Mulquiney Pat Hopkins	Frank Glennon Carmel Butts Cathy Nyhan
Cantor	Margie & Ed Brown	Ann McIntyre
Musicians	Mary Hunt	Val Hayes
Counters: Nardia Scarvell & Liz Simon		

Sat / Sun: 2nd / 3rd March

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Virginia Mitsch	Jane Murtagh
Lector 1	Barbara Godde	Sr Carina Morton
Lector 2	Volunteer	Ray Murtagh
Eucharistic Ministers	Anna Farrell Lyn Hamilton	Pauline Willis Gemma Whitehead Sue McLaurin
Cantor	Brian Waters	Catherine Cutler/Judy Lindsay
Musicians	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
Counters: Desmond Lum & Jane Togher		

Prayer to be Merciful

Heavenly Father. Your love and compassion are enduring. You call us to show this love and forgiveness to all whom we meet. Through Jesus, our Saviour, you have shown how we are to do this. By loving our neighbour and treating all with kindness. We pray today that your abundant love be ever present in our lives.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like our heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees God.

Send your Spirit, so that we may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"Let us be renewed by God's mercy, let us be loved by Jesus, let us enable the power of his love to transform our lives too; and let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God can water the earth, protect all creation and make justice and peace flourish."

Parish News

Australian Catholics

The autumn edition of Australian Catholics has arrived. In this issue the nature and meaning of reconciliation is discussed. The articles explore the action of reconciliation in our personal lives, within the life of our families and communities, within the sacramental life of the church and in our response to current environmental issues.

As Saint Teresa of Calcutta reminds us: *'Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.'*

Please take and distribute free copies.

Volunteers

The practical support of our parish community is required to take communion to those requesting it at Borella House and the Lutheran Nursing Home on Sundays. If you would be willing to help out on a roster basis at one of these facilities please contact our parish office for further details. While a police check will be necessary you do not need to be a current Eucharistic minister to carry out this act of hospitality and service.

The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 6 March. You are encouraged to participate in one of the Lenten groups that will be operating within our parish community. We will be using the new reflection program compiled by Michael McGirr the coordinator of Faith and Mission at St Kevin's College Melbourne. If you wish to be a participant in a group please add your name and preferred day/time to the list on the noticeboards.

Mass for Ash Wednesday will be celebrated at 9.30am in the Church

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL

The host country for World Day of Prayer 2019 is Slovenia. The theme prepared by the women of Slovenia is *"Come - Everything is Ready"*.

The prayer service this year will be held at St Mark's Church, Gulpha Street, North Albury on Friday 1st March commencing at 10.00am.

This is an hour long service followed by morning tea. All welcome to attend.



This weekend we welcome to the community of the church through the sacrament of baptism Gabriella Celeste Dennis daughter of Luke and Shantal.

Plenary Council 2020

A snapshot of Wagga Wagga Diocesan submissions May—December 2018:

Total Respondents - 326

121 Submissions - 24 groups; 97 individuals

Around 229 individuals represented through 24 groups

Responses from men 32%; women 66%

Responses: 85 Catholic; 7 Christian; 0 Non Christian; 3 No Religion.

Have your say in the life and future direction of the Catholic Church in Australia. The Plenary Council is still accepting submissions from individuals and groups until 6 March (Ash Wednesday) at plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au or mail to PO Box 747, North Sydney NSW 2059.

Outreach Group

A meeting of members of the outreach group will be held in the Sacred Heart Hall after 9.30am Mass on Sunday 10 March. If unavailable to be present please contact Barbara Godde on 6021 7868.

Morning Tea

Our next **Parish Morning Tea**

will be held Sunday 3rd March

at the conclusion of our cele-

bration of Eucharist. St Anne's

School Community has kindly volunteered to assist in the setting up and catering for this gathering.



Liturgy of the Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year C

Readings: 1 Sam 26: 7-9,12-13,22-23; 1 Cor 15: 45-49; Luke 6: 27-38

Responsorial Psalm:



The Lord is kind and merciful

Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment;

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Readings

The radical teaching that was begun in last week's gospel as the beatitudes and woes is continued in this week's challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. As with the blessings and curses of the Beatitudes passage, this teaching continues the challenge to act against cultural and social expectations. Who would be surprised if you were to express hatred for an enemy or for someone who hates you or treats you badly? But Jesus tells his disciples to *love* their enemies and to *do good* to those who hate them. His instruction is contrary to the 'normal' way of doing things – and that's exactly the message Jesus wanted to convey! Rather than a spiteful, vengeful God who keeps score and punishes wrongdoing, Jesus presents a compelling image of a God of unbounded compassion and abundant generosity.

In this passage we find one version of the Golden Rule that appears repeatedly throughout the gospels (as well as most other religious traditions): 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' It is followed up with a comment that it takes no effort to treat well people whom you like – anybody can do that. The challenge is to treat people you don't like as you would like to be treated yourself. In a society that had very strict rules about the way to treat different people and clearly established boundaries between different groups, this was a tough ask by Jesus. Bear in mind also that there was an occupying army in the country and Jesus was encouraging the people to treat even their enemies, the Romans, with love, compassion and forgiveness. This was a radical and challenging teaching!

What a powerful message Jesus delivered to people who were subjugated and oppressed by an invading army. It would have been easy, and somehow 'natural', for the people of Palestine to hate the Roman occupiers and to seek revenge upon them. How confronting then for Jesus to say, 'love your enemies'! He tells the people that the way to live God's way in this situation was to be compassionate towards the oppressors; that when they rob you of your cloak to present them with your shirt as well. To do otherwise is to become like the oppressors themselves. Meeting hatred with hatred never ended hatred.

The compassion of God is a very strong theme that runs through the Gospel of Luke. Throughout the gospel, the compassion and mercy of God is emphasised and a defining feature of the gospel is the number of healings and parables that relate to people who were regarded as the outcasts of society. In this gospel, Jesus is the embodiment of God's compassion. Jesus wants all people to experience first hand the abundant love God holds for them. Today's gospel passage is a reminder that when we experience God's compassion we are also called to show it to others. (Greg Sunter)



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