



Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

22nd / 23rd February 2020

Parish Clergy

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

Phone: 60251516

Email: sacredheartna@gmail.com

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

Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES: This Week:

Ash Wednesday 9.30am

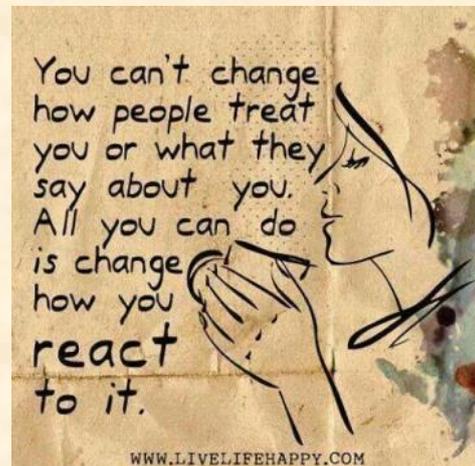
Friday 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661



An understanding of the true teaching of the Law is presented in different ways in this week's readings.

In the First Reading from Leviticus, Moses receives instructions to tell the people to become more like their God in their dealings with others. 'Be holy for I am holy.'

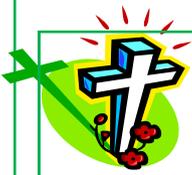
St Paul, in the Second Reading, reminds the Corinthians that the indwelling of the Spirit makes them sacred. This is more important than all their divisions. In Christ we are all the temple of God.

The Psalm, uniting these readings, is a prayer of praise and gratitude to the God who is love and compassion: he heals, forgives and redeems us.

Jesus, in the Gospel, is like the new Moses. He is the new law-giver, taking the teaching of the Law to a deeper, more demanding level. Being 'perfect like our heavenly Father is perfect' asks us to assume Jesus's values and treat our neighbour as a brother or sister in Christ.

Maybe this week, we can consider these values – perhaps not always shared by many around us – and pray for the grace to be more accepting of all whom we encounter.

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Pat Scott, Fr Frank Bell, Trish

Morirsh, Patricia Welsh, Brett Hammond, Sr Ann McRae, Margo Murray

ANNIVERSARIES: Jan Hodge, Arnold Fletcher, Mary Corrin, Robert

McIntosh, Fr Gerry Iverson, Ethel Herberte, Savina Patten, Megan

O'Donoghue, Margaret Morgan, Alexander Irvine, Colin Watson, Arnold

Russel, Marie Mulligan, Alan Boswell, John Drewe, Roy Mee, Hazel

Richardson, Noreen Coyle, Marilyn Pullen, Nancy Flynn, Laszio 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: 22nd / 23rd February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Nano Clancy Justin Clancy Michael Byrnes	Bede Hart Leanne Michael Lachlan McIntyre
Eucharistic Ministers	Michael Regan Pat Hopkins Catherine Cutler	Carmel Butts Sue Betts Noelene Cruise Marisa Hart Sue Hayhoe Kevin Kennedy Volunteer
Cantor Musicians	John Van Lint Judy Foley	Bernadette & Wendy
Counters: Gordon Bryant		

Sat / Sun: 29th February / 1st March

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator Lector 1 Lector 2	Jasmine Gordes Kellie Gordes Sr Patricia Weekes	Chris Lewis Rom Hayes Rosalie Martin
Eucharistic Ministers	Anna Farrell Jeneice Harding Volunteer	Richard & Trish Parkinson Moira Porta Peter & Dianne Treacy Pauline Willis Ann Marie Whiting
Cantor Musicians	Brian Waters Judy Foley	Catherine & Judy Val Hayes
Counters: Brian & Carmel Butts		

Prayer for Ash Wednesday The Commencement of Lent

Gracious God, next Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, begins a period of inner reflection and examination.

The days stretch before me and invite me inward to that silent, holy space that holds your Spirit.

This special time beckons me to see my life through Christ's eyes and the truth and reality of your love incarnate.

Give me the grace to enter the space of these days with anticipation of our meeting.

And, when I open my soul to your presence, let your loving kindness flow over me and seep into the pockets of my heart. I ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen



Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"This advice: 'Be holy, for I the Lord your God, am holy.' And then: 'You shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.'"

Parish News

World Day Of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action with over 150 countries participating. This year we are praying for Zimbabwe.

Our local service this year will be held at Trinity Uniting Church, Mate Street North Albury on Friday 6 March at 10.00am. This is an hour long service followed by morning tea. All welcome. Please bring a plate.

Lenten Groups

Our Lenten groups begin this week on Tuesday & Thursday evenings at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.

This year we will be using the Brisbane based programme, 'Be Opened - A Journey to New Life'.

If you are interested in participating in this valuable time of reflection and discussion please add your name and contact details to the lists located on the table at Swan St entrance and back of church.

Many thanks to those who are coming and indicated their preferred day.

Volunteer Pastoral Care Training Opportunity

This Spiritual Care Series is for those with a pastoral heart to provide social, emotional and spiritual support for older people residing in Fresh Hope Care facilities—Borella House in Albury.

The program is nationally recognised and will run over 9 weeks (2 hours per week). NO COST.

Course commences March 17th at the River Community Church David Street, Albury. Please contact Colleen Day on 0447 664 608 or colleen.day@freshhope.care.org.au

Palms Australia—Reach Beyond

All trades and professions are being requested by communities aboard seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. They're not asking for money or gifts that contribute to degrading dependence. Your assistance will help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation and support. You will be rewarded with riches greater than you might imagine. Look at www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0422 472 567 or email palms@palms.org.au

Fundraiser—Defibrillator for St Patricks Parish

A private screening of the recently released movie 'A Hidden Life' will be shown at the Regent Cinema on Friday 13 March at 6.15pm. It tells the story of Franz Jagerstatter, an Austrian farmer who refused to fight for the Nazis. Tickets \$20 by calling Louise McManus on 0424 848 473 or online: <https://www.trybooking.com/603591>

Open Day—Xavier High School

March 2nd, 2020 is Open Day for Xavier High School. Tours are at 9.30am, 12.30pm, 4.00pm & 5.30pm.

To register go to: www.xhsww.catholic.edu.au



We welcome into the community of the Christian faith through the sacrament of baptism Alexander Lucas Dennis son of Luke & Shantal.

Fr Martin—Post 60th Birthday Celebrations

Gratitude to all those involved in the planning, organisation and participation in the celebration last weekend. Thanks for the words of encouragement

Parish Pastoral Council

The next meeting of the Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Thursday 5 March at 6.00pm in the Parish Hall. Agenda items need to be listed with the secretary Virginia Sykes email: vmsykes31@gmail.com

Project Compassion 2020

This year Project Compassion focuses on the theme based around hope of encouraging everyone to 'Go Further, Together' and each week a new story highlights the issues being faced in that country and how Caritas Australia is working together with vulnerable people, empowering them to develop their strengths and create change in their own communities.

Project Compassion boxes/envelopes are available for collection at the church entrances.

Parish Morning Tea

Our parish morning tea is to be held next Sunday 1st March at the conclusion of our celebration of Eucharist. Thank you to the Deanshaw Family Group for volunteering to host this event.

Australian Catholics

Leadership—Leading From The Heart is the focus in Australian Catholics magazine this Autumn. When making choices, how do we know whether we're being guided by a concern for the common good, or other more selfish concerns? How do we know that the decisions we make are the right ones for our community and our world? In this edition we explore leadership in the footsteps of Christ, and how the Holy Spirit can help us discern our path forward. Please take a copy from church entrances

Cancellation of Family Group Lunch

Family Group lunch booked for 29th March has been cancelled and we are now having a Mass on 5th April to celebrate 30 years since established and then over to the hall for morning tea.

Together

Our diocesan newspaper has arrived please take a copy from church entrances.

Liturgy of the Word

Seventh Sunday of the Year—Year A

Readings: Lev 19: 1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3: 16-23 Matt 5: 38-48

Responsorial Psalm



The Lord is kind and merciful.

Alleluia Verse:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

Reflection on the Readings

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount in this weekend's Gospel deal with love of enemies. We should not look at "an eye for an eye" as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbour are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as "complete." We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

(Loyola Press)

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