



*Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
29th/ 30th August 2020*

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 at Sacred Heart North Albury

Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 9.30am.

Thanks to our I.T. gurus the 9.30am celebration of the Eucharist will be live streamed.

The mass will then be downloaded on YouTube as per normal. Simply click on the YouTube link provided on our website.

Weekday Masses return this week:

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9.30 am in the Church.



After Peter’s resounding proclamation of Jesus as the Christ last week, the readings this Sunday strike a more sombre note as we consider the suffering and sacrifice Jesus will face. This will also be the path his followers will choose.

Jeremiah cannot resist God’s call: he is overwhelmed by it, but his faithfulness brings insult and derision. (**First Reading**)

The **Psalm** echoes Jeremiah in speaking of our passionate desire and thirst for God. It is in clinging to God that we can face the crosses that will come our way.

In this passage from his letter to the Romans, St Paul encourages the people to offer themselves as a living sacrifice, ‘truly pleasing to God.’ (**Second Reading**)

In the **Gospel** we have the first foreshadowing of Jesus’s passion and death. Peter cannot countenance this, but Jesus points out that, for his disciples, the way of the cross is inevitable.

As we go on our way this week, let us try to be of one mind with Christ and to accept each day as it comes, remembering the psalmist’s words, ‘For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.’

Pastoral Placement from Vianey College Seminary

The rector of our diocesan seminary Fr Peter Thompson has asked our parish community to host the placement of a seminarian for a two week period. After discussion with Ed Brown (Parish Council) I have responded positively to the request. My understanding is that a senior seminarian, Mr Connell Perry will arrive here next Saturday and remain with us for the allotted period of time.

Please make him welcome!

Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Patricia O'Connor, George

Chomatek, Eulalie Gleeson, Marjorie Wallace, Louis Koschel, Frank Egan, Brian Savage, Sr Kathleen Cudmore, Brenda Konecnik.

ANNIVERSARIES: Don Fraser, Gerald O'Sullivan, Maria Lawrowicz, Molly McLaughlin, Bishop Brennan, Stewart Bryant, Pat Boadle, Sally Robinson, Mary Emerson, John Sharman, Eric Livermore, Theresa Lopez, Valda Cunningham, Nell Cruikshank, Geertja Van Gorkom, Robert Rossmann, Anne Fallett, Michael Lawrence, Lawrence Taylor, Joseph Terlick, Laura Bowen, Joseph Foley, Rita Bognell, Jean Bailey, George Palmer, Olive Thistleton, Frances King, George Keogh, Raymond Collins, Mary Dick, Nancy Parnell, Fr Bongiorno.

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

First Communion 2020

I have been working in recent weeks with Cassandra Jones (REC, St Anne's) and Bede Hart (Principal) on how we might address the reception of sacraments for primary school age children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Obviously, the reception of sacraments needs to meet the requirements of state based and diocesan protocols, which seem to be ever changing.

In order to fulfil social distancing and spatial requirements it has been decided to celebrate the sacrament of First Holy Communion over a series of evening gatherings in Sacred Heart Church.

Dates are as follows: Monday 14 September, Tuesday 15 September, Thursday 17 September, Friday 18 September.

All masses will begin at 6.00pm. Each candidate has been invited to bring with them those family members who comprise their household.

Unfortunately, no additional parishioners will be able to attend.

If there is any parent of a child not attending St Anne's and wishing them to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion at Sacred Heart please contact the parish office of Fr Martin as soon as possible.

Social Justice Sunday 30th August To Live Life to the Full Prayer for Mental Health

Jesus, you invite us all into the fullness of life. May we support one another to flourish in body, mind and spirit. Strengthen our commitment to ensure that nobody falls through gaps in our systems of care.

People called you mad. Help us to recognise you in those who suffer mental ill-health today. Show us how to eliminate stigmatisation of mental ill-health from our parishes, schools, communities and organisations. You drew near to those who were suffering in body or mind.

May we too feel your nearness when we struggle with mental health challenges. May we be one as members of Your Body. You invite us to share in your ministry of love and true compassion. May we be empowered by your Spirit to reach out to all people in need. May we build communities of welcome and inclusion.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

'Mary Most Holy, who followed Jesus to Calvary, also accompany us and help us not to fear the cross.'

Parish News

UPDATED COVID-19 DIOCESAN PROTOCOLS

If you are feeling unwell, have a cough or cold, sore throat or flu like symptoms please do not attend our physical gatherings as this puts others as well as yourself at risk.

After having your name registered or ticked off please use the hand sanitiser located at the four entrance points of the church at the beginning of our liturgical celebration and as you leave the church building.

Communion will begin with those on the car park side and then move to those seated on the Swan Street side. Please allow space between each recipient.

Eucharist

Holy Communion in the hand only.

Sacred Host to be offered only, not the Precious Blood.

No touching at the sign of peace.

No offertory procession.

No congregational singing.

No collection plates are to be used, but money/envelopes placed at collection points.

Face Masks

From Bishop Mark Edwards (18 August 2020)

Evidence is clear that close contact at church, or at weddings or funerals, has resulted in community transmission of COVID-19 in Australia and overseas. Evidence is also clear that face masks dramatically reduce the risk of spread. (See attached article or follow this link:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-06/mask-order-helped-avert-coronavirus-outbreak-in-sydney-aged-care/12527518>)

Health authorities recommend the use of a mask in situations where social distancing is difficult, eg on public transport and at religious gatherings. The premier has asked (but not yet required) that churchgoers wear masks at church. Rather than get to the point of having further restrictions placed on our attendance numbers or of having mask-wearing imposed on all church attendees, I ask that in addition to all requirements around social distancing and hygiene, **parishioners be exhorted to wear masks at Mass.**

COVID-19 Testing

Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting COVID-19 test results (even without presenting symptoms) attend a Church or parish setting until a negative diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive attend.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Our next meeting will take place this Thursday 3 Sept at 6.00pm in the presbytery. Members are invited to attend by physical presence or through zoom technology. If you have any agenda items for discussion they need to be sent to the Pastoral Council secretary Karen Purtle: bevispurtle@internode.on.net or contact parish office.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE PARISH AND THE PRIESTS

Instead of the usual way collections have been taken up in the past, baskets are located at the entrance and the middle of the body of the church.

Second Collection

Envelopes & Direct Debit (Pastoral Planned Giving) and loose money are the only source of meeting the parishes financial commitments. This includes insurance, church and presbytery utility expenses, diocesan levies, repairs and maintenance, liturgical and pastoral activities, payment of secretarial staff.

First Collection

Used for presbytery household and housekeeping expenses. At the conclusion of each quarter the surplus is sent to diocesan chancery and placed in a central pool. It is from this central fund that each priest's designated stipend is paid. It is the responsibility of each priest to purchase and operate a motor vehicle from their given stipend.

Social Justice Sunday

Social Justice Sunday will be celebrated on 30 August *The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. In the Social Justice Statement 2020-21, 'To Live Life to the Full': Mental health in Australia today, the Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. Download the A Statement at:*

<https://agora.catholic.org.au/e/576423/SocialJustice-2020/nf41c/517736760?h=Wnqrm4KGA0Xz2AQfSLUVVwBNHNDpIYW89O1AeJftAel>

ONLINE RETREAT

Mercy Global Presence Online: Global Contemplation

You are invited to join the Sisters of Mercy in exploring what it means to be actively engaged in the protection of our common home and witness to the sacredness of all creation. We will enter into this retreat against the backdrop of COVID-19 and the pain of the world at this time through our global contemplation. Honouring the fact that we are grounded and staying at home and the opportunities this brings for deeper contemplative experiences. There will be time for solitude, time to be together on zoom and time for active participation.

Presenters: Margie Abbot and Sally Neaves.

Dates: Four options are available. You may choose to attend one or all retreats as the content/processes will not be repeated.

1st Retreat: Tuesday 1 Sept; **2nd Retreat:** Wed 16 Sept; **3rd Retreat:** Tues 22 Sept; **4th Retreat:** Thurs 8 October. Sessions will be held intermittently through the day, with several screen breaks 9.30am—3.30pm. No Cost. Registration: Please express your interest by emailing: sally.neaves@ismapng.org.au

Liturgy of the Word



A Reading from the prophet Jeremiah 20: 7–9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.' Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 62

R: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God

O God, you are my God for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry weary land without water. **R**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **R**

So I will bless you all my life,
In your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet
My mouth shall praise you with joy. **R**

For you have been my help;
In the shadow on your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
Your right hand holds me fast. **R**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 16: 21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let them renounce themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save their life will lose it; but anyone who loses their life for my sake will find it. What, then, will someone gain if they win the whole world and ruin their life? Or what has someone to offer in exchange for their life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to their behaviour.' The Gospel of the Lord

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 12: 1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia , alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia