



## Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 5th / 6th September 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 This Week:

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

The theme of listening runs throughout today's readings: listening to the Divine Voice; to the voice of the prophet Ezekiel; to our community members; to the Church.

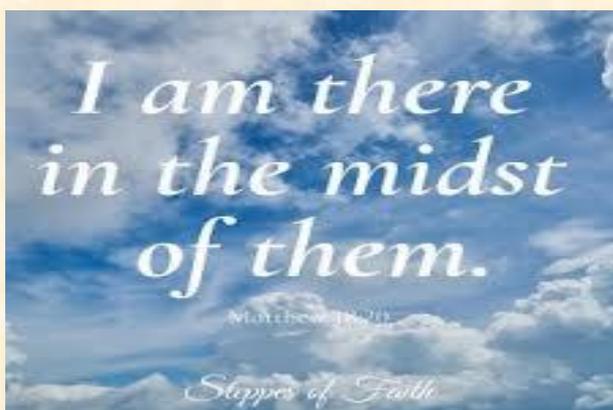
In the **First Reading**, God likens the prophet's role to that of a sentry, who has the task of warning people of approaching danger. Ezekiel must point out to the community both their sins and the consequences of them.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus advises us of our duty to do what we can when an individual's behaviour is a threat to the community. Our community does not live separately from God: the Lord is active and present in the decisions and desires of his people and our prayer and action should reflect this.

The **Psalm** picks up the theme of listening and bids the people to heed the message of God and to be receptive to his love and gifts.

Paul emphasises to the Romans that the precious freedom bought for us by Christ also brings with it a responsibility and a debt: to love and care for each other and to live out the consequences of our faith. These words go to the heart of the Gospel message. Jesus has shown us how to love our neighbour by everything he said and did. He also shows us how to be fully alive as a human being. (**Second Reading**)

Amid the distractions and bustle of daily life, we pray to be alert for the quiet voice of the Divine, and to be generous in responding to it. We beg for the awareness of our responsibilities as a church community, especially to those most at risk across the world at this time.



# Parish Community



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Andrew Lindner, Corazon Ivill, Mary Scholtens, Patricia O'Connor, George Chomatek, Eulalie Gleeson, Marjorie Wallace, Louis Koschel, Frank Egan.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** John Weaver, Sally Ingram, Jenny O'Flaherty, Maryanne Kennedy, Sr Margaret Schmetzer, Eileen Gill, Noeleen Low, Mary McLaurin, Arthur Walsh, Gloria Dawson, Sandra Mitsch, Cess Herberte, Megan Ryan, Jo Handley, Geoff Hore, Bob Kirkwood, Bill Ashworth, Irene Lieberman, Patrick Hamilton, Kathleen Bomford, Krystal Crowther, Ludwig Jankowski, Craig Pierpoint, Agnes Sutherland, Frances Slater, Ken Herbert, Valda Beebar, Frederick Buckhorn, Graham Marshall, Bruno Karwowski, William Gaudry, Alan Seaton, Burnhards Kalenikovs, Bill Maloney, Josie Graeba.

*Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our Lord.*

## **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.

## **A Thought for the Week ( Pope Francis):**

'I ask that you have the grace to be very close to your children, letting them grow, but being by their side. They need you, your presence, to be there, your love!'

## **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*

## **Blessing Prayer for Father's Day**

*We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives. Bless all the fathers in the world who have accepted the responsibilities of being a parent. Guide them to be outstanding role models to their children. Let them look to your example and to parent with patience, unconditional love and understanding.*

*So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent – grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches – and the women of our families.*

*May God be gracious to you.*

*May God bless you.*

*May God make his face shine upon you.*

*May you be strengthened with all power according to God's glorious might.*

*May you be filled with joy.*

*May God give you the desire of your heart, and make all your plans succeed.*

*Through Christ our Lord. Amen*

# 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 church goers 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.

### Defibulator Training

Thanks to the generosity of the St Anne's School community a defibulator has been purchased and located in the church at the Swan Street entrance. Former ambo and now gardening guru Michael Regan will conduct a training session on how to use it in an emergency this Wednesday 9 September at 12 noon. You are most welcome and encouraged to attend so that we will know how to use this life saving resource if the scenario arises.

## Pastoral Placement from Vianney College Seminary

We welcome to our parish community Connell Perry a senior seminarian from Vianney College. Connell will be resident with us for the next two weeks. You might consider inviting him around for a meal or joining with you for morning/afternoon tea. Please extend hospitality and welcome to him during his stay with us.

## 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.

### Spring Reading

The spring edition of Australian Catholics and the September copy of 'Together' are available for collection at the church entrances.

The spring edition of Australian Catholics focuses on stories of celebration. There is much to be sorrowful about in our current times. And yet even in the darkest of times, our faith turns us towards hope. Many of the articles are uplifting, joyful and hope filled. Please take your free copies and distribute to a friend, family member or neighbour.

### Holy Land Collection

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land normally takes place on Good Friday. This year, due to the closure of churches around the world during Holy Week because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Pope Francis moved the date for this collection to **Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup>** to coincide with the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross** on September 14<sup>th</sup>. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment and housing. Parishes, schools, orphanages and medical centres throughout the Holy Land also rely on assistance from this collection. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Last year, Australian Catholics donated \$1.3 million to this cause, despite tough economic times, rural droughts and the increasing cost of living. This year, we are again facing great challenges due to COVID-19, but your generosity would again be greatly appreciated. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Sunday September 13<sup>th</sup> and keep them in your prayers.

# Liturgy of the Word



## First reading Ezekiel 33:7-9

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'  
The word of the Lord.

## A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans 13: 8-10

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: *You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet*, and so on, are summed up in this single command: *You must love your neighbour as yourself*. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments..

The word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm 94

**R: O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts**

**Come ring out our joy to the Lord;  
Hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
With songs let us hail the Lord. R**

**Come in: let us bow and bend low;  
Let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we the people who  
belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. R**

**O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my  
work. R**

## 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!**

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 18: 15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.