



## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 12th / 13th 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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Web: <http://sacredheartnorthalbury.com/>

### 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.

### Gospel Discussion/Reflection

In today's climate of social distancing here is an opportunity to meet via Zoom and discuss and reflect on the following Sunday's gospel. Each meeting is on Friday evening at 5.00pm and is for 30 minutes. If you are interested please email Catherine Cutler at: [cmmc4321@gmail.com](mailto:cmmc4321@gmail.com) or phone 0419 518 791



The readings this week speak of forgiveness, urging us to forgive others just as God forgives us. God loves us unconditionally. There is no limit to that forgiveness, so long as we ourselves show forgiveness to others, and don't hold on to any grievances.

The **First Reading** directs us to remember and live by the commandments, and especially not to bear any grudge against our neighbours. We are urged to let go of any anger, hate or resentment.

The **Psalm** is full of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. It tells of the strength of the Lord's love for us as well as his mercy; there is no end to his forgiveness nor love.

In the **Second Reading**, we hear of how the way in which we live our lives affects one other. Through Christ's life, death and resurrection, he has shown us that we belong to him both in life and death, unless we choose to turn away.

The parable of the unforgiving servant in the **Gospel** emphasises the message of forgiveness. So long as we forgive others with complete sincerity, God will show compassion towards us. So long as we repent, he will forgive our sins an infinite number of times.

Over the week ahead, let's pray for one another and welcome God's gift of forgiveness.

# Parish Community



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

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Andrew Lindner, Santina Battellino, Sr Dominica Sheahan, Corazon Ivill, Mary Scholtens, Patricia O'Connor, George Chomatek, Eulalie Gleeson, Marjorie Wallace, Louis Koschel.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Teresa Dynan, Jan McNamee, Anne Twomey, Allan Wessen, Norm McLaurin, Judith Taylor, Mary Egan, Mario Fabbro, Brad Carrick, Terry McCabe, Irene Shanahan, Bill Ditchfield, Emily Clark John Austin, Geoffrey Loulson, Fr Brian McEwan, Harold Hopp, Dora Drennan, Jack Webber, Jim Newman, Paul O'Loughlin, Mary-Rose Tynan, Les Ryan, John Gordon Lindner,  
*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**

As previously stated due to COVID-19 protocol requirements the reception of First Eucharist for our children in Year 4 need to take place outside our communal celebration of Eucharist each weekend.

To this end our First Holy Communion masses will take place during the coming week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 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.

'You know us all, O God

Each one of us by name.

We are important to you.

Each one is written on the palms of your hands.

Let us know as well, O God, Your name.

Let us know and feel it in our lives.

The name you have made known and loved

In Christ Jesus, Your Son, Our Lord'.

Please keep these children and their families in your prayers.

*Baptism*



## **The Sacrament of Baptism**

This weekend we welcome into the community of the Church through the sacrament of baptism

**Lance John Taylor** son of Ashlee and Jade.

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

'First Communion is, above all, a celebration. We celebrate Jesus, who wants to remain always by our side.'

## **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*

## **Prayer for the Children Making Their First Communion this week**

Lord Jesus Christ, bless the children who will receive Holy Communion for the first time this week.

May this day be a step toward to a life-long love of the Eucharist.

Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to you for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow .

Nurture in them a desire to give and not simply to take ...  
but to bring your love to those whom they meet, to develop a Christ-like love for all people ...

As a Parish Community may we support these children and their families so that we may all work together in coming closer to You.

May you always know the peace of Jesus, the light of His love and the joy of His life within you. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

# Parish News

## Connell Perry—Pastoral Placement

Connell Perry a senior seminarian attending Vianney College remains resident with us until this coming Friday 18 September. Thanks to those in our parish community and our two school communities who have offered him welcome and hospitality. Connell remains open to all invitations as he continues to engage in parish pastoral ministry.

## Defibrillator Training

Thanks to the generosity of the St Anne's School community a defibrillator has been purchased and located in the church at the Swan Street entrance. Michael Regan conducted training in its use should such an emergency arise last Wednesday. Thanks to those who were in attendance. Please contact Michael Regan or Narelle Naughton after mass if you would like to be shown how the machine operates.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE PARISH AND 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.

## 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 13th** to coincide with the **Fest of the Exaltation of the Cross** on September 14th. 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 and keep them in your prayers.

## 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.

### 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.

# Liturgy of the Word

## First reading Ecclesiasticus 27: 30 - 28: 7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things and stop hating, remember dissolution and death and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High and overlook the offence.

The word of the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalm 94

**R:    *The Lord is kind and merciful;  
slow to anger and rich in compassion.***

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
All my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings **R**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion. **R**

His wrath will come to an end;  
He will not be angry for ever,  
He does not treat us according to our sins nor  
repay us according to our faults. **R**

For as the heavens are high above the earth  
So strong is his love for those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west  
So far does he remove our sins. **R**

## A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans 14: 7-9

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living...

The word of the Lord

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia , alleluia!**

**I give you a new commandment;  
love one another as I have loved you.**

**Alleluia!**

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

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. 'Give me time,' he said, 'and I will pay the whole sum.' And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt.

Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. 'Pay what you owe me,' he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, 'Give me time and I will pay you'. But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?' And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.