



ONE MISSION, TWO PARISHES

Saint Timothy's & Saint Luke the Evangelist
Catholic Parishes, Forest Hill & Blackburn South

Parish Office for both Parishes: 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2023

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

BEING THE GOOD NEWS ... BY PROMOTING GOD'S HOSPITALITY



Readings this week: Jer 20:7 - 9; Ps 62; Rom 12:1 - 2; Mt 16:21 - 27.

Gospel Reflection ~ Greg Sunter: This week's gospel is the first of three predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew's gospel (see also Mark and Luke). Despite Peter's confession of faith that immediately precedes this passage (see last week's gospel), the disciples still do not have a very solid understanding of Jesus' purpose. They may regard him as the Messiah, but still do not fully understand what that means. In this passage, Jesus is beginning to prepare them for the events of the passion – his death and resurrection. He is trying to lead them to a greater understanding of his mission and message. But Peter abruptly 'rebukes' Jesus and tells him not to speak like that. One can almost hear Peter saying, 'Look, Jesus, you've got a good thing going here, don't spoil it by talking about dying!' However, Jesus responds to Peter very sharply, suggesting that his lack of understanding is inspired by evil and reflects human thought, not divine wisdom. The passage then leads in to a description of the challenge of discipleship. To be a follower of Jesus means to 'deny' oneself, take up one's cross and follow Jesus. In the context of this passage, to 'deny' oneself means to not be concerned about 'I' but to be concerned about 'You' – to put others before self. To be a follower of Jesus means to be selfless, not self-centred. In the ultimate example of this, Jesus tells his disciples that whoever wishes to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it. To 'save' your life is to hold back from giving yourself fully to the message of Jesus – to be 'half-hearted' in your faith. But to 'lose' yourself in the message of Jesus is to fully give yourself over to living the reign of God and through 'losing' yourself in this way, Jesus tells us, is how to truly find life. **Historical Context:** Whoever loses his life for my sake... At the time of the writing of Matthew's gospel (around 75-80 CE), Christians were being persecuted and put to death for their beliefs. They were literally giving up their lives for their faith. These persecuted Christians saw Jesus' triumph over death as a sign of great hope and trust in the future for themselves. Jesus' words in the gospel – 'whoever loses his life for my sake will find it' – would give hope to those under persecution that ultimately they too would triumph and that the deaths of their friends were not in vain. **Scriptural context:** Not quite there... This passage immediately follows the passage of last week's gospel which featured Peter's confession of faith – his inspired revelation that 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.' The reader might think, 'Aha, the disciples have finally got it!' But in a very clever piece of writing, the author of Matthew's gospel follows this revelation of faith immediately with an example of the lack of clarity that the disciples, including Peter, still possess. This happens throughout the gospels. Whenever the disciples have a bit of an insight, they are almost immediately shown to only have a partial understanding of the truth. The full revelation of Jesus' mission and ministry is not easy to grasp and even the disciples were not quite there until they had seen the 'full story' played out before and within them. **Living the Gospel:** Have you got what it takes? For some people, to be a Christian is a 'soft option' – they see being Christian as being a bit 'fluffy'. This week's gospel is a reminder of the real challenge of being a Christian. Jesus reminds us that to be one of his followers we must be prepared to pick up our cross – whatever our particular cross might be – and still follow his example. To be a Christian means that we don't fall in a heap when difficulty comes our way; we take up the burden – our cross – and continue to look forward with hope. To live like Jesus is no easy option.

BEING THE GOOD NEWS

Whitehorse Deanery
Eastern Region
Archdiocese of Melbourne

Rev Father Gerard

Parish Priest

Sonya O'Farrell

Part-time Parish Secretary

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10.00am – 2.00pm

SUNDAY MASS

ST: & SL: Saturday Vigil @ 6.00pm

Sunday ST: @ 9.00am Australian
Vietnamese – 5.00pm

& SL: @ 8.30am & 10.30am

WEEKDAY MASS & SL: ROSARY

ST: Weds. & Thurs. @ 9.15am

Fri. @ 10.00am

1st Wednesday of the month
@ 10.00am Mass of Anointing.

SL: Tues. @ 5.00pm

Weds. Funeral @ 10.30am

Thurs. & Fri. @ 9.30am

Sat. @ 9.00am

RECONCILIATION

SL: Saturday 9.30am – 10.00am &
5.30pm – 5.50pm

SL: EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed
for Adoration Wednesday

Start: 7.00pm | End: 8.00pm

MACS Catholic Primary School

21 Stevens Road, Vermont, 3133 Vic

Tel: (03) 9878 4188

Ms. Anne Maree Jones Principal

Email: principal@sttims.catholic.edu.au

Website: <https://sttims.catholic.edu.au/>

MACS Catholic Primary School

46 Orchard Grove,

Blackburn South Vic 3130

Tel: (03) 9877 4023

Mrs. Clare Ryan: Principal

Email: principal@slblackburnstc.catholic.edu.au

Website: slblackburnstc.catholic.edu.au

Prayer to Saint Timothy

O God, who adorned Saint Timothy
with apostolic virtues, grant,
through his intercession that, living
justly and devoutly in this present
age, we may merit to reach our
heavenly homeland. Through our
Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who
lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for
ever and ever. Amen.

Patron Saint of stomach and
intestinal disorders.

Prayer to Saint Luke the Evangelist

O St. Luke, you were chosen to
reveal in preaching and writing
God's love for the poor. Moved by
the heavenly Spirit of Love, you
detailed the life of Jesus, showing
His divinity and His genuine
compassion for all human beings.
Help those who already glory in
God's name to persevere in one
heart and one mind and inspire all
people that they may hear the Good
News of Salvation. Amen

Patron Saint of artists, physicians,
surgeons, students and butchers.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this weekend all who are sick,
Terry Wells, Caratha McKerrow, Tony Keaney, Kathryn Holmes,
Therese O'Donoghue, Stewart Davis, Trevor Stowe, Jerry Donoghue, Veronica
and all those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For all who
have died recently especially Brandon Paulse, for those who have died in the
war in Ukraine and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time
especially Clive and Bret Adams, Paul Fung, Rose Howe, Catherine Bradley,
Dirk Senn, Luigi Cigana, Vicki Gallacher, Marianne Murray, Anna Stangierska,
Catherine Johnson, Vera Carmody, Cecilia Contreras & Maria Abadilla. R.I.P.

THE ARCHBISHOP is intending to write up a Report regarding his recent visit
to our 'One Mission Two Parishes' which he will send to us in due course.
Thankyou to all the Parishioners of **ST & SL** who made what we experienced
with him last weekend possible; indeed a Blessing for all of us! Fr Gerard P.P.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Ordinary Time ~ Friday: The Nativity
of the Blessed Virgin Mary; **Saturday:** St Peter Claver, priest or Mass of Virgin
Mary. **Masses this weekend:** Preface VII of The Sundays in Ordinary Time,
Eucharistic Prayer II, Eucharistic Acclamation III.

ST RITE OF BAPTISM this weekend for Maxwell Thomas Bennett, Son of
Samuel & Makayla, who will become the newest member of our Parish Family
of Families. Please make them all welcome.

THIS SUNDAY IS FATHER'S DAY and is a celebration honouring the father
of the family or individual, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the
influence of fathers in society. Happy Father's Day to all Dads!

REQUIEM MASS for Nancy Clements this Wednesday morning @ 10.30am.
So morning Mass Wednesday morning this week will be moved to this time.

ANNUAL PRF FATHER'S DAY APPEAL THIS WEEKEND: The collection
is for the Priests Retirement Foundation who cares for our Retired Priests of the
Archdiocese of Melbourne. Please donate using the envelopes on the pews or
electronically by clicking [here](#) and making your donation through Paypal.
Donations can also be made by mail ([cheque or money order](#)), made payable
to "Priests Retirement Foundation". Please send to PO Box 615, East Melbourne
VIC 8002. Donations are 100% tax-deductible. Thank you for your generous
support of all the Retired Priests.

MELBOURNE CATHOLICS: From gangster to international missionary ...

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2023 NEXT WEEKEND: The Catholic Church
in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday (formerly Child Protection Sunday) on
the second Sunday of September each year at the conclusion of National
Child Protection Week. In 2023, Safeguarding Sunday falls on September 10.
Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by
the sexual abuse of children and vulnerable adults within Catholic contexts. It
makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain
safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by
abuse, both directly and indirectly.

SL GRADE 6 STUDENT HARRIET DOIG is responsible for new rubbish bin
being installed at [Vermont South's Charlesworth Park](#) after a she contacted
Council with concerns about litter piling up. Our young global Citizen, thanks!

PROCLAIM OFFICE: [Read the second](#) Take the Way of the Gospel
consultation report 📖

A VOCATION VIEW: Don't run away from what you are called to be.
Christians take the less travelled road. "What does it profit us if we gain the
whole world but ruin ourselves in the process?"

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: "What profit would there be for one to gain the
whole world and forfeit his life?" Matthew 16:26 St. Francis of Assisi said,
"Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We
often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent and
treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based
on God's values and not the values of the material world. (**ST:** Weekly First
Collection Presbytery Envelopes: \$179; Thanksgiving Stewardship Envelopes this
week: \$315; Vietnamese Donation: \$212; **SL:** Last week's Church Stewardship
Envelopes: \$229; Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$221).

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS who have
walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge
the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the
ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

WEEKEND PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

SATURDAY **6:00 PM SL**
6:00 PM ST
SUNDAY **8:30 AM SL**
9:00 AM ST
10:30 AM SL
5.00PM ST

2 AND 3 SEPTEMBER

Janice D Souza
 Hubert Lobo
 May McKeown
 Alfred Lee & Trevis Yee
 Mia Perang
 Thuy Nguyen & Nhat Nguyen

9 AND 10 SEPTEMBER

Shirley Prabha
 Hubert Lobo
 Peter McKeown
 Alfred Lee & Trevis Yee
 Steve Kilroe-Smith
 Mai Le & Dieu Nguyen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY **6:00 PM SL**
6:00 PM ST
SUNDAY **8:30 AM SL**
9:00 AM ST
10:30 AM SL
5.00PM ST

2 AND 3 SEPTEMBER

Godfrey Thong
 Susan Chen
 Sonya O'Farrell
 Chin L Tay
 Val Gardiner
 Hung Dinh

9 AND 10 SEPTEMBER

Melina Barcellona
 Susan Chen
 Ian Holmes
 Chin L Tay
 Lynda Kilroe-Smith
 Hoang Nguyen

SLIDE OPERATORS

SATURDAY **6:00 PM SL**
6:00 PM ST
SUNDAY **8:30 AM SL**
9:00 AM ST
10:30 AM SL
5.00PM ST

2 AND 3 SEPTEMBER

Choir
 Michelle Chen
 Megan McLean
 Lee Min Yee
 Manny Gonzalez
 Toan Tran

9 AND 10 SEPTEMBER

David Prabha
 Michelle Chen
 Rosemary Donaldson
 Lee Min Yee
 Manny Gonzalez
 Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 2/3 SEPT

6:00 PM Genevieve Hemsley
8:30 AM Marie Pekish
10:30 AM Volunteer

HOSPITALITY

THE BASIC LITURGICAL MINISTRY

SL WELCOMERS 9/10 SEPT

6:00 PM Volunteer
9:30 AM Volunteer
10:30 AM Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

9th Sept. – Megan's Team
 Megan McLean, Janette Clark,
 Rita Gibb & Nihita Paul

ST CHURCH CLEANING

9th Sept @ 2pm
 Toan Tran, Dao Dinh, Hieu
 Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

2nd Sept – Marie Parker
 9th Sept – Jo Adams

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Parishioners
ST COUNTERS

This week Team 2:
 Raj & Violet Fonn
 Next week Team 3:

Peter Deayton & Kelvin Chen

ON THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK: Fr Christopher del Rosario says that there is no mediocre path of Christianity. Mother Hilda has been using AI and Siri to check out where God is. Plus, Fr Tony Percy explains the Theology of the Body, Trish McCarthy says we need boundaries, Deacon Josh Clayton on reading books to grow and develop as a person, and more great music!

NATSICC OFFICE: [Let's talk about the Voice respectfully](#) October 14 2023 confirmed for Voice Referendum: Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has announced 14 October 2023 as the day Australians will be asked to vote on the '[Voice](#)'.

ACBC OFFICE FOR JUSTICE, ECOLOGY AND PEACE: [Social Justice Trends | August 2023](#)

MAJELLAN FAMILY MEDIA: [Who needs a superhero?](#) My daughter gave me a plaque last Father's Day that says, 'Who needs a superhero when you have a dad.' This simple yet touching message encapsulates the often 'under-recognised' role that fathers play in the lives of their children and families. As we approach Father's Day this weekend, it's an opportune moment to acknowledge the unique contributions of fathers—be they life lessons, emotional support, or the simple joys of playing with your children in the backyard.

MISSION: TRANSFORM LIVES – THEIRS ... AND YOURS:

 Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills and knowledge with those who have few other chances for training. Build enduring global relationships while assisting sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Want to find out more? Join our [Global Development Webinar](#) happening on the 14th of September 2023 at 6pm to 7pm AEST **02 9560 5333** palms@palms.org.au

THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER will be holding their Annual Mission Fair, Saturday 14 October. 154 Cotham Road Kew. Proceeds from the Sale will go to assist the many needs of the missions. Enquiries: 9817 3715.

SAFETY STATEMENT: We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children and vulnerable persons in our Church. Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Blackburn South holds the care, safety, wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons as central and fundamental responsibilities of the Church. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

by Promoting God's Hospitality

Parish Groups & Contacts

Lectors, Registrars, Collectors,
 Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist,
 Slide Projector Operator & Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo 9412 8499

SL: Margaret Gearon 0409 807 135

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano 9412 8499

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen 0422 400 116

Andy Tran 0422 382 109

Vietnamese Youth

John Dinh 0448 977 037

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon - 0433 885 087

Steve Kilroe-Smith - 0404 864 232

Parish Pastoral Council

ST: T.B.A.

SL: T.B.A.

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,
 Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

Janette Clark - 9877 2292

Fr Gerard - 9877 2292

Parish History

SL: Margaret Gearon - 0409 807 135

Whitehorse Deanery - Fr Gerard

Finance Committee

Bernard Negline

Parish Accountant

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the
 Parish Office - 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant - 0401 644 474

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King 9412 8499

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean - 0419 347 693

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Kanagalinggam

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

Holy Communion to the housebound - Fr Gerard

Emmaus College School Advisory

Council Parish Rep.:

SL: Bernard O'Malley

Parish Choirs

ST: Mary Italiano & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

0411 136 043

Parish & School Fete Committee

SL: Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

School Advisory Council

ST: Ms. Anne Maree Jones 9878 4188

SL: Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

School Parents' Association

ST: Ms. Anne Maree Jones 9878 4188

SL: Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Freecall: Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Raise your voices ... Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Response to the Psalm: My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

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!

Eucharistic Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

ADULT FORMATION: THE VINE - [September 2023](#) - Adult Formation Newsletter

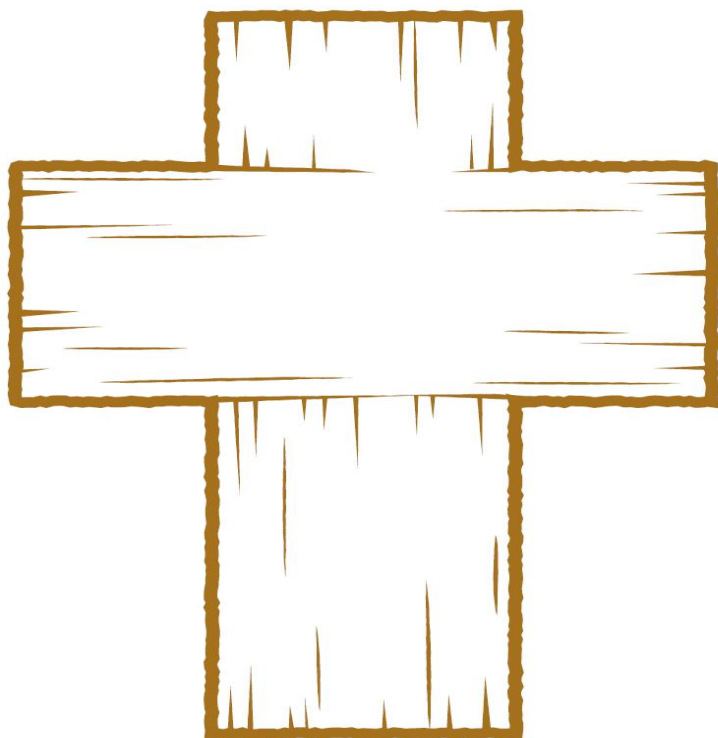
LEGION OF MARY MELBOURNE SENATUS: [Senatus Bulletin September 2023](#)

SL: 60TH ANNIVERSARY WINES FOR OUR PARISH: Please contact the Parish Office at your convenience. Bottle \$15, 2 Bottles \$25, 6 Bottles \$75, 12 Bottles \$140; (Will mix, red/white).

SL: MARGARET GEARON'S HISTORY OF THE PARISH & SCHOOL PART II is now available for @ \$15 each.



Write on the cross some of the hard things you need to do if you want to follow Jesus.



COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE

"If you want to be my followers you must take up your cross and follow me."

START **I** F Y O E

Y D W U T

Z N A L W

V T U E R

D F Y M I T X P I A B O K

G O H E B O Y S R U S T U

J L R C A T A O U M H T J

F L O W E R S Y E T Q A W

S D L K O P F G P U E K B

E W S O Y

A V I U Z

T X C R A

S O R Q H

S D U E O

A R K Y S

N G L L O

D F O F W

R I E P M

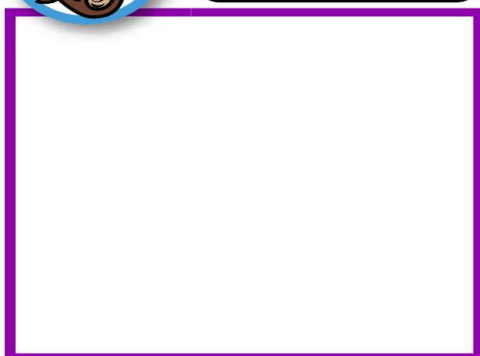
E U W T **E** FINISH

Help Jesus tell his disciples about the coming events in Jerusalem.



I must go to the city of Jerusalem...

...where people will make me suffer and I will be killed.



Draw Jesus entering the city on the donkey



Draw Jesus suffering on the cross



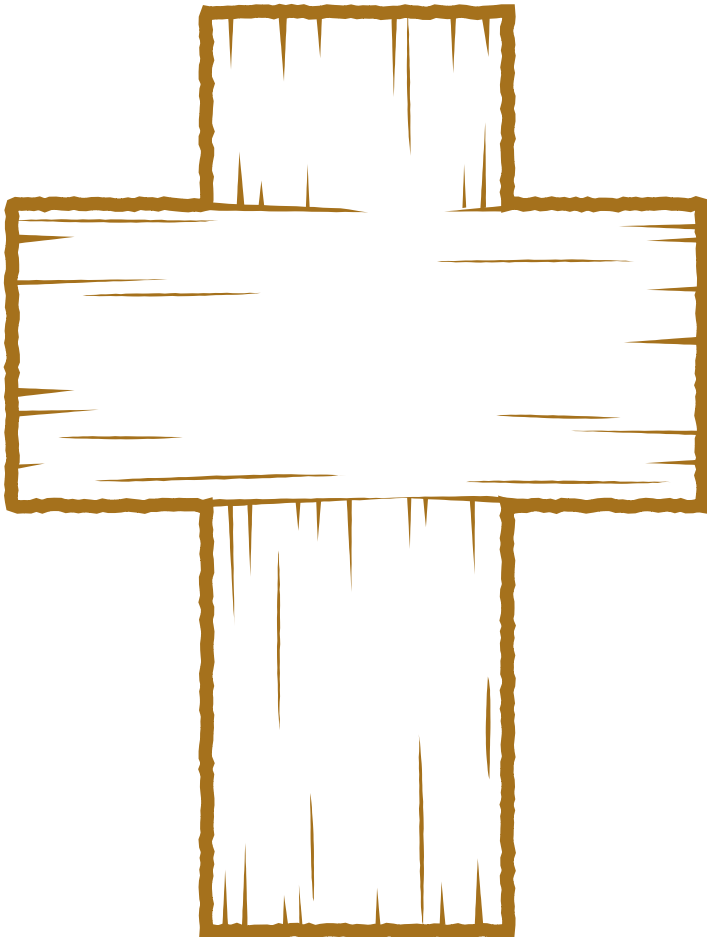
Write what Jesus tells the disciples next



Take up your cross and follow me

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Write on the cross some of the hard things you need to do if you want to follow Jesus.



COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE

"If you want to be my followers you must take up your cross and follow me."

START **I** F Y O E

Y D W U T

Z N A L W

V T U E R

D F Y M I T X P I A B O K

G O H E B O Y S R U S T U

J L R C A T A O U M H T J

F L O W E R S Y E T Q A W

S D L K O P F G P U E K B

E W S O Y

A V I U Z

T X C R A

S O R Q H

S D U E O

A R K Y S

N G L L O

D F O F W

R I E P M

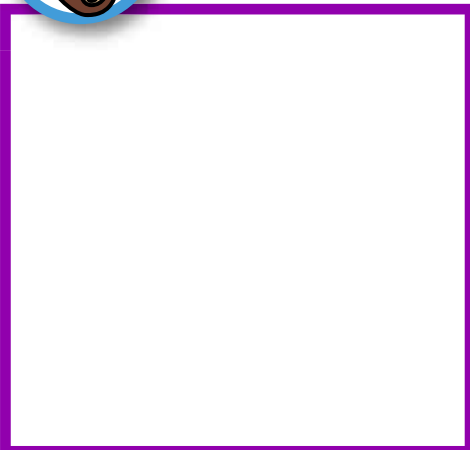
E U W T **E** FINISH

Help Jesus tell his disciples about the coming events in Jerusalem.

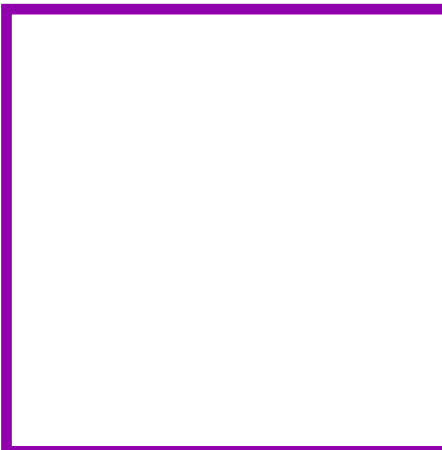


I must go to the city of Jerusalem...

...where people will make me suffer and I will be killed.



Draw Jesus entering the city on the donkey



Draw Jesus suffering on the cross



Write what Jesus tells the disciples next

SUNDAY READINGS

READ AT HOME

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

3 September 2023



Collect

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Readings and Commentaries

What is widely known as “The Prayer of St Francis,” either as vocal prayer or in one of its sung settings, first came to light on the eve of World War I. No longer credited to the saint himself, it still encapsulates key themes from today’s word of God:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring love. Where there is offence, let me bring pardon.

Where there is discord, let me bring union. Where there is error, let me bring truth.

Where there is doubt, let me bring faith. Where there is despair, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, let me bring your light. Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.

O Master, let me not seek as much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love,

for it is in giving that one receives, it is in self-forgetting that one finds,

it is in pardoning that one is pardoned,

it is in dying that one is raised to eternal life.

A reading from the book of 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.

First Reading

Chapters 11 to 20 of the book of the prophet Jeremiah contain several intense passages, often called the "laments," "confessions" or "complaints" of the prophet. Today's reading is the first part of the last of these powerful passages. Jeremiah feels trapped between the unrelenting demands God has made of him and the active opposition he has had to face from the people. No wonder he cries out against God in pain, anger and anguish.

The language he uses in this lament is shockingly violent. He accuses God of forcing him to undertake his prophetic mission, using terms related to sexual assault. God has seduced and overpowered him. To make matters worse his preaching only provokes "insult, derision, all day long". In spite of all that, he cannot escape the "fire burning in my heart".

The lectionary spares us the rest of Jeremiah's diatribe. It culminates in the desperate curse he utters at ever having been born. The rationale for choosing this disturbing text becomes clear when we hear Jesus foreshadowing his own rejection, suffering and death in the gospel. But we hear nothing from Jesus like Jeremiah's fierce complaint, only his plea in the Garden of Olives to be spared the cup he must drink.

There is no more impassioned text than this in the whole of the scriptures. Readers may be tempted to temper its ferocity. Without going to the other extreme and overdramatising it, they need to be faithful to the depth and power of Jeremiah's feelings, even if they know some of the assembly may be scandalised. The reading should not be rushed. Everyone should be given the time they need to absorb what they are hearing.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 62:2–6, 8–9**

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 of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

While Psalm 62/63 may be categorised as a lament, the grounds for this aren't obvious in the verses chosen for the responsorial psalm. They convey a spirit of heartfelt longing for God. The psalmist appears peaceful, trusting and grateful. There is just the slightest hint in the first line of the final stanza that there has been trouble: "For you have been my help".

This psalm may thus seem a strange choice to follow on from the turbulence of Jeremiah's anguish in the first reading. Ironically, the connection is greatest in a later verse that we do not hear. The psalmist looks ahead to the destruction of his enemies who will be put to the sword, become the prey of jackals and go down to the depths of the earth.

As it stands, the psalm invites us to imagine that for all his complaint Jeremiah, like the psalmist, was positively captivated by God. It's meant to awaken in us a longing for God akin to a desert thirsting for water. It encourages us with the promise of a banquet and the assurance of God's saving help. Readers who make the psalmist's yearning for God their own will confer a blessing on the community.

**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.

**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 him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his 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 his behaviour.'

Second Reading

Having come to a Job-like resolution of the agonising problem of his own people's fate, Paul embarks on an exhortation about the Christian life. Several of his letters follow this pattern of theological debate followed by ethical advice. If obedience to the Law (and the sacrificial cult it sanctioned) is no longer the path to salvation, as he has argued, then what kind of life are believers to lead?

Today's reading offers the answer. Against the defining horizon of God's mercy, they are to lead lives of self-sacrifice. Their "new mind" will show them what accords with God's will and is therefore good and perfect. This guidance will come from within. Paul makes it clear that, while this way of life is not governed by prevailing social norms, it isn't "other-worldly" either. It's that of "living bodies". The baptised are to offer bodily service to others and in the process give true worship to God. This might remind some of Jesus' quote from Hosea: "What I want is mercy, not sacrifice" (Mt 9:13).

Paul's vision of the Christian life is holistic. Body, mind and spirit are at one in the service of God and neighbour. This is the basis for Paul's ensuing exposition on the concrete form of self-sacrificing love. This reading may be short but it sets the scene for the remaining chapters of the letter. It is faith-filled, positive and encouraging, and should be delivered as such.

Gospel

Peter's confession of faith in Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God" leads to a turning point in Matthew's gospel. For the first time ("From that time on . . ." NRSV), Jesus speaks of the suffering, death and resurrection that lie ahead for him. Peter hears nothing of resurrection; he cannot bear to think of Jesus' suffering and dying. Jesus rebukes him in the same categorical way he responded to Satan's temptations in the wilderness. Calling him "an obstacle in my path" brings to mind what Paul says elsewhere about the cross being an obstacle to Jews and madness to pagans (1 Cor 1:23).

To make matters worse, Jesus goes on to insist that disciples of his must follow in his footsteps and actively choose to let go of their lives. This radically undermines the common human enterprise of making something of ourselves. Jesus' call to swim against the cultural tide is echoed, as we have just heard, in Paul's exhorting the Romans not to model their lives "on the behaviour of the world about you".

As the post-resurrection narratives make clear, the risen Lord offers no short-cut or by-pass to the realm of glory. The one and only way is the way of the cross. Believers can take heart that this is "God's way" for them to come into the full possession of life. It's a serious, but not sombre, business. Ministers' proclamation should duly reflect the weight of Jesus' teaching contained in this strong exchange.

Concluding Blessing

May the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on us and remain with us for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time II, Roman Missal p 715.)



St. Luke's Fete *& 60th Anniversary*

60TH ANNIVERSARY ST LUKE'S WINE:

1 BOTTLE \$15

2 BOTTLES \$25

6 BOTTLES \$75

12 BOTTLES \$140

(WILL MIX, RED / WHITE)



THE ARCHBISHOP'S Father's Day 2023 COLLECTION FOR RETIRED & SICK PRIESTS



DEAR FRIENDS,

It has been a wonderful custom in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to allow the faithful of the Archdiocese to show something of their own appreciation through an annual Father's Day Appeal. The appeal goes to the care of retired and sick priests by providing suitable accomodation, medical assistance and a comfortable standard of living for them.

In a time like no other we have experienced, I am especially mindful of the great love that God's People have for the spiritual and pastoral care offered to them from the heart of the priestly ministry. I am deeply thankful for the ways in which you are the face of Christ for our priests, and the support that you give to them. May I commend the Appeal to you.

Please pray for your priests, as they pray for you!



+PETER A COMENSOLI
Archbishop of Melbourne

**ALL DONATIONS
OF \$2 AND MORE
ARE FULLY TAX
DEDUCTIBLE!**

**PRIESTS RETIREMENT
FOUNDATION**



Caring for those who cared

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE
PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION
PO BOX 615, EAST MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, 8002 Web: www.melbournecatholic.org/foundation Tel: (03) 9926 2472

The Foundation is a Deductible Gift Recipient (900 299 353) and this status can be confirmed by visiting the ABR website—www.abr.business.gov.au and keying in the ABN of the Foundation—68 330 354 094

Main image—retired priests with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli (L–R): Fr Joe Browne, Fr Bill Gill, Mons Peter Kenny, Fr Terry Bergin, Fr Kevin Eaton, Fr Arnold Heredia, Fr Brian Cosgriff, Fr Pat Purcell and Fr Anjou Soares.
Image 1 (L–R): Fr Bill Gill, Mons Peter Kenny and Fr Terry Bergin. Image 2 (L–R): Fr Des Magennis and Fr Gerard Dowling.

PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

AND
RETIRED PRIESTS SUPPLEMENT FUND
Caring for those who cared

P.O. Box 615, East Melbourne, Vic, 8002
Telephone: 9926-2472 - Fax: 9287-5645
Email: foundation@cam.org.au
A.B.N.: 68 330 354 094

Dear Father,

August 2023

Father's Day is near (Sunday September 3), the traditional day for the annual collection for the **Priests Retirement Foundation**. This appeal creates one of the four main income streams for the Foundation enabling us to support the retired priests of the Archdiocese.

Advertising material prepared by the Archdiocesan communications Office is again available for use this year. On behalf of our retired priests (and for your own future retirement benefits) I do ask that you strongly support this appeal. We are grateful to the Catholic people of Melbourne who so generously respond. But they want to see you push the appeal as well.

Please display the posters a week beforehand, and on the day make the envelopes readily available. If these do not arrive by August 21 please contact Joe McNamara (Executive Officer) at the office (details above). You may care to include in the parish bulletin or in the prayers of intercession the names of those who have worked in your parish and are now retired.

All contributions of \$2 or more are tax deductible and will be recorded. Written receipts for \$5 or more will be posted to contributors towards the end of the financial year as contributions keep coming in for months. This year has cost the Foundation \$4,700,000 to "care for those who cared." Last year's Father's Day appeal brought about \$407,000.

Since last August the following priests who were supported by the Foundation have died; Frs Frank Arnold, Michael Bogusz, Joe Hynan, Bob Maguire, Sam Dimattina, Tao Pham, Des Panton and Bishop Hilton Deakin. May they all rest in peace.

And since the last Father's Day the following priests have joined the lists of the retired: Frs Vincent Le Van Huong, Greg Bourke, Terry Bergin, Kevin McIntosh, Sebastian Mappilaparambil, Franco Cavarra, Joe Bui Duc Tien.

With renewed thanks and every best wish,
Yours sincerely,



(Fr) Mark Reynolds EV, PP
Chairman, Foundation Committee



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

21 July 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Since first being prepared in 1961 for mission to Papua New Guinea, Catholic participants from all over Australia and New Zealand have been placed in 40 countries, assisting the development of 408 communities globally.

In the face of challenges to global mission such as COVID 19 and growing uncertainty about global security, Palms applied its intercultural expertise domestically to extend opportunities for mission within Australian communities through its new [Neighbours Without Borders](#) program.

Palms is redoubling its efforts in response to overseas communities' requests to assist develop individual and organisational capacity through skill exchange. New skilled and committed applicants are being thoroughly prepared for their intercultural mission in remote parishes, schools and communities abroad.

I urge that you please publish bulletin notices and forward emails sent to you that promote [opportunities for individuals to engage in a Palms Global Mission](#). I also encourage you to help promote the [Neighbours Without Borders](#) program to assist Australian parishes and schools to better embrace diversity and build on gifts to grow stronger communities.

Those considering a mission engagement with Palms can be advised of the following support:

1. The Archdiocese will support:
 - a. the cost of preparing Palms program participants for mission and a re-entry weekend upon return from a mission placement abroad.
 - b. an indexed gratuity payment of \$2,929 (2023) after each year of mission service.
2. Palms negotiations with Catholic schools assures great support and benefits for teachers giving up to two years for this mission. Teachers should talk with Palms about the details.

Through those sent on a Palms mission we are all given the opportunity to reach beyond cultural, class and gender differences, to affirm the dignity of all, while “*promoting and implementing the development goals that are supported by our deepest religious and ethical values.*” (Pope Francis).

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne



Supporting Safe Communities

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2023
10 SEPTEMBER



catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023

JULY 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are writing to let you know that we will be holding our Annual Mission Fair on Saturday 14 October.

The Fair is always a joyful event when we come together to work and meet our Friends from all over Victoria.



Gifts for the Fair - **FANCY GOODS, NOVELTIES, POT PLANTS, BOOKS** etc., would be greatly appreciated.



Please note: School books, encyclopedias and instructive books do not sell. We would like to let you know that we are not permitted to sell second hand electrical goods; including second-hand computers/printers/phones etc. and therefore cannot accept them. We also do not accept used clothing.

Please keep us in your prayers. You and your family are always in ours.

God bless and keep you all in His loving care,

Sincerely in Christ,

Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver

154 Cotham Road Kew Vic 3101