

The Living Word

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

25 October 2020

First Reading Ex 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my
stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we
will come to them.**

Alleluia!



Reflection by Greg Sunter

Like last week's gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to 'catch Jesus out' in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 *mitzvot* (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 *mitzvot* governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the 'greatest' commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of 'What about ...?' questions.

Jesus' answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn't about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as 'Love God', what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.

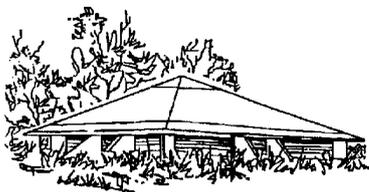
Gospel Mt 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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ST JOSEPH'S PARISH, TORONTO

Encounter Jesus

ENCOUNTER JESUS

The call to 'Encounter Jesus' is both an invitation and a mission. We are an open, welcoming community that seeks to share the life and love of Jesus with every person we encounter. As a community, we strive to create those spaces where anyone can freely encounter the person of Jesus. We are further challenged to encounter Jesus in each other, in the world and in the life of the Church.

We acknowledge the Awabakal people as traditional owners of this land. As we journey in the footprints of those who walked the land before us, we are mindful of those in our community who carry the memories, culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia.

Parish Leader: Brendon Mannyx 4959 2777 / 0429 426 892

Priest Supervisor: Father Geoff Mulhearn

Sacramental Priest: Father Kevin Corrigan

Parish Office Phone: 4959 2777 or 4959 2024
140 Wangi Rd Email: torparish@mn.catholic.org.au
Toronto Mail: P. O. Box 122, Toronto. 2283

Website: www.torontoparish.org

St Joseph's Primary School Phone: 4959 1355

St Paul's Catholic College, Booragul Phone: 4958 6711

MASS TIMES

Mass Times Sunday: 9.00 am (please register by Thursday)

Reconciliation
By appointment

Weekday Mass & Liturgy of the Word

Monday No Liturgy
Tuesday No Liturgy
Wednesday 9.30am - Mass
Thursday No Liturgy
Friday No Liturgy

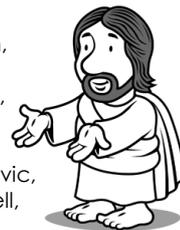
LIVING PRAYER - INTENTIONS FOR THIS MONTH

- for those doing their HSC and final exams
- for young people and educators as they start Term 4
- for the youth of the world, that they find hope for the future and a faith in the love of God
- for families struggling with separation, unemployment, addictions and violence
- for all those working in the forefront of the fight against Covid 19
- for the ALPHA course
- that the Hello Hunter group will be successfully established and begin to reach out and support those in need
- for our deceased family and community members

WE ARE PRAYING FOR THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Baptisms this month: Morrison Douglas, Madigan Langan

Sick List: Robert Apthorpe, Roslyn Cox, Silvi Bennett, James Bennett, Pat Bowden, Louise Mahon, Norm Maude, Ann Richards, Shane Quinn, Elizabeth Marshall, Sarah Hill, Peter Leighton, Carel Luke, Marie Heathcote, Zach Tomaz, John Brogan, Mary Aganovic, John Hey, Suzanne Daze, Marian Brack, Donny Aganovic, Netta Haining, Deborah Brown, Neale Powell, Ellen Normoyle, Kath Brooks, Lydia Gwynne, Dorene Foster, Robin Clark, Penny Jordan



Deaths: Noele Corrigan

Anniversaries: Bernice Farrell, Ken Sevil, Peter Fraser, Yale Frank de Jager

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING SUNDAY MASS - WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ?

More people are returning to our Sunday services and this is a great outcome for our community to be able to gather safely and in compliance with the current Government COVID rules. However, now that we have reached our maximum number of people permitted within the church building, the responsibility for all parishioners to follow the registration procedures becomes more critical.

If you don't register and merely turn up unannounced on Sunday morning, there is a possibility that you will be disappointed as you may not be able to enter the church if it has reached its capacity. **Unregistered parishioners will need to wait aside while the COVID team checks off registered attendees.**

If you do register for a Sunday Mass (either during the entry process at last week's Mass, or by contacting the Parish Office during the week), a space will be reserved for you - to the exclusion of others if total registrations exceed capacity. Therefore, it is important that if you know you will not be attending, that you de-register for that Service by notifying the parish office before Sunday to free up your seat and potentially allow another parishioner to attend. Whilst circumstances can sometimes overtake us, please try to avoid becoming a "no show".

To register to attend a weekend celebration, please contact the parish office by phone (**49592777**) or email (**torparish@mn.catholic.org.au**) before **midday on the preceding Thursday**. Alternatively, you can register for the following week during check in at the church. **Attendance is confirmed with registration unless otherwise notified.**

At the heart of all we do, there is a desire to live Christian charity. Let us continue to look out for each other with the new challenges ahead. Communication is vital for the processes to work. If anyone has any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office or speak to a member of the Parish Team.

(Brendon, Carleen, Bev, Col, Debbie and Richard)

"It was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you." - 1Thess 1.6

THE END OF THE PARISH?

During the week, I read an article in the online magazine *La Croix* written by an Australian deacon, Justin Stanwix. In the article, the author poses the question, **Has the parish as we know it 'run it's course'?**

While reflecting on the impact of the coronavirus on our churches, the author also recognises that this particular time in our history is also an opportunity. Yes, many things will need to change. Yes, the concept of the parish as we knew it will need to adapt. But maybe, just maybe, these are good things.

As Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*:

"The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours..."

Following the Pope's lead, the author sees this time as a 'wonderful opportunity to do something radically different.' He writes:

We are all the People of God: not them and us. Our radical role is now.

The Church is us – not over there or hidden in a church building. We, the People of God, are the Church, right here and now. The baptismal call of priest, prophet and king has rarely been stronger.

There is a strong argument that the pandemic provides the catalyst we have been waiting for to renew our Church. We know parts are broken and we have grievously sinned.

As we move out of that phase, in God's redemptive love, we have the opportunity to "rebuild my Church" as St Francis heard Jesus urge him from the cross at San Damiano.

We will have to be smart, because people are looking for new forms. But the parish remains the established vehicle with existing infrastructure and potential to adapt, change and transform. Radically so.

The real question is whether we are all ready to make the change, to go out into the night waters, seek the fish and help haul in the catch.

The parish on its knees – in prayer, not in rejection or grief – will be the start. Then, with the benefit of the Lord's abundant grace, let's put out into the deep!

How will we respond to the challenge?

What will our parish look like tomorrow?

-Brendon

REMEMBRANCE MASS

Friday 6th November at 7.00 pm

Please write the names of your deceased loved one(s) on a card (available now at the back of the church) and place it in the bowl provided. At the Remembrance Mass, this bowl will be carried in by one person in the Entrance Procession and placed at the foot of our Remembrance Cross. The cross and bowl will remain in the church for the month of November.

This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are limited to the number of people permitted in the church building at one time so it **is important that you PRE-REGISTER** for the Mass before Tuesday 3rd November. You can either email the parish office (torparish@mn.catholic.org.au) or phone (4959 2777) stating your Name, number of people in your group who wish to attend, & Contact Number or Email Address for each person attending.

GOD'S WORD 2021

Copies of *God's Word 2021* are now available from the Parish Office for \$16 each.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle presents a range of free presentations and courses this November.

Nicholas King SJ presents: *Bringing The Gospel to Life* on Wednesday, 4 Nov at 6.30pm-8pm.

Communion of Saints: presented by the Formation and Education team over 4 weeks. Commencing Nov 5 to 19 at 6.30pm-8pm.

Relationships Matter: presented by the Formation and Education team on Wednesday, 11 Nov at 7-8.30pm.

Michael Smith SJ presents: *Why Pilgrimage?* On Tuesday, 17 Nov at 7-8pm.

Nicholas King presents: Mark- *The Strangest Gospel* on Wed, 18 Nov at 6.30pm-8pm.

Q & A with Father Anthony Coloma. Wednesday, 25 Nov at 6.30pm-8pm.

To register, go to Adult Faith Formation page on the Diocesan website:

<https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/>

For more information, see the noticeboards outside.

Donations to our parish can be made through our website at: [torontoparish.org/serve/donations-to-the-parish/](https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/adult-faith-formation/)
Any parishioner who would like to join our **Planned Giving** scheme is encouraged to contact the Parish Office.