



St Patrick's Parish

PO Box 547, 65 Clarke St

Lilydale 3140

Ph. 9739 5977 0448 618 418

Email: Lilydale@cam.org.au

<http://stpatrickslilydale.cam.org.au>

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Francis Denton

Email: lilydale@cam.org.au

Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob

Pastor Emeritus: Fr John Dupuche

Pastoral Worker: Mrs Debbie Edward

27th & 28th June 2020

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16

A reading from the second book of the Kings
That is the holy man of God, let him remain there.
One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-3, 16-19

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss.

R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted:

for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel.
R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Having been buried with him through baptism, we shall walk in a new life.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: 1 Peter 2:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people.

Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Anyone who does not accept his cross is not worthy of me. Anyone who welcomes you, welcomes me.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.'

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me. 'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward. 'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

General Intercessions

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father;
Through him all things were made. For us men and for
our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic,
and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Personal Reflection on the Priesthood on my Anniversary of Ordination

This Saturday 27th June is the feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. It also happens to be my fifth anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood. Such an occasion is an opportunity to give thanks to God for the incredible gift of the priesthood, a gift which is given not for the sake of the ordained, but for the sake of the people of God. In my first year in the seminary I read Bishop Fulton Sheen's book on the priesthood entitled "The Priest is Not His Own." Sheen's principal insight is that the priest does not live for himself and his own personal fulfillment, but as a victim-soul offering himself in union with Christ on the cross. Sheen's vision stands in stark contrast to modern distortion which seeks to view the priesthood as a career path for power, influence and status. In truth, those who see the priestly office through the perverse Marxist lens of 'power' understand neither Jesus Christ, nor Christianity, nor the priesthood in their essence. The priest stands with Christ as a sign of contradiction to the world. His life is one of radical self-renunciation, because he lives not for the sake of this world, but for the life to come. The priest's life is a gift given for others.

By virtue of his configuration to Christ the priest is called to empty himself of all his egoism and worldly aspirations, and learn to embrace the will of God, in imitation of Christ. This is the *kenosis* or 'self-emptying' described by St Paul in the canticle of his Letter to the Philippians: "Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not could equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). Following the example of Christ, who is both priest and victim, those ordained to the sacred ministry must share in both Christ's Priesthood and his Victimhood. Just as Christ offered himself, totally and freely for us on the cross, so the priest is called to offer himself totally and freely: "no-one takes my life from me, I lay it down of my own accord" (John 10:18). Since love is the operative motivation the sacrifice turns to sweetness and comes to bear an abundance of fruit. The wood of the cross becomes the Tree of Life.

Some people imagine that the demands of the priesthood, a life of obedience to the bishop and especially clerical celibacy, are 'too hard' today. It is imagined that if such disciplines were dropped there would be a stampede of candidates applying for the seminary. I'm doubtful that this would happen. In fact, I suspect the opposite would happen. A priesthood that panders to comfort, self-indulgence and the spirit of worldly accommodation is a priesthood that any young Christian man would quickly come to despise for its rank inauthenticity. To be a priest is to be an *alter Christus*, *ipse Christus* – 'another Christ, Christ himself'. The priest

is called to configure himself to Christ, in a life of simplicity, purity, obedience, charity and sacrifice. The fact that we poor priests fall so far short of the ideal should not lead us abandon the ideal or to lower the bar that Christ himself set. The sinner is called to holiness, in spite of his sins. How much more so the priest whose hands are consecrated with the sacred Chrism to set him apart for a life of radical service? Every time the priest offers the Mass he utters the words of consecration holding the Host: "This is my body which will be given up for you." It is the body of Christ that is offered on the altar, but so too is the body of the priest offered in union his master: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

We hear these sentiments echoed in this Sunday's Gospel: "Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it. Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it." Herein lies the paradox of Christianity. It is in renouncing our lives for the sake of Christ that we discover the greatness of our calling as saints. Having surrendered everything for Christ we find ourselves enriched a hundred-fold with treasure that will not perish. I take this opportunity to renew my thanks to God for the abundant blessings he has bestowed upon me - the gift of my life, my faith, my parents, family, friends and parishioners; for his patience with me in my weakness and ineptitude; for the gift of His Son, who died for my salvation; and for a share in his priesthood and his victimhood. Please pray for me and all my brother priests that we may persevere in serving Our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully and generously.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us!

RECONCILIATION

10am Saturday morning or by appointment

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

by appointment

Marriages: Please give at least six month's notice.

Baptism: Please contact parish office for details.

PARISH OFFICE

Please call 0448 658 418

PASTORAL WORKER

Please call 0448 664 731

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If assistance is required please contact the Lilydale Centre on 1800 305 330

Mon-Fri 10.00am – 4.00pm

CARE GROUP

Ann McCann, Debbie Edwards,
Sharon Jacob,
Contact Parish Office 0448 658 418

WEEKLY THANKSGIVING

Pledged Amount \$1404.50

Thanksgiving received June 20/21

Thanksgiving Collection \$ 1315

Presbytery \$ 135

Restoration \$ 0



We have recently switched to NBN and having trouble accessing our office phone message bank. If you need to contact the office please call 0448 658 418.



We are a child safe Parish



PARISH PRAYER LIST

Recently Deceased: Luigi Mazzotti

Anniversaries: David Rudin,

Sick: Joan Keuken, Angela Del Guidice, Lynne Fleming, Jo Payne, Kim J, Cherie, Izaak, Anne-Maree Sullivan, Jim Reid, Peter & Aurelia Di Ciero, Tony Cunningham, Claudette & Gilbert, Florens, Luigi Mazzotti, Kate, Tim Lawson, John Hopper, Cassandra, Mary and John Hamilton, Carmel O'Healy, Michelle, Pat Robb, Robert Taylor, Nancy Leonard, Brian Walsh, Michael Paola, Barbara De Vincentiis, Emma, Wayne, Julian Monteiro, Dolly Maher, Salvacion Santos, Ricky, Giovanna Zammit, Michael Jordan, Anne Moroney, Catherine Fields, Sam Lawson, Trish Macpherson, Geoff, Grace Quinlivan, Bianca, , Mary Ovans, Stephen, Gael Holliday, Rob Meridith, Bill Meyer, Cathie & Jose Grima, Darren McInnes, Rose Roberts, Roman De Angelis, Tedi & Santi, Stephen Wakeham, Joe Di Battista, Gwen Weaver, Stella Martin, Peter Murphy

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and
unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me
to be separated from You.
Amen.**

Mass will be celebrated in the Extraordinary form (Latin Mass) each Saturday morning at 9 am, commencing on Saturday 4th July 2020.

Masses are back with changes!

St Patrick's: Saturday Extraordinary form: 9am
Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm
Sunday: 10.30 am
Tuesday: 9.15 am
Wednesday: 9.15 am
Friday: 9.15 am

For Masses at St Patrick's, Lilydale, phone: 0448 658 418

Please note no Tuesday evening mass

St Brigid's: Sunday 8.30 am
(Please note: no Wednesday evening Masses)
To book to attend a Mass at St Brigid's, Healesville, phone: 0448 664 731.

As of 1st June only 20 people, plus Father, a reader and a server are permitted to attend each Mass. Protocols for sanitising and social distancing will be strictly observed. Bookings must be pre-arranged. A waiting list applies for those who would like to attend Mass regularly, and priority will be given to those who have not yet been able to attend Mass since the shutdown began.

Safety at Masses When you come to Masses, please be aware of yourself in relation to others. Sanitising on entry to the church, appropriate social distancing, especially as we queue to receive the Eucharist, and sanitising around the seat we have occupied will keep everyone as safe as we can make them. Our responsibility to each other is now more grave than it has ever been. As you come to receive Holy Communion, please try not to breathe on Father, or touch him, and please try not to touch surfaces as you move around the church. The collection basket is placed on a table near the door. After Mass, please practice safe social distancing as you pause for a chat with Father and your friends. Thank you for your thoughtfulness for us all.



From Debbie' Desk The shortest day of the year quietly slipped by us this week. I checked the stats. Tomorrow, sunrise will still be in the same minute that it was today, but sunset will 'officially' be one minute later than it was yesterday. And this time next week, sunset will be 2 minutes later than it will be today. How many of us would notice this phenomenon if I hadn't pointed it out? More to the point, as interesting as I might find this little observation, does it matter whether we notice it or not? No Act of Parliament or turn out of any police force could alter the inevitability of the moment

when our sun tips over the edge of our sight each afternoon, and darkness covers the lands. Yet from the space station, high above the earth, astronauts can watch the sun moving over our planet from a unique perspective, as observers, not controllers, of wonders beyond our sight, our world as part of our universe. These visitors to the edge of space watch without illusions, fully aware that no matter how much technology we congratulate ourselves on having developed to allow them to be there, they are there as visitors, not as masters, and as observers, not as gods. The complex beauty of our world is a constant reminder to us of our creator, 'one God, creator of Heaven and Earth', as we say in the Nicene Creed. Any power we think we may have is mere illusion, we are God's appointed stewards of creation and nothing more. We cannot control the darkness of night, but as Christians, we are the people who may be tuned in to the hope of our creation in a way that others miss. Light overcomes darkness, no matter how tiny that light may be. It defeats it, always. We follow Jesus, the light of the world, aware of our limitations and incapacities, but trusting that he continues to lead us through the darkest of nights. Just as the star of Bethlehem was guide to the Wise Men using the guidance of the star in the quiet of the night to find our newborn saviour, we trust God's wisdom and love for each of us to guide us when we are blinded by darkness we cannot control. The scriptures are filled with images of the light overpowering darkness. We think of the angels filling the dark sky above the shepherds with golden light, as they sang for the Son of God, newly born and lying in his mother's arms: 'Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth'. My mind spins on to Jesus on the mountain, transfigured, as his divinity shone through his humanity, allowing his friends a glimpse of mystery beyond their sight. 'His face shone like the sun', the truth of Jesus, true God and true man broke into their struggling minds like the sun breaks through the clouds. Imagine our own meeting with Jesus, as we close our eyes on our earthly lives, eyes dimmed with age or sickness, and open them again in death to behold the face of Jesus, who is the light of our earthly life, and the light of our life beyond this world. The wonders we shall see in that glorious light! Perhaps you could light a candle this week in a quiet place, and spend a few minutes prayerfully contemplating Jesus, the light. What might your heart find as you gaze into that tiny light in the darkness? God only knows!