



# St Patrick's Parish

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**Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Francis Denton**

**Email: [lilydale@cam.org.au](mailto:lilydale@cam.org.au)**

**Secretary: Mrs Sharon Jacob**

**Pastor Emeritus: Fr John Dupuche**

**Pastoral Worker: Mrs Debbie Edward**

18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**First Reading:** Wisdom 12:13, 16-191

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,

to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned

and you expose the insolence of those who know it;

but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,

you govern us with great lenience,

for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people

how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,

and you have given your sons the good hope

that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

**R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,

full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer

and attend to the sound of my voice.

**R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord:

for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God.

**R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

But you, God of mercy and compassion,

slow to anger, O Lord,

abounding in love and truth,

turn and take pity on me.

**R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

**Second Reading:** Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation:** cf Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 13:24-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat,

and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn." The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### General Intercessions

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

#### **All Masses in our Parish Have Now Been Suspended**

All Masses suspended until further notice Fr Francis and Fr John will continue to pray for us in their private Masses, and we as a Parish join our prayers to theirs. The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be arranged on request, please phone Sharon on 0448 658 418



#### PARISH PRAYER LIST

##### Recently Deceased:

##### Anniversaries:

**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, 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 Ovens, Stephen, Gael Holliday, Rob Meridith, Bill Meyer, Cathie & Jose Grima, Rose Roberts, Roman De Angelis, Tedi & Santi, Stephen Wakeham, Joe Di Battista, Gwen Weaver, Stella Martin, Peter Murphy, June



We are a child safe Parish

### **What is the Mass? (Part 1)**

#### ***The Sacred Liturgy: 'On earth as it is in heaven'***

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us." (John 1:14) These words plucked from the Prologue of John's Gospel sum up the mystery of the incarnation. In Christ, we can say 'God became man'. The union of the human and divine in Jesus Christ is both a mystery and a sign of God's plan for us. The vast gulf separating God and the human race is now spanned by Jesus Christ, the mediator of the new and eternal covenant. In this way the incarnation signifies the reconciliation between God and the human race that Christ won for us on the cross. St Athanasius speaks in unison with the Church Fathers in boldly declaring, "the Son of God became man, that we might become God!" (Athanasius, *De Incarnatione* (c.319 AD).

Of course, this experience of Communion with God as sharers in His Divine Life can only be fully experienced in heaven. In this mortal life we must be content with living in God's grace awaiting the fruit of our redemption. Every Christian has understood this from the beginning. As we hear in St John's first letter "Beloved, we are God's children now; it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." (1John 3:2) The life of the blessed in heaven is that which "no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived; what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). The Book of Revelation provides us with a fantastical series of visions of heaven. In chapters four and five John sees the throne of God surrounded by the heavenly court of angels and white-ropes saints ministering before God. Golden bowls of incense are poured out before God and in unison they prostrate themselves before God singing an endless hymn of praise: "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come!" (Rev 4:8). It is quite clear that John is describing heaven in terms of a liturgical act of worship.

Perhaps we are less accustomed to thinking about heaven as a liturgy, yet this is a profoundly Biblical image, with its roots in the Old Testament (see for example Isaiah 6). Inversely when we come to Mass we are possibly not used to thinking about the Mass as being a participation in heaven. This should not be dismissed as some out-dated theology. On the contrary the Second Vatican Council instructs us in these words: "*In the earthly liturgy we take part in a*

*foretaste of that heavenly liturgy which is celebrated in the holy city of Jerusalem toward which we journey as pilgrims, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God, a minister of the holies and of the true tabernacle; we sing a hymn to the Lord's glory with all the warriors of the heavenly army; venerating the memory of the saints, we hope for some part and fellowship with them; we eagerly await the Saviour, Our Lord Jesus Christ, until He, our life, shall appear and we too will appear with Him in glory."* (Sacrosanctum concilium (1963), n.8)

There is a popular legend told of how Russia converted to Christianity which demonstrates the centrality of the liturgy. In 987AD Vladimir, the Grand Prince of Kiev, sent envoys to all the known lands in order to study the various religions and determine which faith his subjects should adopt. Having visited all the major basilicas, mosques and synagogues of Europe the envoys arrived in Constantinople wherein they discovered the architectural jewel of *Hagia Sophia* (Holy Wisdom). The envoys were transfixed by what they witnessed: a vast, light-filled basilica, adorned with mosaics and icons, plumes of incense, the resounding polyphonic chant of the choir, and a meticulously choreographed liturgy attended by scores of sacred ministers in sumptuous vestments. Witnessing the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom (used by the Greek Orthodox) the envoys reported back to the Grand prince their verdict: "we no longer knew whether we were in heaven or on earth!" The Grand Prince was convinced and adopted Orthodox Christianity as the religion of Russia, which it remains to be to this day.

Veiled though it is, the Sacred Liturgy offers us a real glimpse or a 'foretaste' of heaven. In the Mass heaven and earth are momentarily joined at the altar of God. We are reminded of this in the Preface of the Mass we hear the priest say: *And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts...*" Present at every Mass is not only the fellowship of the local congregation, but the whole Church: the angels and saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory, and all our brothers and sisters in Christ spread throughout the world. Every time we come to Mass our experience ought to be that of the envoys of Prince Vladimir: 'not knowing whether we are in heaven or on earth'! To this end the Mass ought to be beautiful and ordered, something that lifts our minds to the heavenly realm, precisely because the earthly liturgy

is in its very essence a reflection of, and simultaneously a participation in, the Divine liturgy. It must also be an authentically human action: the lifting up of our hearts, minds and voices to the glory of God who is with us.

Now that we find ourselves back in lockdown I am reminded of this as I offer Mass daily. For although I offer the Mass privately in the church, I know that I am never alone, but joined by the vast host of the heavenly court. While the faithful are once again deprived of the heavenly consolation of the Mass and the sacraments, please rest assured that you, the parishioners remain foremost in my intentions. Should anyone wish to have a Mass offered for a particular intention please feel free to contact the parish office.

I hope you can enjoy the following short film, *The Veil Removed*, on the following link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOLZDaTglaM>  
Fr Francis Denton

#### **RECONCILIATION**

By appointment

#### **ANOIDING 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 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 July 4/5

Thanksgiving Collection \$    2890

Presbytery                    \$        650

Restoration                   \$        0

#### **Thanksgiving Envelopes**

Thanksgiving envelopes will be posted out over the coming week. We thank you for your continued support during these unprecedented times.



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

**COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES CAR RAFFLE 2020**

As previously advise the Combined Parish Car Raffle has been postponed with a new draw  
 Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.15 pm. Publication of Winners  
 Date: 30 September 2020. There are currently 10 Raffle books left to sell. IF you would like to purchase tickets in the Car Raffle, please contact Leo 9739 6669 or 0417 504 959. We thank Leo for his continued efforts with the Raffle.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
 VICTORIA  
*good works*

Every day at Vinnies, we see that ordinary people are able to make an extraordinary difference in their local communities. We are inspired by the joy of the Gospels and our Catholic social teachings to do things that matter. The spirit to feed, heal, shelter, nurture, and inspire – the power to change lives – is in everyone. As we enter this winter in the shadow of coronavirus, your commitment to helping those experiencing disadvantage, poverty, loneliness and homelessness is still very much needed and appreciated. If you are able to make a contribution to the Vinnies COVID-19 Winter Appeal, please do so by visiting [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) or calling 13 18 12. Please help us to help others. Thank you.

**Phone donations:** Donate on the phone using a credit card by calling **13 18 12** (donors can allocate donations to a specific conference by giving the name of the conference over the phone.

**Online donations:** Visit [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) (donors can direct their gift to their local conference by entering the conference name in the “comments” field)

**Cash or Cheque donations:** There will be some envelopes with a Conference Stamp left in the newsletter tub outside the church if people wish to donate through this method. **PLEASE DON'T NOT PUT DONATIONS IN THE TUB. THERE IS A LETTER BOX SLOT DOWNSTAIRS NEAR THE PARISH OFFICE.**

**Video link** to State President Kevin McMahon: <https://bit.ly/2yEkBp3>



Have you ever had to explain the absolute basics of our Catholic Faith to anyone else? Where do you start?? I find that no two explanations ever follow the same course, we are all individuals. I once brought a

family friend in his 20's into the church for the first time, and I was really interested to see his reactions. He is Japanese, and is far more familiar with Shinto traditions than Christian ones. I remember him standing still and simply staring at the sight of Jesus' body slumped in death

hanging on a cruel cross. His face showed a mixture of horror and confusion, as he struggled to maintain the attitude of respect and reverence that he obviously felt he should show in such a quiet and beautiful place of worship, which I obviously value. A few words of reassurance, and he relaxed. His reaction has been shared by many children who have come to Mass with their parents for the first time. Honest and blunt, they usually ask about the crucifix when I suggest that they might like to ask any question that pops into their minds. I am sure first time adults want to ask the same questions but can be a little more cautious. The cross is a symbol that binds Christians together, summing up our relationship with God without words. It is also deeply confronting. To newcomers to our beliefs, it can certainly be a contradiction that initially makes no sense at all. I have finally come up with an explanation that children relate to without hesitation. I spread my arms wide, and explain that when my grandchildren visit, that is the gesture I make when welcoming them. I speak of them falling in to my arms and describe closing my arms around them completely, to hug them close to my heart. Even for adults, this somewhat dramatic analogy captures the basic truth of Jesus' great love: his arms stretched wide in testimony to his Father's love for him and for us, and in testimony to his love for his Father, and for us, all through the Holy Spirit, who is love. Jesus spoke about God's love, and then he showed us God's love. The cross is the crescendo of Jesus' story, his resurrection completes it and hints to us of the future story we cannot yet see, but will discover in our own deaths. A 7 year old visitor to our home recently needed some words to go with the visual as he struggled to make the Sign of the Cross like everyone else. 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. The Father loves the Son. The Son loves the Father. The Holy Spirit is the love of the Father and the Son'. He repeated the sentences after me, twice, thinking them through. And that was enough, he was satisfied, and went back to the job of eating. Our Faith is simple, yet, at the same time, intricate and complex. Like a diamond, there is facet after facet to be explored, and we are given a lifetime to complete the adventure. Exploration begins with a first question, usually challenging both the asker and the asked. Like the memorable first question to me from a young very first timer: 'do rabbits go to heaven?' Minute 1, straight on to the hard stuff! Happily, my careful answer was diplomatic and enthusiastic, theologically adequate, and encouraging enough that she stayed for the next part of the conversation. 'Why do you ask?' was my question back, after whatever I had managed to come up with. 'Because my bunny died this afternoon, and I am really sad.' In the pattern of the cross, I am sure that in that moment of first exploration, Jesus was busy gathering that sad little face and her grieving heart to himself in another one of those hugs. Adults receive no less a welcome when they first hear that call to God's heart, no matter how deep their wounds run. No matter what our age, or circumstances, God never ceases to draw us to him. And if we happen to be the ones who are asked those first questions, how do we know what to say? Somehow God speaks through us, it is our chance to rely on his loving inspiration.