



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

22 & 23 AUGUST 2020

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Mission Leader

Fr Peter Danh CSsR

Parish Priest

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Assistant Parish Priest

Fr Vinsensius (Lovin) Lolo CSsR

Fr Oche Matutina CSsR

Fr Patrick Corbett CSsR

Parish Secretary

Mary-Lucy Atonio PH: 9366 1310

Parish School Principal

Jeffrey Parker PHONE: 8312 0900

Filipino Chaplain

Fr Joselito Asis

South Sudanese Chaplain

Deacon George B.P.Meat

THANK YOU

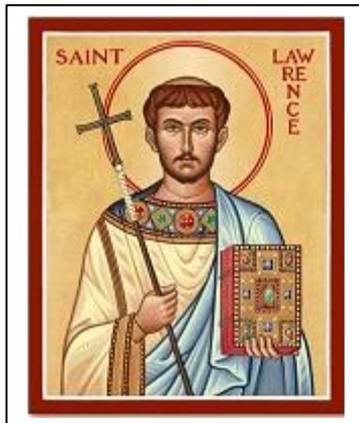
Many of us could not believe that this term will be the last term of Mr Jeffrey Parker as Principal at Holy Eucharist School. It is a sad news for many our parents, students, staffs and the parish community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Parker for what he has contributed to our school, and wish him all the best for taking up a Principal role at St Dominic's School in Melton.

We also would like to thank the willingness of Mr Michael Bonnici to be acting the principal during the term 4.

Every blessing.

Vincent Long Pham, C.S.s.R

Parish Priest



SAINT FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST ST LAWRENCE, PATRON OF THE POOR.

Feast Day 10th of August.

Who was St Lawrence and what is his life's story ?

We need to travel to the early life of the Catholic Church the year 257 C.E. Christians in Rome were being put to death by the Roman Emperor Valerian. The Pope at the time was St. Sixtus who appointed seven young men as deacons of Rome of whom Lawrence was one of them.

As a young deacon Lawrence wanted to serve the Church and he was given the task of caring for the treasures of the Church by Pope Sixtus. During this time the Roman Emperor published an edict that all Bishops, Priests and Deacons were to be put to death hoping that the Christian people would in turn abandon their faith. Twelve months later the Pope was arrested and lead to his Martyrdom.

Lawrence followed and also wanted to die with the Pope, however the Pope told Lawrence to distribute then treasurers of the Church to the poor and later he will also be put to death.

The Prefect of Rome ordered Lawrence to surrender the treasures of the Church and Lawrence asked for a period of three days to do this. Lawrence gave all the gold and silver of the Church to the poor, and then gathered the poor of Rome and presented these people to the prefect of Rome, saying in the eyes of Jesus these are the treasures of the Church. The enraged Prefect then commanded that Lawrence should be roasted on a gridiron till death.

Up to his last breath the holy deacon Lawrence prayed for the conversion of the city of Rome. That day several Roman senators were converted to the Christian faith. Later Rome also became a Christian City by Constantine in the 4th Century as the first Christian Roman Emperor.

Lawrence is a model to young people exhibiting faithful service in difficult times.

May young Catholics of today be strong in living their faith that leads to Jesus.

*Br Anthony Gatt
Preca Community*

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading Is 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

REFLECTION ON SUNDAY GOSPEL

Jesus takes his closest followers to Caesarea Philippi to have an important conversation. Two key things happen.

Firstly, the disciples experience a moment of real insight in their understanding of Jesus. Jesus asks Simon Peter: "But who do you say that I am?" With great trust and a growing faith, Peter replies: "You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God." For centuries the Jews longed for the coming of the messiah. By calling Jesus the messiah, Peter proclaims that Jesus is the one for whom they had waited. Jesus is God's anointed one; the one in whom God's Spirit dwells.

Peter watched Jesus embrace people; especially the sick, the poor, the sinners. He witnessed firsthand Jesus loving people into life. He saw the face of God in the face and actions of Jesus. Ultimately, Peter received the gift of God's revelation, which allowed him to understand more clearly who Jesus is, what is Jesus' mission and to recognise the significance of Jesus' special relationship with His Father.

In the verses that follow today's gospel, Jesus challenges the disciples to an even deeper understanding, by instructing them about what kind of Messiah he is and what this will demand of them. Accepting Jesus as messiah means that they must also be ready to accept that He will 'suffer with' people, especially the outcasts; but that God will ultimately vindicate His beloved Son.

Secondly, Jesus establishes his disciples as a community. In Mt 7:24, Jesus told his disciples to build on rock. It's on the rock (Greek, *petra*; Aramaic *kepha*) that is Peter (Greek: *petros*; Aramaic *kepha*), that Jesus builds His house; a community of disciples, called the "church".

Peter is not “rock” because of personal qualities of steadfastness or reliability – remember that later on, Peter not only denies Jesus, but deserts him! Rather, Peter is “rock” because of the insight of faith which God has communicated to him. Built on this “rock”, the Church will be a community that will survive attempts to destroy it and resurrection awaits the its members.

The church which Jesus is establishing is for Israel and the Gentile world; for anyone who is willing to listen to His word, live it and believe in Him. Peter is given the keys not to close but to open and as first among the apostles, he has the responsibility to carry on Jesus’ mission of preaching and teaching the good news.

As we gather in our own communities of faith, Peter is our model as we continue the mission of Jesus in our time; saying in our own way and our own words, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

By David J Hore CSsR

WE'RE ON A PILGRIMAGE

Detachment is often understood as letting loose of what is attractive. But it sometimes also requires letting go of what is repulsive. You can indeed become attached to dark forces such as resentment and hatred. As long as you seek retaliation, you cling to your own past. Sometimes it seems as though you might lose yourself along with your revenge and hate—so you stand there with balled-up fists, closed to the other who wants to heal you.

Praying means, above all, to be accepting of God who is always new, always different. For God is a deeply moved God, whose heart is greater than our own. The open acceptance of prayer in the face of an ever-new God makes us free. In prayer, we are constantly on our way, on a pilgrimage. On our way, we meet more and more people who show us something about the God whom we seek. We will never know for sure if we have reached God. But we do know that God will always be new and that there is no reason to fear.

By Henri J. M. Nouwen

Dear friends,

The explosion in Lebanon has shocked the world - so **unexpected**, so **massive**, so **destructive**. Monsignor Toufic Bou-Hadir, an *Aid to the Church in Need* (ACN) project partner, highlighted the ordeal of people desperately searching for news of **missing loved ones** and the trauma of trying to identify the dead from **badly disfigured bodies** being placed in a makeshift mortuary. Beirut’s mainly Christian district of Achrafieh was one of the most devastated by the blast.

Following the blast, **schools, convents and parishes** opened up as **refuge centres**. Mgr Bou-Hadir has told us how teams of Maronite Catholic youth are **clearing the debris and delivering urgent aid**, with medicine, clothes, blankets and food - all in huge demand. He described how the body of one of the Maronite young people, named Joe, aged 25, was discovered deep in the rubble, **holding a cross**. Joe had always resisted calls to leave the country, saying that he had to stay in order to “water the cedar”, the national symbol of Lebanon. Mgr Bou-Hadir added, “Now, Joe has watered the cedar with his blood.”

Both Mgr Bou-Hadir and fellow Beirut ACN project partner Sister Hanan Youssef stressed the toll of the explosion on the people, saying they were **totally dependent on international aid** as Lebanon’s economic crisis had rendered the country helpless. Sister Hanan told ACN, “I survived 15 years of civil war and yet I could not imagine such a horrible thing happening to our

people.” She added, “More than ever, **the people are in need of help**. We are so grateful for the **prayers and support** of our dear friends at ACN.”

Help us answer the call to support these brothers and sisters. The list of needs is daunting and they will need to be paid for somehow. There are **immediate material and pastoral needs** and very soon there will be the **need for reconstruction** of homes, churches and businesses. We can only pass on what is given to us. Please help us today and over the coming weeks and months.

This appeal is being sent to parishes, schools, congregations and groups across Australia and New Zealand. **We are begging for** (1) your **prayers** for Lebanon and her people (2) your most generous financial **offering** and (3) your help in **sharing** the enclosed flyers. If you need more flyers, we can send them to you. If you need our bank account details, we can also make those available.

Thank you in advance. God bless you.



Bernard Toutounji
National Director
Aid to the Church in Need
Australia

PONTIFICAL
FOUNDATION



SCHOOL NEWS

Principal's Message:

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,
Term 3, Week 6 has come to an end and I cannot believe how quickly the term is passing us by. The work that you as parents are doing to assist your children is remarkable and very much appreciated. Keep up the good work! As I have said many times we must work in partnership to provide the best education possible for our children.

Last week the school celebrated the feast of the Assumption and it was great that so many of you were on-line participating in the liturgy. I would like to thank Father Lovin for leading us in the liturgy and to Mrs. Shaw and Mr. Bonnici for planning the liturgy.

In the coming weeks the Leadership Team members will be interviewing the Prep parents who have enrolled their children for 2021. If you have a child starting Prep next year and you have not enrolled, could you pick up an enrolment pack from the school office and return it as soon as possible.

On a sad note, this will be my last term as Principal at Holy Eucharist School. At the beginning of Term 4, I will be taking up a Principal role at St Dominic's School in Melton. This was a very difficult decision for me to make as I have worked at Holy Eucharist for the last fifteen years and the school and parish have been an important part of my life. However, it will be a new chapter in my career, which I am really looking forward to. Mr. Michael Bonnici will be my replacement until the end of the year. I wish Mr. Bonnici all the best as he takes on this very important role at Holy Eucharist School.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for having faith in my leadership and to all the children who made my time at Holy Eucharist very enjoyable. I hope that I will get the opportunity to see all of you before I leave. If not, I will be back in Term 4 to say goodbye to this very special community.

Thank you and God Bless!

Mr Jeffrey Parker

Principal

Deputy Principal's Message:

The last few weeks have proven to be most challenging for many people. With Level 4 restrictions in place, we have all had to readjust our lifestyles significantly. Please remember that the staff at Holy Eucharist is here to help, when and where we can. It has been difficult for many of us to understand and make sense of the world at this time, let alone our children who are trying to comprehend what is happening. When children see positive communication between their parents or carers and staff, they begin to learn it is important to build healthy relationships. Relationships turn into partnerships when schools and families work together. Therefore, family involvement in their child's learning, particularly during remote learning, is essential. If your child sees school and home working together, then that will be the true foundation of success through this pandemic and remote learning. Please remember to continually check for updates on Class Dojo and to visit our school website to keep up to date with important information in regards to COVID-19. Please visit www.hestalbanssth.catholic.edu.au

ONLINE LEARNING AND STUDENT ATTENDANCE

It has come to my attention that a number of students are going to bed quite late at night and are sleeping-in in the morning. As a result, many of our students are not logging in at 9:00am and are marked absent for the day. The teachers and administration staff are spending a substantial amount of time following up students who have not logged in online by 9:30am. They have also spent countless hours following up students who have not submitted their work. Please remember that it is a legal requirement for all students in Melbourne to complete the set tasks outlined by the teacher. Remote Learning is just like a "normal" school day and attendance is compulsory. All students are required to complete the daily set tasks during school hours. Students in Grades 3 to Grade 6 are asked to login each day at 9:00am on Google Classroom, in order to complete the attendance log. Students in the Grades Prep to Grade 2 are required to login on Class Dojo and to complete their attendance. If a student does not login at 9:00am, they will be marked absent for the day and will be followed up with a phone call. If a student is unable to take part in remote learning for any particular reason, the parent/carer is required to notify the teacher/school.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

by St Alphonsus de Liguori, Founder of the Redemptorist

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.

LET US PRAY FOR

Prayers For The Sick

Louise Tonna, James Raitmajer, Toni Antonowicz, Linda Ratbone, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Peter Disco, Jessie Spiteri, Stella Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Recently Deceased

Mrs Thi Hot Bui

Anniversaries

Luchy Ellawala, Mifsud, Philip Gauci, George & Angela Bugeja, Wayne Camilleri, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Mary Camilleri & Family, Joseph, Frank & John Xerri, Charlie Xerri, Lewis Spiteri, Raymond Abela and All Souls.

Food Bank opens Fridays from 10.30am until 2.00pm. Contact Charlie at the Presbytery 9366 1310

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Holy Eucharist parish respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjer people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we reside and worship.

VOCATION VIEW: "Many of us fear people in authority as authority can be used rightly or wrongly. As Christians we are called to see power as service. We shall all be judged on love."

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