



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021
Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm
Phone: 9366 1310, Fax: 9366 9359
Email: stalbanssouth@cam.org.au
Website: www.holyeuchariststalban.org



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 23 & 24 JANUARY 2021

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
Michael Bonnici PH: 8312 0900
Filipino Chaplain
Fr Joselito Asis
South Sudanese Chaplain
Deacon George B.P.Meat

MASS TIMES

- ♦ **Tues-Fri:** 9:00am
- ♦ **Saturday:** 6:00pm
- ♦ **Sunday:** 9:00am, 10:30am, 6:00pm
12:00pm Vietnamese

- Other Masses**
- 1st & 2nd Sun Sudanese Mass - 3.00pm
 - 3rd Sun Samoan Mass - 2.00pm
 - 4th Sun Filipino Mass - 3.00pm

SOCIAL OFFICE
Contact: Son Nguyen & Tammy Le
Phone 9366 1310
Tuesday & Friday 10:00am-3:00pm.

FOODBANK open Fridays
10.30am until 2.00pm. More details
call Charlie 03 9366 1310.

Closed 18/12/2020 Reopened 5/2/2021

St Vincent de Paul: Call Centre is now open. Please contact 1800 305 330. Thank you.

RCIA: Please contact Br. Anthony Gatt on 0419 115 692 or call the Parish Office for more details.



GOD LONGS TO BRING ME HOME

For most of my life I have struggled to find God, to know God, to love God. I have tried hard to follow the guidelines of the spiritual life—pray always, work for others, read the Scriptures—and to avoid the many temptations to dissipate myself. I have failed many times but always tried again, even when I was close to despair.

Now I wonder whether I have sufficiently realized that during all this time God has been trying to find me, to know me, and to love me. The question is not “How am I to find God?” but “How am I to let myself be found by him?” The question is not “How am I to know God?” but “How am I to let myself be known by God?” And, finally, the question is not “How am I to love God?” but “How am I to let myself be loved by God?” God is looking into the distance for me, trying to find me, and longing to bring me home.

By Henri J. M. Nouwen

OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES

The restrictions in place are compulsory as issued under lawful direction of the Chief Health Officer of Victoria. As of 5:00pm, 31 December 2020:

- ♦ **All people must carry a face covering when leaving home** unless they have a lawful reason not to.
- ♦ It is **mandatory to wear fitted face coverings in all indoor public spaces** unless you have a lawful reason not to do so, or are a child under 12 years of age.
- ♦ Wearing a face covering is strongly recommended outdoors if a distance of 1.5 metres from other people cannot be maintained.
- ♦ Up to 15 people can visit an individual’s home per day. There is no limit on the number of households those people come from. Front and backyards are considered part of the home.
- ♦ Weddings, funerals and religious gatherings can occur with no limits on the number of guests or attendees. To ensure people can keep 1.5 metres distance the ‘venue’ must apply the two square metre rule. Anything conducted in a private home must apply the gathering limits for private homes of 15 people.
- ♦ Record keeping remains an important and critical tool for keeping all in the community safe.

Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting a COVID-19 test verification, including Clergy (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.

Thanks for your collaboration.
God bless and protect us always.

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading Jon 3:1-5. 10

A reading from the prophet Jonah

The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: ‘Up!’ he said ‘Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.’ Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day’s journey. He preached in these words, ‘Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.’ And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.4

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 7:29-31

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The world as we know it is passing away.

Brothers, our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Acclamation Mk 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!

The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:14-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Repent, and believe the Good News.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.’ And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

RETURNING TO MASS — IT’S TIME

When I was teaching at a high school, a student came up to me and asked, “Why do you Catholics stand, sit, kneel, stand, sit, kneel?” As Catholics, we know that the common gestures that we use for Mass correlate to the Liturgy:

“making the entire celebration resplendent with beauty and noble simplicity, so that the true and full meaning of the different parts of the celebration is evident and that the participation of all is fostered.”(General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 30, 34; Sacred Congregation of Rites)

As children of God, His adopted sons and daughters, we have been created to “bend the knee” at the name of Jesus. We have been beautifully and wonderfully made by our Creator to bow down and worship Him in humble adoration with praise and exaltation. (CCC, 2097)

Recently, I found myself pondering the thought, “How many Catholics in the past almost year have not “bent a knee” at the name of Jesus because of the coronavirus pandemic?” When I refer to worshiping on “bended knee”, the reference is for those who are in good health and are not unable due to age or infirmity. When we participate in the Liturgy we come together in one place for the Eucharistic Assembly, where we all have our own active parts to play in the celebration. (CCC,134)

There is much sensitivity around the issue of whether it is safe to return to Mass, but we cannot remain live-stream Mass-goers forever. We are called to communion, and now more than ever in this time of turmoil and uncertainty we need to be united together at the Table of our Lord. St. Ignatius of Antioch, one of the early Church Fathers, speaks eloquently of how our unity leads to concord and the harmonious love of Jesus Christ:

“And do ye, man by man, become a choir, that being harmonious in love, and taking up the song of God in unison, ye may with one voice sing to the Father through Jesus Christ, so that He may both hear you, and perceive by your works that ye are indeed the members of His Son. It is profitable, therefore, that you should live in an unblameable unity, that thus ye may

always enjoy communion with God.”(Phillip Schaff, *The Apostolic Fathers with Justin Martyr and Irenaeus*. Grand Rapids: Christian Classics Ethereal Library, 1867, p. 74.)

Now, I want to make known that although we are called to come together as one, I am not speaking of those who are considered a part of the high-risk category for COVID-19, and have not ventured out of their homes since the first outbreak of the virus in our country. There are those who sincerely have the desire to attend Mass and receive the Most Holy Eucharist, but are truly unable to do so at this time.

I ask all of us to take a look at ourselves and think about where we are now with regards to living in a world with our new “normal;” a life that consists of the daily wearing of masks and the frequent use of hand sanitizer. Are we having our children attend in-person classes at school, and happy that they can have such an opportunity? Do we find delight in finally being able to participate in recreational activities such as going to the mall, eating or hanging out at a bar or restaurant, or visiting family and friends? If we answer “yes,” to any of those questions, or we have thought about other examples of how we are currently living our lives in the midst of this pandemic, then why not ask ourselves, what about that which brings joy to our soul?

There are some who may argue that they simply do not feel comfortable enough yet to return to the Church, but if we are at ease with participating in other activities that expose us in the same way to COVID-19, then why not return to Mass? We are living a contradiction if we say that it is OK to participate in a leisurely activity, but not OK to come together and worship the Lord at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

We cannot willingly remain away from Jesus in the Eucharist, and live in a perpetual state of fear, which seems to be heightened by the all-day media coverage of the virus. There are no scientific statistics showing us that our Catholic churches are super-spreaders of the virus. It is time that we continue to take the proper precautions against COVID-19, but also be able to return to the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We were made by God to come together; as where two or more are gathered Christ is in our midst. (Mt 18:20)

Our priests, especially our pastors, are working hard to ensure that we have a safe environment where we can come together for worship, and be present at the Table to receive our Eucharistic Lord. They have installed hand sanitizer machines, marked off proper social distancing, are ensuring that everyone wears a mask, etc. We are Catholics, and as Catholics we know that it is the Eucharist; the Real Presence, that gives us eternal life.

He is the Bread come down from Heaven, Jesus Christ, Who lives in us as we remain in Him (Jn 6:51-58). The Catechism teaches us that the Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Christian life” (CCC, 1324; Lumen Gentium 11). The purpose of live-streamed Mass was to nourish our spiritual hunger at a time when it was not possible to actively participate in the Eucharistic celebration, but it was never meant to be a permanent substitution for active participation in the live Mass.

We are blessed as Catholics that we are able to offer a prayer of spiritual communion that unites us with Christ when we are unable to actively participate in the Mass, but it is only by receiving Holy Communion that we receive Christ, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, as He sits at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. If we know and truly believe that the Eucharist is our Hidden Lord, then through hell or high water we should find a way to get to Christ in Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, and receive Him in the Eucharist.

The Catechism reminds us that we physically and spiritually unite ourselves to Christ when we receive Holy Communion: as partakers in His Body and Blood we form one body. (CCC, 1331) We know that Christ is present everywhere, but not in the same way as He is present in the sacred species, when the bread and wine truly and really become the Precious Body and Blood of Christ.

The truth is that by live-streaming the Mass, we are not physically in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord. We can make all of the responses and gestures as a sign of reverence while we are live-streaming the Mass, when necessity calls for such, but it is simply not the same, and there is a HUGE difference. We are called as members of the “Mystical Body of Christ” to come together in the same way the Apostles came together at the Last Supper to receive the gift that Jesus gave to us; His very Flesh and Blood. We need to actually and physically take part in the Eucharistic celebration together in the assembly of the faithful to receive the many fruits for which Christ the Lord instituted the eucharistic sacrifice. (CIC, 899, §3)

Many dioceses still have a dispensation for the obligation to attend daily Mass, but it appears that too many Catholics are becoming comfortable with remaining at home and live-streaming the Mass. The dispensation was not put in place to offer us an excuse and encourage laxity with regards to attendance at Sunday Mass or Holy Days, but to ease the conscience of those who long to go to Mass, but are unable to attend the Liturgy because of their health or age.

I was saddened to learn from a priest on #CatholicTwitter that one of his parishioners, after staying home during the pandemic, now feels that he no longer needs to go to Mass anymore, and never needed to go in the first place. Are we becoming complicit to this kind of attitude among our fellow Catholics? By our silence, are we encouraging others to accept the live-streamed Mass as our new “norm,” and creating a whole new generation of Christmas and Easter-time Catholics?

How can we help our Catholic brethren to realize that we need the Eucharist as we need the air we breathe, especially now? It is by consuming His Flesh and drinking His Cup that we gain eternal life. We need to work together with our pastors and help our spiritual brothers and sisters to understand that Christ is waiting for them in His Sacrament of love. Let us strive to make it a priority in our lives to invite them back to Church where they can return Home to our Eucharistic Lord.

By Christina M. Sorrentino

SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Holy Eucharist School Community. Happy New Year. I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the New Year.

Just a reminder that the students return to school next week on Thursday 28th January 2021. As you are aware, the coronavirus pandemic continues to challenge us in education, so we have had to keep some safety measures in place. Please see below.

STARTING AND FINISHING TIMES. All students will be starting school at 8:55am and finishing at 3:15pm (The preps will be starting school at 8:55am in the hall and finishing school at 12:15pm from the 28th January to 5th February).

DESIGNATED GATES: Each grade level in 2021 will have a designated gate to enter/leave the school. Please remember:

- In the morning gates will be open from 8:30am until 9am. (Please remember the 1.5 metre physical distancing rule)
- At this stage, parents/carers are not permitted to enter the school grounds.
- In the afternoon gates will be open from 3:15pm until 3:45pm. (Please remember the 1.5 metre physical distancing rule)

SCHOOL ENTRANCE AND PICK UP ZONE: Each grade level will have a designated gate to enter/leave the school. These are as follows:

- Gate 1 (Next to the hall) – Grade Prep and Grade 3
- Gate 2 (Next to the church) – Grade 1 and Grade 4
- Gate 3 (Admin gate) – Grades 6
- Gate 4 (O'Brien Drive) - Grade 2 and Grade 5

Please note that all classroom teachers will be in their rooms in the morning at 8:45am. The classroom teacher will take the students to the gate at home time (3:15pm) and will wait for students to be picked up. If you have more than one child at school, you can drop off and pick up your children from a preferred gate, so long as you have one child who belongs to the year level specified at the gate. Please note that the same gate must be used at pick up time.

I hope this information useful. If you require any further information please feel free to send a message via ClassDojo. Enjoy the rest of the break and I look forward to seeing you all towards the end of the week.

Stay safe and God Bless,
Michael Bonnici
Principal

READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARIST

Tues 9:00 AM, 26-01-21

Reader Xuan Duong
Eucharist: Monica Lomen

Wed 9:00 AM, 27-01-21

Reader Carmen Camilleri
Eucharist: Elizabeth Delacruz

Thur 9:00 AM, 28-01-21

Reader Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharist: Shirley Krizmanic

Fri 9:00AM, 29-01-21

Reader Helen Maddela
Eucharist: Catherine Bartolo

Sat 6.00 PM, 30-01-21

Lit. Coordinator: Reno Attard
Charlie Pace
Commentator Miriam Vella
Reader: Carmen Camilleri
Alaistair Surrao
Eucharist: Violeta Montoro
Anthony Naidy

Sun 9.00 AM, 31-01-21

Lit. Coordinator: Monica Lomen
Commentator Wilma Marmur
Reader: Mini Eddy
Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharist: Shirley Krizmanic
Monica Lomen

Sun 10:30AM, 31-01-21

Lit. Coordinator: Saua Tufuga
Commentator Joh Cablao
Reader Ed Cablao
Jinky Monteros
Eucharist: Saua Tufuga
Joh Cablao

Sun 6.00PM, 31-01-21

Lit. Coordinator Lani Laririt
Commentator Lani Laririt
Reader Xuan Duong
Mike Laureano
Eucharist: Lani Laririt
Xuan Duong

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 30th January 2021

6pm – Volunteers

Sunday, 31st January 2021:

9am - Charlie Schembri

10.30am – Osana Choir

6.00pm – Volunteers

PRECA CENTRE

We are commencing our Sacrament Classes on **2nd February 2021 @ 7pm**. Both for past 2020 enrollments and the new 2021 enrollments. The first 3 weeks are open for registrations every Tuesday from 645pm followed by the allocated class. Dates for Sacraments will be given upon registration. Contact 9356 0734, Preca Centre 29 Rosslare Parade, St Albans

CHURCH CLEANING

Week beginning: 27th Jan. 2021.
Group 10: Osana Choir

LET US PRAY FOR

Prayers For The Sick

Toni Antonowicz, Linda Ratbone, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Jessie Spiteri, Stella Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Recently Deceased

Peter Disco, Ema Bustell, Mary Gauci (Malta)

Anniversaries

Gioan Kim Giuse, Mary Grasso, Frank Kreuger(12mnths.), Anthony Gatt, Nazareni Spiteri, Antonio Mifsud, Philip Gauci, George & Angela Bugeja, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat & Galea family, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Mary Camilleri & Family, Joseph, Frank & John Xerri, Charlie Xerri, Lewis Spiteri, Raymond Abela and All Souls.

SAFETY FOR ALL

Holy Eucharist Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

VOCATION VIEW

“Even a great person like Jonah turned away, at first, from what God called him to do. It is never too late to hear the Lord say, 'Come, follow Me.'”

All information used in accordance with the terms of our privacy policy.