



## HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021  
Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm  
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### TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 28 & 29 AUGUST 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

#### SPECIAL NOTICE

Dear Parishioners,

Due to the Current Covid19 situation, the Church and Parish Office will be closed, therefore:

- ◆ **Tues-Sat:** No Community Masses until further notice

#### Only Online Mass

Sunday: 10:30am English

12:00pm Vietnamese

#### Live streaming on:

1. Parish Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/HolyEucharistChurch>

2. Parish Youtube Channel:

[bit.ly/HolyEucharistYoutube](http://bit.ly/HolyEucharistYoutube)

3. Parish Website: you can join the live mass or join at any time convenient to you. [http://www.holyeuchariststalbans.org/mass\\_stream.html](http://www.holyeuchariststalbans.org/mass_stream.html)

4. <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansOfficials>

#### THE LIVING WORD

##### First reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8

*Observe these laws and customs, that you may have life*

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

##### Responsorial Psalm Ps.14(15):2-5

**The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;

he who acts with justice

and speaks the truth from his heart;

he who does not slander with his tongue.

**The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

He who does no wrong to his brother,

who casts no slur on his neighbour,

who holds the godless in disdain,

but honours those who fear the Lord.

**The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;

who takes no interest on a loan

and accepts no bribes against the innocent.

Such a man will stand firm for ever.

**The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

##### Second reading James 1:17-18,21-22,27

*Accept and submit to the word*

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

## Gospel Acclamation James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Father gave us birth by his message of truth, that we might be as the first fruit of his creation.

Alleluia!

## Gospel Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

*You put aside the commandment of God, to cling to human traditions*

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

### REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

There are many today who do not accept hard truths, who promote false news, and whose main concern is for their own power, comfort, gain, notoriety, celebrity, image, or profit. Truth is replaced with versions of reality that serve an agenda, or interpretations of events that make people less uncomfortable about their attitudes and choices. People, animals, and the earth can be rationalised as commodities to exploit, use, abuse, and discard. The desire to possess, dominate and consume disrupts the delicate balance and harmony needed to sustain healthy communities and ecosystems. Countries are increasingly referred to as economies, and the values of an often-grasping marketplace push to replace the intrinsic value and

uniqueness of each integral part of God's sacred creation.

A sacramental vision of a dynamically connected, diverse, and inclusive universe is one that is rooted in the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Kingdom and Reign of God. As Christians, we are called to open and form our hearts in this radical and counter-cultural vision that expresses God's true law as part of a mutual and loving covenant relationship. Moses reminds the people of Israel and us today that there is wisdom and understanding in following God's law. Those who have opened and shaped their hearts to God's law of love see, hear, speak, and live the truth of this way of being and acting in the world every day.

This contributes to God's Kingdom breaking through in the here and now.

The psalmist encourages people to stand firm in God's truth and to act justly in dealing with people in their daily lives, including their business dealings. God's presence is found in integrated and right relationships with people, characterised by detachment from material gain, especially when it comes at the hurt and expense of others. This psalm highlights an

ongoing temptation in our world for people to seek material riches and social advantage as false markers of blessedness and success. God is not interested in status as defined by worldly standards but completely subverts and rejects any system or behaviour that seeks to exploit, disadvantage, or harm anyone or anything.

James gets to the heart of things in calling people to listen to the God who dwells within them and to take action to defend those most defenceless and vulnerable as a visible marker of their true identity in Christ. God's goodness never changes and never ends. We are called to embrace and foster this in ourselves, doing our part to come to the aid of all who most need our help. God has created each with purpose and value, just as they are. Jesus calls out the hypocrisy and self-serving behaviour of anyone, especially leaders, who would seek to absolve themselves from the real work of conversion of heart and life. Hiding behind the details of traditions, rules, and the finer points of external rituals alone is not what is called for in faithfully following Christ. Our beautiful Christian traditions, prayers, liturgies, and rituals point us to the gift and glory of God and God's beloved creation. Our faith is built on who we are following, what we believe, and how we relate to others in Christ. Relationships of compassion, mercy, and forgiveness are direct encounters with God's amazing grace alive and active in our hearts and lives. This is where we are asked to focus, and to live.

## THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES THROUGH THE EYES OF THOSE MOST AFFECTED

We celebrate Social Justice Sunday on the 29th of August. The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven *Laudato Si'* Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded. More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au) or Tel (02) 6201 9845.

### Listening to Our Communities

Fires, floods, and droughts have become less predictable and more intense. Even experienced people like Neil Ward, a natural resources and conservation manager from Victoria, can find themselves confounded by the increasing ferocity of bushfires:

*"Throughout my career in natural resource management, I have attended quite a few large fires, saved houses, and have even been stranded in front of a fire, but never had I felt such confusion as trying to resolve what seemed the sensible thing to do when my gut feeling was to stay and defend."*



Families that have been farming for generations are rethinking their operations while others are. By listening with an open heart to those who are most affected, we can begin, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to discern the signs of the times. Leaving the land. For example, New South Wales farmer Lucinda Corrigan says:

*"The first thing that we've done much more successfully, in the past few years since the Millennium drought, is protect our soil resources by better management of livestock, using the water when it falls more efficiently and preserving it in pasture and in the landscape..."*

*I feel concerned about the future viability of farms. The way forward is not completely clear for everybody, is it?"*

The mining sector may only employ 2-3% of the Australian workforce, but it is a very important employer in some communities. These communities are anxious about the future, as a Lithgow resident explains:

*"...the domino effect that the closure of this mine will have would be disastrous for the local community. Schools will be forced to lay off staff, shops will close, and people will move away... the town [is] hanging by a thread as it is."*

Whether planned and managed by governments or not, a transition away from a carbon-based economy

is already underway. A new energy trajectory is being set as we speak. Rather than delaying a commitment to sustainable energy sources, concern for the future of communities that have been reliant on extractive industries should be built into the transition.

Our "interference with the intricate balance of natural ecosystems" is contributing to the outbreak and spread of zoonotic diseases which are caused by pathogens jumping from animals to humans. Nearly 70% of zoonotic infections are linked to human environmental changes.<sup>12</sup> Both COVID-19 and the Hendra virus are zoonotic. Katherine Barraclough and Fiona Armstrong explain that in Queensland the extensive destruction of east coast forests and unsustainable land clearing for new housing estates and other projects:

*"... resulted in bats... coming into closer contact with horses. Infected horses appeared to have contracted Hendra virus from bat urine or faeces, and were then able to infect people."*

Inspired by Scripture, Pope Francis sees the pandemic in terms of its potential for positive change. Just as the great deluge was an opportunity for renewed humanity, the COVID-19 crisis can become our Noah moment. We can find our way to the Ark and to a new future if we recognise and foster the ties that bind us and all things together.

### Listening to Our Neighbours

Rising sea levels, bigger king tides, more frequent and severe storms, coastal erosion, coral bleaching, and decreasing fish stocks are already a daily reality for Pacific island nations.<sup>19</sup> Some islands are in imminent danger of disappearing beneath the waves and their communities are facing the painful task of relocating. Merineta from Tuvalu explains:

*"As a mother of a seven-month-old baby I am worried about his future and his life - all the children of Tuvalu have a right to life - a right to an environment with good quality. I love my country, I love my people and traditions, I love my culture and I don't want to lose them because of climate change. We all want to stay in our own lands because it defines who we are. We don't want to migrate or relocate."*

Recognising this tragedy, the Migrant and Refugee Section of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has released a detailed document on the pastoral care of people displaced by the climate emergency.

Archbishop Peter Loy Chong of Fiji notes that extractive activities like gravel and stone quarrying, black sand mining, the dredging of coral reefs, deep sea mining, and felling forests for palm plantations are harming both the natural and social environments of many Pacific nations. "By displacing or sowing discord among local communities" they damage "the

connectivity of family, tribe, clan that has been formed over many years,” he explains.

As President of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania, Archbishop Loy Chong is currently proposing an Assembly on the Oceans. As Marlene Moses, former Nauruan Ambassador to the United Nations, points out:

*“For the people of small islands, understanding the importance of the ocean to human survival is as natural as breathing. If the ocean is healthy, we are healthy; if the future of the ocean is uncertain, so is ours.”*

This is not a matter for the peoples of the Pacific alone. Pedro Walpole SJ explains that the rain that feeds the rivers and sustains the tropical forests of Australia and Asia depends on weather patterns determined by moisture-bearing winds that are like a river above Asia and the Pacific: “All of it is kept alive by this river above. It’s beautiful. It’s so integral. If you want a picture of how to live, it’s all there in this river above. That’s what gives life to the whole of Asia.”

### **Listening to Creation**

Every creature speaks to us of the Creator, but human beings do not always listen. The First Nations people remind us of the interconnectedness of people and the rest of creation: *“The Aborigines and the environment are but one, and all things on earth have a cycle, and they recycle. All rivers, trees, creatures, and plants are alive just as we are, today and in the beginning. They are part of nature as we are, and our connection to all things natural is spiritual.”* Pat Dodson

*“The land and environment is our Mother. Treat her with love and tenderness, nurture and never mistreat her, or take more than what is required.”* Vicki Clark

We forget that it is not all about us. It is estimated that nearly three billion native animals were in the path of the 2019-2020 bushfires. As we watched on our televisions and social media platforms, the cries of pain of injured and dying animals, and of starving animals deprived of habitat, were unavoidable and deeply disturbing. The impact on precious livestock and beloved domestic animals hit many of us hard.

But at other times, when there isn’t extensive reporting on a crisis, we have to listen a little harder to hear the pain of the acceleration of extinction rates.

The suffering of our rivers and waterways, our groundwater, reefs, and oceans, is plain to see. Successive bleaching events in the Great Barrier Reef send a loud message, and mass fish deaths in the Menindee Lakes, caused by inadequate water flowing in the river, poor water quality, and a sudden change in temperature, have shocked the nation. The Great Artesian Basin cries out for our protection. It is at risk from over extraction of water and the potential introduction of pollutants and petro carbons from fracking. If we do not take sufficient care of this source of water below, the balance between waters above, on the surface, and below, could be destroyed forever.

Furthermore, as Fr Joshtrom Kureethadam, of the Vatican Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development says, “the COVID-19 crisis is part and parcel of recent warnings from the natural world.”<sup>30</sup> We need to start listening more attentively to creation. We do not have to understand all these signs of the times completely and with certainty before responding. Our faith provides wisdom sources that can help us to take our next steps now.

## **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Foodbank is asking for a Volunteer Driver to help with Thursday & Friday morning deliveries. Call the Parish Office on 9366 1310 for more details.

## **LET US PRAY FOR**

### **The Sick**

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

### **Recently Deceased.**

Maria Trần Thi. Loan & Giuse Đăng Thành Trong

### **Anniversaries**

Norberto Laririt, Criselda Fernandez, Angela Chircop, Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thuong, Peter Disco, Frank Kreuger, Richard Curmi, Iro & Jessie Vella, Anthony Gatt, Nazareno 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**

Thank God our struggles of faith can be ultimately overcome through prayer, perseverance and love. 'Do what the word tells you.' Be doers of the word.

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