



## HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021  
Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm  
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Website: [www.holyeuchariststalbans.org](http://www.holyeuchariststalbans.org)



### TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B, 4 & 5 SEPTEMBER 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>



**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**  
Happy Father's Day to all who are fathers or grandfathers or stepfathers!

#### BLESS OUR FATHERS

Heavenly Father,

Today we ask You to bless our earthly fathers for the many times they reflected the love, strength, generosity, wisdom and mercy that You exemplify in Your relationship with us, Your children.

We honor our fathers for putting our needs above their own convenience and comfort; for teaching us to show courage and determination in the face of adversity; for challenging us to move beyond self-limiting boundaries; for modeling the qualities that would turn us into responsible, principled, caring adults.

Not all our fathers lived up to these ideals. Give them the grace to acknowledge and learn from their mistakes. Give us the grace to extend to them the same forgiveness that you offer us all. Help us to resist the urge to stay stuck in past bitterness, instead, moving forward with humility and peace of heart.



We ask your blessing on those men who served as father figures in our lives when our biological fathers weren't able to do so. May the love and selflessness they showed us be returned to them in all their relationships, and help them to know that their influence has changed us for the better.

Give new and future fathers the guidance they need to raise happy and holy children, grounded in a love for God and other people and remind these fathers that treating their wives with dignity, compassion and respect is one of the greatest gifts they can give their children.

We pray that our fathers who have passed into the next life have been welcomed into Your loving embrace, and that our family will one day be reunited in your heavenly kingdom.

In union with St. Joseph, whom you entrusted with Your Son, we ask Your generous blessings today and every day.

Amen.

*By Tony Rossi*

## THE LIVING WORD

### First reading Isaiah 35:4-7

*The blind shall see, the deaf hear, the dumb sing for joy*

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps. 145(146):7-10

#### Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

#### Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

#### Praise the Lord, my soul!

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

#### Praise the Lord, my soul!

### Second reading James 2:1-5

*God chose the poor according to the world to be rich in faith*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

### Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

### Gospel Mark 7:31-37

*'He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak'*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

#### REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

From September 1 to October 4, we join with Christians across the globe in celebrating the Season of Creation. The 2021 theme, "A Home for All, Renewing the Oikos [household] of God" invites us to attend to those rendered homeless, birds and beasts and humankind alike so that there might be a home for all the species of the earth. Today's gospel draws attention to the profoundly deaf who find themselves on the edge of the earth community. Without access to birdsong, to spoken discourse, to music and to the vast range of media communication, they often struggle to understand and to be understood. Their capacity to communicate their deepest wisdom, their hopes and dreams, their anxieties and fears, is limited not only by personal disability but also by the incomprehension and impatience of others.

Whatever degree of deafness is experienced, relief from such an affliction offers far more than physical healing. It brings insertion into the life of family, community, workplace and the wonderful world of God's other than human creation. It opens up new horizons and unimagined possibilities. Sophisticated hearing aids and cochlear implants can transform the lives of those who suffer from serious hearing

loss. We give thanks for the earth elements in cochlear implants, the silicone, platinum, titanium and ceramics and the rare earth elements in hearing aids. In first century Palestine, chances of relief from hearing deficiency and associated speech impairment were minimal. Desperate people put their faith in folk healers who used their healing hands and drew upon their knowledge of the medicinal properties in certain herbs and other plants. Many turned to Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, or his daughter Hygieia. Jesus was an effective healer who used some of the same methods as other healers of his time. He turns to the God of Israel ("looking up to heaven...") as the source of healing power.

There is layer upon layer of meaning in today's healing story. Habitat features significantly. Jesus travels from Tyre on the northern Mediterranean coast to the Sea of Galilee via the non-Jewish territory on the eastern side of the lake. The gospel writer is stressing the all-embracing nature of Jesus' healing ministry. Land belongs to God and territorial claims on land are no barrier to Jesus' healing ministry, a lesson Jesus himself has just learned from the Syro-Phoenician woman of Mark 7:26-30.

In Mark's gospel, the healing power of God is available to Jews and Gentiles, male and female, young and old alike. It is available to those with bodily afflictions and to those who are paralysed by anxiety and fear. There is irony in the telling of the story: a Gentile deaf man can be brought from no hearing to hearing, from "speaking with difficulty" to clarity of speech, but Jesus' own disciples will shortly fail to hear and understand, "Do you have ears and not hear?" (Mark 8:18). Let us open our ears to hear in the hope that we might understand what we have done to our planetary home and how we might renew the oikos of God.

*By Veronica Lawson RSM*

## **TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON HOW WE LIVE OUR FAITH**

*At the General Audience Pope Francis continues his catechesis on the apostle Paul's Letter to the Galatians when he warns them about straying from their new faith in Christ. He says we too are invited to reflect on how we live our faith and to ensure that our love of Christ, crucified and risen again, remains at the centre of our daily lives.*

Welcoming pilgrims to the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican for his weekly General Audience, Pope Francis continued his catechesis on the Letter of

Saint Paul to the Galatians. In this latest chapter, he recalls how the apostle Paul challenges the first Christians of Galatia to look at where they have strayed from their faith and how they risk nullifying the grace they have experienced if they do not correct course.

The Pope described how the Apostle uses strong terms, like foolishness, to describe their behaviour, because they risked losing their faith in Christ, which they initially received with enthusiasm, and so Paul appealed to their memory of his first proclamation when he offered them the possibility of attaining a new, hitherto unhopd-for freedom in faith.

### **The love of Christ, the wellspring of salvation**

The point is to shake up their consciences, the Pope explained, when Paul reminded the Galatians how the word he preached to them focused on God's love, fully manifested in the death and resurrection of Jesus, and the grace they received from that. In summary, the Pope went on to say, Paul's intention is to compel the Galatians to avoid falling into the trap of a religiosity based solely on the scrupulous observance of precepts, overlooking "the love of Christ, crucified and risen again," which should "remain at the centre of our daily life as the wellspring of salvation".

The Galatians understood what Paul was saying, the Pope pointed out, since they had experienced the action of the Holy Spirit in their communities, through charity and other charisms that manifested themselves among them, "the fruit of the newness of the Spirit." God was bringing them to faith, the Holy Spirit had been the agent of their experience, the Pope added, but the Galatians were putting that all in the background seeing their own works as the protagonists, which Paul described as foolishness.

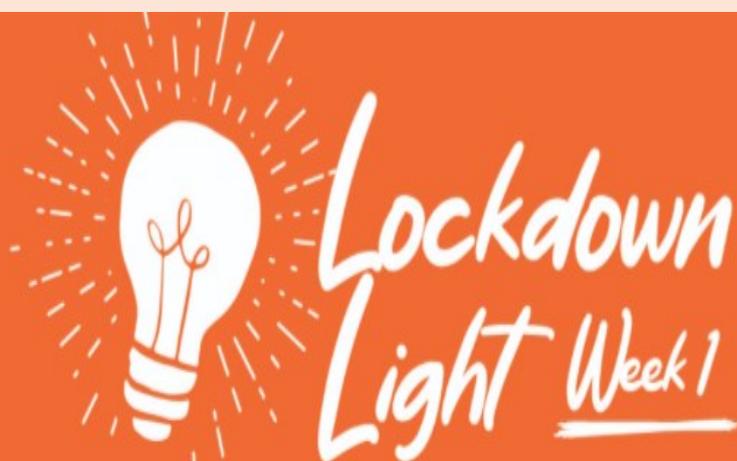
The Pope added that throughout history, even today, similar situations can arise where some propose a rigid religiosity or an artificial asceticism, with an "inflexibility that takes away from us that freedom in the Spirit that Christ's redemption gives us." We need to be aware of this reality, he noted, and this Letter to the Galatians speaks about it and encourages us to go forward "in the paschal vocation of Jesus".

### **Christ's love at the centre of our lives**

In conclusion, the Pope said we also need to reflect on where our faith is, and how we live it; and to make sure that Christ's love remains at the centre

of our lives, the way to our salvation. We must continually keep to this "precious treasure, to the beauty of the newness of Christ," rather than to externals, rather than "something that attracts us momentarily but then leaves us empty inside." He said we can be encouraged by the fact that, "even when we are tempted to turn away, God still continues to bestow His gifts... God does not abandon us but rather abides with us in His merciful love."

*By Vatican News Staff writer*



A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown...

Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations below.

## PODCASTS FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

*Quality podcasts navigating marriage and family life*

### Parenting as a team

This podcast from the Messy Family Project gives some great practical advice on how couples can be truly in sync with one another and parent together with unity, respect and God's grace. Listen at: [www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving1](http://www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving1)

## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

*Resources to help you explore the Bible*

### How to read the Bible

Getting started: In this short video, Fr Mike Schmitz shares several reasons we should pick up our Bible again, see it with fresh eyes and allow it to transform our lives. Watch at: [www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted1](http://www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted1)

Going deeper: In this video, Bishop Robert Barron looks at different approaches to understanding Scripture and how we can use them to hear God speaking to us today. View here: [www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper1](http://www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper1)

## 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

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom? Chosen to be rich in faith. So take heart, be not afraid, consider your part in God's Kingdom.

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