



## HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021  
Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm  
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24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B,

11 & 12 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](https://bit.ly/HolyEucharistYoutube)

##### 3. Parish Website: you can join the live mass or join at any time convenient to you.

[http://www.holyeuchariststalban.org/mass\\_stream.html](http://www.holyeuchariststalban.org/mass_stream.html)

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

## THE LIVING WORD

### First reading Isaiah 50:5-9

*I offered my back to those who struck me*

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed. My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who will dare to condemn me?

### Responsorial Psalm Ps. 114(116):1-6,8-9

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

I love the Lord for he has heard  
the cry of my appeal;  
for he turned his ear to me  
in the day when I called him.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

They surrounded me, the snares of death,  
with the anguish of the tomb;  
they caught me, sorrow and distress.  
I called on the Lord's name.  
O Lord, my God, deliver me!

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

How gracious is the Lord, and just;  
our God has compassion.  
The Lord protects the simple hearts;  
I was helpless so he saved me.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

He has kept my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears  
and my feet from stumbling.  
I will walk in the presence of the Lord  
in the land of the living.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.**

### Second reading James 2:14-18

*If good works do not go with it, faith is quite dead*

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead. This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds – now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.'

## Gospel Acclamation Galatians 6:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.

Alleluia!

## Gospel Mark 8:27-35

*The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously*

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'

### REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Today's gospel reading leads us into a section of Mark's gospel that explores challenges confronting all disciples on their journey of faith. The first challenge is to clarify the nature of our commitment as disciples of Jesus. If we fail to understand who Jesus is, then we have little chance of understanding the nature of our own call to follow him. Two questions ("Who do people say that I am?" and "Who do you say that I am?") are addressed to our forbears in faith communities of the latter part of the first century and to Christians across the millennia. We are invited to hear these questions anew. Do we simply share what "the people" say about Jesus? Are we like Peter who has the right language but only partial insight? Or do we have the wisdom to seek a deeper understanding of the identity of Jesus?

In response to Jesus' second question ("Who do you say that I am?"), Peter gets the words right: Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ, God's anointed messenger. It becomes clear, however, that Peter has a very different notion from Jesus of what it means to be the Messiah or the Christ. This is understandable since there were diverse messianic expectations within first-century Judaism. Many expected a royal militaristic figure who would drive out the Roman occupiers and restore Israel's status as an independent nation. Jesus, as God's Messiah, refuses the way of violent action. His way is to

be true to his mission of bringing God's empire, even if it brings the most intense personal suffering. Peter refuses to accept a suffering Messiah. He is severely reprimanded for his refusal and instructed to get out of the way, to get back to where a disciple should be, namely behind Jesus, following him, and not in front obstructing the path to wisdom and life.

Our experience of global conflicts should make us wary of accepting militaristic messiahs. We have learnt from bitter experience that war does little to bring peace and justice. In our times, to know and follow Jesus as the Christos or Messiah is to seek and support more moderate and lasting responses to both perceived and real injustice. It is to listen to the wisdom of those with insight and experience, to calculate with the utmost care the consequences of violent reactions to the problems in our world, in contemporary society, and in our homes. That may well involve hard work, personal misunderstanding, physical and emotional trauma or, in other words, it may mean "losing one's life" for the sake of the gospel. It may call us to ensure that all have access to a more equitable share of earth resources. It certainly calls for profound trust in the saving power of God. In this Season of Creation, the gospel calls us into the ways of respect, of commitment, and of peaceful negotiation, to ever deeper insight into the ways of Jesus the Christ, the anointed agent of God's empire.

*By Veronica Lawson RSM*

### EQUALITY IN CHRIST OVERCOMES OUR DIFFERENCES

*At the General Audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis highlights the equality of all Christians in Christ, noting that anyone who accepts Christ in faith has "put on" Christ and His filial dignity through baptism.*

Continuing his catechesis on the Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians during the General Audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis noted the apostle's insistence to Christians not to forget the novelty of God's revelation that had been proclaimed to them.

The Pope reflected on St. Paul's emphasis on faith in Jesus which has allowed us to truly become children of God and His heirs. Therefore, Christians are to remember with gratitude the moment we became such - the moment of our baptism - "so as to live the great gift we have received with greater awareness."

#### **Faith makes us God's children "in Christ"**



Once "faith has come" in Jesus Christ, the Pope noted, "a radically new condition was created that leads to divine sonship."

It is not a sonship involving all men and women insofar as they are sons and daughters of the same Creator; rather, faith allows us to be children of God "in Christ."

Being Children of God “in Christ” thus, makes a difference, because through Jesus’ incarnation he became our brother, and by His death and resurrection, He has reconciled us to the Father.

So, “anyone who accepts Christ in faith, has “put on” Christ and His filial dignity through baptism.”

### **Baptism transforms us**

Pope Francis further explained that for St. Paul, who made reference to baptism several times in his letters, “to be baptized was the same as taking part effectively and truly in the mystery of Jesus.”

In the Letter to the Romans, for example, Paul stated that in baptism we have died with Christ and have been buried with Him, so as to live with Him (Rom 6: 3-14)

Baptism, therefore, is not merely an “external rite.” Rather, those who receive it “are transformed deep within” and “possess new life” which allows them to turn to God and call Him with the name of “Abba, Father.”

The Holy Father, in this regard, encouraged Christians to find out their date of baptism and to celebrate it.

### **Baptism goes beyond differences**

Speaking further, the Pope noted St. Paul’s audacious confirmation that the identity received with baptism is so new that it prevails over the differences that exist on the ethnic-religious level, beyond differences of Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female (Gal 3:28).

“For Paul to write to the Galatians that in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek was equivalent to an authentic subversion in the ethnic-religious sphere,” the Pope explained, because by the fact of belonging to a chosen people, the Jew was privileged over the pagan.

Similarly, taking out the distinction between the “free” and “slaves” introduced a shocking perspective, as by law, “free citizens enjoyed all rights, while not even the human dignity of slaves was recognized.” Likewise, equality in Christ, which overcomes the social differences between the two sexes, “was revolutionary at the time” and “needs to be reaffirmed even today.”

In this way, St. Paul confirms the profound unity between all the baptized because every one of them is “a new creature in Christ.” Thus, every distinction is secondary to the dignity of being children of God who “creates a real and substantial equality.”

### **Called to live as children of God**

The Holy Father then highlighted that we are called in a more positive way to live a new life that roots its foundational expression in being children of God, discovering the beauty of being “brothers and sisters among ourselves, because we have been united in Christ.”

“The differences and contrasts that separation creates should not exist among believers in Christ,” the Pope said. “Rather, our vocation is that of making concrete and evident the call to unity of the entire human race.”

In this manner, everything that exacerbates differences and causes discrimination no longer has any meaning, thanks to the salvation effected in Christ.

“What is important is that faith that operates according to the path of unity indicated by the Holy Spirit,” Pope Francis concluded, adding that “our responsibility is that of journeying decisively on along this path.”

*By Benedict Mayaki, SJ*

## **FIVE STEPS TO GIVING YOUR MIND TO CHRIST**

Saint Teresa of Avila stated that the mind is the *Loca de la casa*—the madwoman of the house! Meaning? It is very difficult to control our thought world, most especially our imagination. Despite the difficulty of the challenge, still we must put forth the most noble of efforts!

### **Our Dynamic Thought Life**

There is a dynamic in the human person, the way the Creator constructed us! And this is the way it unfolds. What goes into our eyes, ascends to our mind; from the mind it is archived in the memory. From the memory, the image can easily descend into the emotions. Then from the emotions into the heart. From the heart a decision is made that transforms into an action. If the action is good, then it is virtuous; if bad, then vicious or sinful. Many repeated actions form the person’s character—either a virtuous person or a bad person. Then finally the person’s eternal destiny is determined—either condemnation or salvation.

How then can we work on cultivating a rich, deep, noble thought life? All of us should accept the challenge because the formation of our character, and the influence that we have on others, depends largely on the cultivation of our mind, our thought life.

### **St Paul and the Mind**

The great Apostle to the Gentiles, Saint Paul, makes reference to the mind on various occasions. He says that we should have a fresh way of thinking and not conform our mind and thoughts to those of the world. Still more, this fiery missionary saint who loved Jesus so much asserted: “Put on the mind of Christ!” Then Saint Paul stated: “You have the mind of Christ...” And of course he said: “It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.”

Therefore, this being the case, how then can we cultivate one of the most noble gifts that God has bestowed upon us? The following are certain practices that we hope will be helpful in the battle to give your mind to the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, Jesus the Lord. May Jesus as King reign over your whole being and that, of course, means your mind too!

#### **1. Watch What Goes In**

First of all, we should all make a concerted as well as constant effort to control what goes into ourselves, especially our mind. By way of analogy, none of us would purposely shovel into our mouth garbage from the street—unheard of! Nonetheless, we can very easily give ourselves liberty to view with our eyes the ignoble, the profane, the crude, the obscene, the sinful.

Therefore, a primary step in controlling our thought world is to control our visual world; what we take into ourselves comes through the gateway of the senses. This proverb rings so true: The thought is the father of the deed. In other words, we carry out in action what has already been conceived in our minds through what we have previously seen. Every day we should be exceedingly vigilant over those wandering eyes that can get us into so much trouble! Not only does curiosity kill the cat, but worse yet, the curiosity of King David led to adultery and the murdering of an innocent man.

## 2. Find Good, Solid Reading

In such a fast-paced modern electronic world, many have lost the habit of spending quality time in silence, immersing themselves in the world of the most noble ideas by reading! We can start to cultivate a very noble mind by reading the classics.

In the spiritual life there is a plethora, an immense and vast sea of good literature. Just to mention a few: The Bible—the Word of God, the lives of the saints (God’s heroes), the writings of the saints, the writings of Saint Pope John Paul II, the Fathers of the Church, and the Doctors of the Church, including Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and of course, it is always good to nourish our mind by reading a good book on the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Suggestion: Our Lady of Fatima by Thomas Walsh). As stated earlier, noble thoughts will be translated into actions, character, and one’s eternal destiny!

## 3. Good Friends, Good Conversations

Many of the saints formed the habit of establishing good, solid friendships. Good friends maintain good, vibrant, noble, enriching, and stimulating conversations. This we see in the lives of the saints. You are called to be a saint and part of the labor is the cultivation of your mind! Why not follow the exhortation of Saint Paul: “Put on the mind of Christ... you have the mind of Christ!” The Bible says that a true friend is a treasure of infinite value. Good friends help each other mutually to keep on track by keeping their thoughts focused on Christ.

## 4. The Most Holy Eucharist

It is indeed true that when we receive Jesus in Holy Communion we receive the total Christ. This of course includes receiving the mind of Christ! Upon receiving Jesus, we should humbly implore the Lord Jesus to purify our mind of all useless thoughts, lift our mind to all that is most pure and noble, and beg Him for the grace to have our thoughts lifted on high to the most noble realm—the Kingdom of God!

## 5. Pray the Psalms

It is so true that we become like those with whom we associate. Now if you can get into the habit of spending some time with Jesus, who is truly present in the most Blessed Sacrament, then He will gradually transform you. Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who was faithful to his daily Holy Hour for more than 50 years, called this The Hour of Power.

If we spend quality time in the presence of a good person, even a saint, then there is a transformation; so much the more, if we spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Open your Bible and pray the Psalm of the Good Shepherd: “The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want...” (Psalm 23)

May the Good Shepherd, and Our Lady the Mother of the Good Shepherd, attain for you the renewal of your mind, the renewal of your thought processes, the renewal of your affections, the renewal of your heart, and the renewal of your entire life! May it be said of you by the end of your life: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who thinks and lives in me!”

## 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 Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

### Recently Deceased.

Tulsi Randeniya, Maria Trân Thi. Loan & Giuse Đăng Thành Trong

### Anniversaries

Kenny Kanagaratnam, Neville Andrado, Sweeney Fernando, Norberto Larrit, 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

“Who do people say I am?” We could interpret this as Jesus asking for feedback from His disciples about Himself. If you were to ask Jesus, ‘how would you describe today’s Christians?’

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