



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021
Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm
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SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

14 & 15 JANUARY 2023

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Acting Mission Leader

Fr Vinsensius (Lovin) Lolo CSsR

Parish Priest

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Assisting Priests

Fr Joseph Hieu Xuan Nguyen 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
7.30pm Vietnamese
- ♦ **Sunday:** 9:00am, 10:30am,
6:00pm
12:00pm Vietnamese

Other Masses

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE:

Please note that the Parish Office will open again Tuesday 17th January 2023.

SACRAMENTS: There will be no sacraments in the month of January, the next Baptism will be on the 4th of February 2022.

FOODBANK: REOPENING ON FRIDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2023 TAKING THIS TIME TO WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3,5-6

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 39 (40):2,4,7-10

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God.

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.

Instead, here am I.

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart.

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation John 1:14. 12

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:29-34

'Look: there is the Lamb of God'

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he

who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, “The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit.” Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.”

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

To provide a reference for someone is a serious responsibility as well as a privilege because, more often than not, a good deal depends on the testimony provided in the reference. John the Baptist took it upon himself to provide a reference for Jesus. His testimony reverberates across the centuries, offering an introduction to Jesus for those who seek to understand this Jewish prophet and teacher who is more than a prophet or teacher. John wants his disciples to understand that the whole purpose of his water baptism is that Jesus “might be revealed”. He wants them to know that Jesus is “of God”. He is the “lamb of God”, the “chosen one of God”. He is the one on whom God’s Spirit descends and remains. Jesus comes before the Baptist and so ranks before him. Is the author of this gospel using the character of the Baptist as a vehicle for his particular Christology or presentation of Jesus? That’s what many scholars think, although some of the images in the Baptist’s testimony are firmly grounded in Jewish tradition and could well come from a prophetic figure like John the Baptist. Maybe the answer to the question is “yes, but not exclusively”. Whether the images have their origin with John the Baptist or with John the gospel writer, we might reasonably wonder what it means to say that Jesus is “God’s lamb”. Does the expression refer to the Passover lamb whose blood signifies liberation or deliverance? The imagery in John’s gospel in relation to the death of Jesus might point in this direction. Is “God’s lamb” the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 who assumes the sins of the many? Is it an image of the lamb that God provides for Abraham’s sacrifice in Genesis 22? Is it evoking the apocalyptic lamb of Jewish literature of the time, the powerful conquering lamb that destroys evil in the world? Is it intended to suggest vulnerability as in the prophecy of Jeremiah 11:19 (“I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter”). There is never a simple explanation when it comes to John’s gospel, but it seems to me that the symbol of strength in vulnerability has potential for understanding the characterization of Jesus in this gospel. The Lamb of God of John 1:29 “takes away” the sinful condition of the world. Twenty-one centuries down the track there is still violence and hunger and exploita-

tion on a massive scale. The work of the one strong enough to risk vulnerability so that others may have life, the work of God’s Lamb, is never done. Witness to that is part of the gift that Pope Francis is offering to the world: despite opposition, even among those closest to him, he never wavers in his response to the distress of God’s people and the distress of God’s Earth.

By Sister Veronica Lawson rsm

CARDINAL PELL DIES AGED 81



Cardinal George Pell has died aged 81 in Rome.

Reports indicate Cardinal Pell suffered complications after undergoing hip surgery and went into cardiac arrest.

He had attended the funeral of Pope Benedict XVI only days before.

Ordained a priest in 1966 in Ballarat, Cardinal Pell went on to serve as Archbishop of Melbourne and Sydney before he was elected to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

He became the financial controller of the Holy See when he was appointed Prefect of the Secretariat of the Economy in 2014.

In 2018, Cardinal Pell was convicted of child sexual abuse, serving 404 days in Barwon Prison before he was acquitted by the High Court in 2020.

He wrote of his time in prison in a three-volume journal.

Cardinal Pell returned to Rome after his acquittal, where he spent his remaining years.

STATEMENT ON THE DEATH OF CARDINAL GEORGE PELL

A statement from Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, President of the Australian Catholic

Bishops Conference

It was with great sadness that I learned of the unexpected death of Cardinal George Pell in Rome on Tuesday evening (Rome time). Cardinal Pell provided strong and clear leadership within the Catholic Church in Australia, as Archbishop of Melbourne and Archbishop of Sydney and as a member of the Bishops Conference for more than 25 years.

His many strengths were widely recognised, both in Australia and around the world, as his Vatican appointments as Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy and as a member of the Council of Cardinals, an advisory group to Pope Francis, testify.

Cardinal Pell's impact on the life of the Church in Australia and around the world will continue to be felt for many years. As we remember him and reflect on his legacy, I invite all Catholics and other people of goodwill to join in praying for Cardinal Pell, a man of deep and abiding faith, and for the repose of his soul

ARCHBISHOP COLERIDGE REFLECTS ON THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF CARDINAL PELL

THIS is Brisbane Archbishop Mark Coleridge's statement on the life and achievements of Cardinal George Pell after the cardinal died aged 81 in Rome, January 10.

The Catholic Church in Australia has known few more extraordinary figures than George Pell. A product and priest of the rural diocese of Ballarat, he rose to be not only Archbishop of Melbourne but, extraordinarily, Archbishop of Sydney as well. It was unthinkable then that the Archbishop of Melbourne would be moved to Sydney. As was said at the time, "It was an insult to both". It took George Pell to break the mould.

With the move to Sydney he was named Cardinal, which brought with it a further enhancement of his Vatican profile. This led eventually to his appointment as Prefect of the Secretariat of the Economy of the Holy See, charged with leading the financial reforms begun by Pope Benedict and pursued by Pope Francis.

Then his legal troubles erupted in Australia in circumstances that remain unclear. Pell became the victim of an outrageous injustice as he was convicted and jailed for 13 months before a final vindica-

tion. The spiritual poise and strength he showed through all of this was extraordinary. It revealed a depth to George Pell that often went unrecognised.

Through his legal troubles, he was identified wholly with the Catholic Church and vice versa. Pell was the Church and the Church was Pell – big, powerful and heartless in the eyes of many. Partly this was because, in his public persona in Australia, Pell had presented himself self-consciously as the voice of the Catholic Church. Those who didn't know him thought Pell heartless and humourless, and his media persona could suggest this. Yet if George Pell had anything they were a good heart and a sense of humour. It was a pity that more of this didn't show in his media appearances.

He didn't claim to be a saint; he knew he was flawed. But he did claim – and rightly – to be a man of faith and a man of the Church. He once told me how struck he was by the words on the Roman tomb of Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani, *Vehementer amavit Ecclesiam* (Vehemently he loved the Church). George said however that he'd prefer on his own tomb, *Vehementer amavit Dominum et Ecclesiam* (Vehemently he loved the Lord and the Church).

There was nothing bland or half-hearted about George Pell: he was strong, even vehement in his faith, his convictions, his likes and dislikes. He could be a fierce opponent, unafraid to enter the battle. At times this could make him seem an ideological warrior, which did not serve him well. It certainly wasn't George Pell at his best.

He was always a polarising figure, stirring strongly contrasting reactions. He had both passionate friends and passionate foes. In part this was because his deepest instincts were those of a politician who thrived on opposition and conflict. It was also tied to an apocalyptic view of the world seen as an arena where good and evil, life and death, light and darkness contended. There wasn't much middle ground for George Pell, not too many shades of grey.

But that he had unusual gifts of leadership is certain – intelligence, courage, conviction, self-confidence, political nous and tenacity among them. Though he chose a life in the Church, George Pell would have been a leader in any field he had chosen.

It will take time to assess his legacy in the Church in Australia, which will prove as complex, even as

contradictory as the man himself. For now we give thanks for the gifts George Pell brought to us and the challenges he posed. And we pray that, beyond all the struggles and sorrows he knew, this extraordinary man of faith and of the Church, our brother George, will come now before the Lord of mercy who will say to him simply (as Julian of Norwich predicts for each of us), "Thanks for all you've done".

YOU BELONG TO GOD

At issue here is the question: "To whom do I belong? God or to the world?" Many of my daily preoccupations suggest that I belong more to the world than to God. A little criticism makes me angry, and a little rejection makes me depressed. A little praise raises my spirits, and a little success excites me. It takes very little to raise me up or thrust me down. Often I am like a small boat on the ocean, completely at the mercy of its waves. All the time and energy I spend in keeping some kind of balance and preventing myself from being tipped over and drowning shows that my life is mostly a struggle for survival: not a holy struggle, but an anxious struggle resulting from the mistaken idea that it is the world that defines me. . . .

As long as we belong to this world, we will remain subject to its competitive ways and expect to be rewarded for all the good we do. But when we belong to God, who loves us without conditions, we can live as he does. The great conversion called for by Jesus is to move from belonging to the world to belonging to God.

By Henri J. M. Nouwen

CLEANING ROSTER

Week starting 18 January 2023 -
Group 10 - Ed & Joh Cablao and family. Jinky Monteros & family

PRECA COMMUNITY

Starting of Sacraments classes are available twice a week:

Tuesday 7th February 2023 - 7pm - 8pm.

Friday 10th February 2023 - 7pm - 9pm.

Preca Friday Youth group for families, youth and children of all ages Commencing on **Friday 10th February 2023 @ 7pm - 9pm.**

Sacrament Dates for 2023 for Preca Children and youth. (Please note that further information will be provided early in the new school year)

Older grades - Reconciliation
TERM 1: Tuesday 14th March at 6.30pm

Gr 6 and older Confirmation
TERM 2: Friday 26th May at 7.00pm

Gr 4 and older First Holy Communion
TERM 2: Sunday 11th June at the 10.30am Mass

Gr 3 grades - Reconciliation will be announced later in term 3.

READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

During this time, weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday at 9.00am we continue to use people who normally volunteers to Read if they are available otherwise volunteers needed. Please see the priest before Mass if you wishes to do so. Weekend Masses volunteers needed if the choir doesn't have people to Reader. Thank you for you cooperation.

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 21st January 2023

* **6pm** – St Francis Choir

* **Sunday 22nd January 2023**

* **9am** - Charlie Schembri

* **10.30am** – Fernandes Family

* **6pm** - Volunteer Choir

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Pam Norris, Alfred & Pauline Storace, Manel Pandithakoralege, Dominica C., Wasana Fernando, Marko Dorinko, Arnord Fernandez, Ash Dominic Marguerite, Rachel Piskon, Toni Antonowicz, Linda Ratbone, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Jessie Spiteri, Stella Sande, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Recently Deceased

Marko Dorinko, Angela Attard

Anniversaries

Ivica Krizmanic, Jan & Elizabet Danicek, Maria Lojdova, Jan & Jovan Vala, Stefan Kolek, Tony Mizzi, Family Attard, Family Zammit, Family Caruana, Family Grech, Bruce McLean, Joseph Formosa, Carmelo, Mary, Henry, Giuzepa Faraci, Sunta Germani, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Angelo Cassar, Mac-co Ngo Van Thinh, Lucia Huynh Thi Kim Hue, Phero Ngo Minh Truong, Maria Huynh Thi Thanh Kieu, Phero Le Nghia, Matta Le Thi Linh, Phero Le Quang Tuan, Theresa Nguyen Ngoc Giang Thu, Dominico Le Ngoc Son, Mary Camilleri, Richard Cummi, Iro & Jessie Vella, Angela Chircop, Peter Disco, Wayne Camilleri, Bartolo family, Brincat & Galea family, Maria Vu Thi Yeu Thuong, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Michael Alphonsus Schiller, Peter Do Van Tri, Inne Maria Le Thi Bien, Mollie Rise (Marie), 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 Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we reside and worship.

VOCATION VIEW

Isaiah's vocation was to be a light to the nations. Nations and neighbourhoods need missionaries - lay, clergy and religious. Listen to the call!

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