



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



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

4 & 5 FEBRUARY 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

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.

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Preca Centre, 29 Rosslare Parade, St Albans - Ph: 9356 0734

between 7-8pm

Email: precastalban@tpg.com.au

www.precacommunity.org

BAPTISM – FEBRUARY

Congratulations to:

Ellie Azzopardi, Anton Bryan Pham, Paul Tony Tran, Peter Edwin Tran, Paul Kevin Tran, Joseph Kelvin Pham, Maria Valentina Nguyen & Charlie Isaac Tran who

were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are welcome to be a part of our community faith.



THE LIVING WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Then will your light shine like the dawn

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and do not turn from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 111 (112):4-9

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:

he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

The just man will never waver:

he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;

with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

With a steadfast heart he will not fear; open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm for ever.

His head will be raised in glory.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

The only knowledge I claimed was of the crucified Christ

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel Matthew 5:13-16

Your light must shine in the sight of men

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

In today's gospel, Jesus addresses two short parables to his disciples in the presence of the crowds. Parables were intended to tease their hearers, inviting them to see things from a new perspective, to see themselves in a new light. Jesus told these parables in early first century Palestine with its particular symbol system, while we hear them through the multiple layers of our own twenty-first century contexts and symbol systems. "Salt" and "light" have slightly different resonances in different contexts, as do "earth" and "world". Exploring those resonances or nuances can bring us to a deeper appreciation of the text.

This short reflection allows for a focus only on "the salt of the earth" parable or metaphor. For Jesus' Palestinian audience, salt was used to preserve and to season food. It also functioned as a cleansing or purifying agent. It could only lose its savour if contaminated by additives. We can resonate with all of that. For some of the Jewish rabbis, salt signified wisdom: a "salted" disciple was a "wise" disciple. In some parts of the ancient world, as in Pakistan today, salt was used in dyeing processes as a way of intensifying as well as preserving the colour of fabrics. Many Westerners are not aware of this practice. These days we are rightly concerned about high levels of salinity in overworked soil. That was certainly not so for first-century Palestinians.

When we declare someone to be "salt of the earth", we are generally referring to the sheer goodness of the person in question, her/his down to earth reliability, lack of pretentiousness and practical wisdom. To be salt of the earth is to season the earth community, to intensify its beauty, to be wise in one's judgments, to be just and compassionate in all of one's dealings. This parable, with its multi-layered symbolism, certainly teases the mind.

In the original Greek, the emphasis is on the first word in the sentence. Jesus is telling his hearers, disciples and crowds, that they are the salt of the earth. They do not have to become the salt of the earth; they are the salt of the earth. In short, he is affirming their worth. In its literary context, that assertion contrasts Jesus' followers with those who might persecute them. It affirms their capacity to stand strong in the face of opposition, "for the sake of justice". If they allow their commitment to be shaken, then the "salt" will be contaminated and the "earth" cannot be seasoned. As we reflect on the diverse metaphorical applications of salt and earth, we might take a moment to give thanks to God for the gift of the material realities that underlie these powerful metaphors. This weekend, as I celebrate six decades of consecrated Mercy living, I give thanks for the wonders of our planetary home and for all who have shown me what it means to be salt of the earth and light of the world.

By Sister Veronica Lawson rsm

POPE DECRIES CONFLICTS AND ECONOMIC COLONIALISM IN DR CONGO

Meeting with civil authorities on the first day of his Apostolic Journey to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pope Francis addresses the most pressing issues affecting the African nation, including ongoing conflict and economic colonialism, and urges the Congolese people to reject violence.

In his first speech upon his arrival to the Democratic Republic of Congo, on Tuesday, Pope Francis decried the conflicts that continue to ravage the country, and the reckless exploitation of its immense natural resources by foreign forces.

Meeting with government authorities, civil society, and the diplomatic corps in the garden of the "Palais de la Nation" in Kinshasa, after his courtesy visit to Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi, the Pope urged the Congolese people to take their destiny into their own hands by rejecting violence and hatred.

He explained that his visit is born from his desire to bring them "the closeness, the affection and the consolation of the entire Catholic Church", and that he is coming "as a pilgrim of reconciliation and peace".

Congolese people are more precious than their diamonds

Likening the DRC to a diamond, one of the many riches of the country, the Pope noted that the Congolese people are "infinitely more precious than any treasure found in their fruitful soil."

He remarked that beyond the abundance of natural resources, they also have a "spiritual wealth" to be found in their hearts from where "peace and development are born", for which, he said, every Congolese should "feel called to do his or her part."

"May violence and hatred no longer find room in the heart or on the lips of anyone, since these are inhuman and un-Christian sentiments that arrest development and bring us back to a gloomy past."



Blood diamonds

Pope Francis went on to lament the exploitation that DRC and the whole African continent continue to endure today in the form of "economic colonialism" which, he said, is "equally enslaving", making the Congolese people "foreign" to their own land.

“The poison of greed has smeared its diamonds with blood,” the Pope denounced, calling on the world acknowledge the “catastrophic” injustices committed in the past, and for an end to the ongoing plundering of its natural resources.

“Hands off the Democratic Republic of the Congo! Hands off Africa! Stop choking Africa: it is not a mine to be stripped or a terrain to be plundered. May Africa be the protagonist of its own destiny!”

International community resigned to violence in DRC

Pope Francis then turned to the international community which, he said, “has practically resigned itself to the violence devouring” DRC, calling for a renewed effort to support development and peace in the African nation.

“The current peace processes, which I greatly encourage, need to be sustained by concrete deeds, and commitments should be maintained,” said the Pope.

He expressed immense gratitude to the countries and the organizations that are providing substantial aid in this regard, helping to combat poverty and disease, supporting the rule of law and promoting respect for human rights.

“Room needs to be made for diplomacy that is authentically human, for a diplomacy where peoples are concerned for other peoples, for a diplomacy centred not on control over land and resources, expansionism and increased profits, but rather on providing opportunities for people to grow and develop.”

Avoid regressing to tribalism and hostility

Going back to the image of the diamond, Pope Francis noted that the richness of the Congolese society stems from its “polyhedral” character, which must be therefore preserved “avoiding any form of regression to tribalism and hostility.”

“The problem,” he remarked, recalling a Congolese proverb, “is not the nature of ethnic and social groups, but the way in which they choose to live together: their willingness or not to encounter one another, to be reconciled and to start anew makes the difference between the grimness of conflict and a radiant future of peace and prosperity.”

In this regard, Pope Francis emphasized the crucial role that religions and civil society are called to play in contributing to this richness by committing to building peace and of fraternity in DRC.

Need for transparency in civic and political life

Continuing with the metaphor of the diamond, Pope Francis focused on transparency in civic and political life, noting that what “dims the light of goodness in a society is often the darkness of injustice and corruption.”

In this regard, he underscored the crucial importance of promoting transparent and credible elections and greater participation in the peace processes and of pursuing

the common good and people’s security, rather than personal or group interests.

Also, he said, the presence of the State in every part of the territory should be strengthened and the many refugees and displaced persons should be cared for.

Make DRC’s most precious diamonds shine

Pope Francis went on to stress the urgent need to invest in education in order to make the “its most precious diamonds shine”. He lamented in this regard that all too many Congolese children still do not attend school, and are instead exploited and subjected to servile labour in the mines.

“Children, young girls and all young people represent hope for the future: let us not allow that hope to be stifled, but instead cultivate it with passion!”

Bringing his long address to a close, Pope Francis recalled the shared responsibility to be “good stewards of creation”, to protect the natural environment, and highlighted the need for long-term international support to improve the life of Africans, going beyond emergency interventions.

Engage in courageous and inclusive social renewal

Pope Francis concluded by urging the Congolese people not to give in to “discouragement” and “resignation”, but to engage in “courageous and inclusive social renewal” of their country.

“[In the name of Christ, who is the God of hope, the God of every possibility, who always gives us the strength to begin anew, in the name of the dignity and worth of the most precious diamonds of this splendid land, which are its citizens, I would like to encourage everyone to undertake a courageous and inclusive social renewal.] ”

The current conflicts and challenges in DRC were also the focus of President Felix Tshisekedi’s address to the Holy Father, in which he thanked the Pope, on behalf of all the Congolese people, for the interest he has always shown for the situation in the country, and for “fervently praying for peace in its eastern provinces”. He also expressed gratitude for his willingness to meet a delegation of internally displaced persons from these provinces.

By Lisa Zengarini

SHIFT YOUR POINT OF GRAVITY

Jesus’ response to our worry-filled lives is quite different. He asks us to shift the point of gravity, to relocate the center of our attention, to change our priorities. Jesus wants us to move from the “many things” to the “one necessary thing.” It is important for us to realize that Jesus in no way wants us to leave our many-faceted world. Rather, he wants us to live in it, but firmly rooted in the center of all things. Jesus does not speak about a change of activities, a change of contacts, or even a change of pace. He speaks about a change of heart. This change of heart makes everything different,

even while everything appears to remain the same. This is the meaning of "Set your hearts on his kingdom first . . . and all these other things will be given you as well." What counts is where our hearts are. When we worry, we have our hearts in the wrong place. Jesus asks us to move our hearts to the center, where all other things fall into place.

By Henri J. M. Nouwen

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.

HEALING MASS

Healing Mass will be on first Friday of each Month @ 9am here at Holy Eucharist Church. All are Welcome!

CLEANING ROSTER

Week starting 8 February 2023 -
Group 1 - Samoan Community -
Akenese Lia Tuliatu

READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Tues 9:00 AM, 07-02-23

Reader Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen

Wed 9:00 AM, 08-02-23

Reader Volunteer
Eucharistic Min. Volunteer

Thur 9:00 AM, 09-02-23

Readers Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharistic Min. Shirley Krizmanic

Fri: 9:00 AM, 10-02-23

Reader: Helen Maddela
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

Sat 6.00 PM, 11-02-23

Lit. Coordinator: Reno Attard
Commentator: Miriam Vella
Readers: Anthony Naidu
Carmen Camilleri
Eucharistic Min. Alastair Surrao
Violeta Montoro
Reno Attard

Sun 9.00 AM, 12-02-23

Lit. Coordinator: Monica Lomen
Commentator Shirley Krizmanic
Readers: Wilma Marmur
Mini Eddy
Eucharistic Min: Helen Maddela
Shirley Krizmanic
Monica Lomen

Sun 10:30AM, 12-02-23

Lit. Coordinator: Christine Pedroso
Commentator: Ed Cablaio
Reader: St Francis Choir
St Francis Choir
Eucharistic Min. Rita Martin
Christine Pedroso
Br. Anthony Gatt

Sun 6.00PM, 12-02-23

Lit. Coordinator Lani Laririt
Commentator Larnie Mendoza
Reader Rod Lalunio
Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Lani Laririt
Xuan Duong
Rod Lalunio

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 11th February 2023

- * 6pm – Samoan Choir
- * **Sunday 12th February 2023**
- * 9am - Charlie Schembri
- * 10.30am – St Francis Choir
- * 6pm - Youth For Christ Choir

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Diana Moules, Magen Hallorina, James Floros, Pam Norris, Alfred & Pauline Storace, Arnord Fernandez, Toni Antonowicz, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Jessie Spiteri, Stella Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Recently Deceased

Tomas Baquiran, Veronica Malagonio, Joseph D., Joe Favot, Lorenz Colerio, Alexander Scribera, Marko Dorinko.

Anniversaries

Marija & Janko Resovac, Dominic Kinh & Anne Marie Bui, Vincent Chuc, Maria Tuan, Maria Kien, Maria Moc, Dominic Phuc, Dominic Khat, Joseph Formosa, Grazio (Horace) Camilleri, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Reno Cauchi, 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 Curmi, 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

Jesus speaks on Vocations: "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before people so that they may see your goodness in your acts, giving praise to your heavenly Father."

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