



## HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021

Office Hours: Tues - Fri: 9:00am - 3.30pm

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### SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

13 & 14 MAY 2023

#### REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Parish Priest & Mission Leader

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Priests in Residence

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:** 5:00pm  
6.30pm Vietnamese
- ♦ **Sunday:** 8:45am, 10:00am,  
6:00pm  
12:00pm Vietnamese

#### Other Masses

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

#### MASS COUNT

The Archdiocese of Melbourne conducts Mass count during this month of May. Collectors/Volunteers and Community Leaders will help with the four weekends in May been selected for the count, which commences on the 6-7 May 2023 Masses, and all other Sunday in May.

Thank you.

**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](mailto:precastalban@tpg.com.au)

#### BAPTISM – MAY

Congratulations to: **Elaine Nguyen, Henry Boyle, Monica Boyle, Amelia Boyle, Grace Evelyn Davies, Makhaila Regina Eugenia Nalubega Mulindwa, Phaolo Aaron Ha, Anne Harlie Nguyen, Anton Kevin Bui, Gioan Phaolo II Leo Phan, Maria Ngoc Chau Nguyen, Rosa Song Anh Nguyen, Jeremiah Enyx Roe, Phero Trong Nghia Dinh, Maria Thi Luyen Le, Maria Le Thi My Tran & Octavian Ba Khoi Nguyen** 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.



#### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

This weekend as we celebrate Mother's Day we would like to wish a very Happy Mother's Day to all our Mothers, Grandmothers and those who are mothering to others by their care and service in our parish. Thank you for all the sacrifices you have made for us. Thank you for the gift of life. As we gather as a community of Faith, we gather with Mother Church to receive all she has to share with us. We pray we recognize the maternal gifts of the Church. The Church is meant to be a place for healing, and nurturing our God-given gifts. It is a place where we can grow in freedom to become true servants of God.



#### THE LIVING WORD

**First Reading: Acts 8:5-8,14-17**

*They laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit*

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps.65 (66):1-7,16,20**

**Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

**Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

'Before you all the earth shall bow;  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!  
Come and see the works of God,  
tremendous his deeds among men.

**Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

He turned the sea into dry land,  
they passed through the river dryshod.

Let our joy then be in him;

he rules for ever by his might.

**Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

Come and hear, all who fear God.

I will tell what he did for my soul:

Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer  
nor withhold his love from me.

**Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

## **Second Reading 1 Peter 3:15-18**

*In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life*

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

## **Gospel Acclamation John 14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

## **Gospel John 14:15-21**

*I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

### **REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL**

Those who defend themselves in court run the risk of being outsmarted by clever and sometimes unscrupulous adversaries. It is never a good idea to be too self-reliant even in a country with a basically sound legal system such as ours. Today's gospel implies that the disciples need a defense attorney or lawyer. Jesus has acted in that capacity for them in their struggles with the anti-gospel forces arrayed against them.

Now he is close to death and he gives them instructions that begin and end with reference to loving him and keeping his commandments. Jesus has given them a new commandment, namely that they love one another: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (13:34). Later

in this discourse (15:12-14) the reader of the gospel learns what the actors in the drama already know about Jesus' commandments. "This is my commandment," says Jesus, "that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." This is no small demand, to be prepared to die for one another.

Given the opposition they are likely to face, the disciples cannot live out such a commitment on their own. Neither is Jesus leaving them "orphans" who have to fend for themselves. He will ask his "Father" to provide "another" defender or advocate who will act on their behalf, an advocate who will always be there. This new advocate is the "Spirit of truth". As we approach the end of the Easter season, the liturgy thus points us towards Pentecost and the gift of God's Spirit.

It is good to know we are never on our own. It is also good to reflect on the capacity we have to make the love of Christ present in our world. Many of us will never find ourselves in a situation where our love is tested to the point that we have to give life for others. Since the outbreak of Covid-19, however, we do not have to look far to find countless people who have done just that. Health professionals, cleaners, truck drivers, flight attendants, shop assistants, school teachers, lecturers, ordinary people everywhere have been laying down their lives for the sake of others. They are truly our friends. The gospel calls us to put the well-being of others, even their survival, before our own comfort. With life-style changes and movement of peoples precipitated by the climate crisis, we find ourselves called to "lay down our lives" for the sake of our friends, humankind and other-kind, across the planet. The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) is one powerful faith-based avenue for action. We can, despite opposition, continue to advocate together for climate action and for those displaced by rising sea levels, by war or by persecution. With the help of the Spirit, our Advocate, we can surely rise to the challenge.

**By Sister Veronica Lawson rsm**

### **THE MAKING OF A SPIRITUAL SUPERHERO**

*"But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart'" (1 Samuel 16:7).*

When King Saul had finally exhausted the Lord's mercy because of his evil deeds, He sent the prophet Samuel to anoint a new king from the sons of Jesse (1 Samuel 16:1-13). As each of the seven strong, good-looking men were brought before Samuel, the Lord said, "no, not him!" It was so strange, Samuel asked Jesse, Are you sure these are all your sons? And Jesse had to reply, Well, I guess, there is the boy, but he is out taking care of the sheep!

### **An Unlikely Candidate**

*"And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.' So he sent and brought him in. Now he was*



*ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward" (1 Samuel 16:11-13).*

Young David appeared an unlikely choice to become a spiritual superhero in the Kingdom of God. He was relegated to do the lowest family chore — taking care of the sheep. His family was not noteworthy; they were an average, typical family of the day.

Additionally, some scholars believe that David was likely an illegitimate child, fathered by Jesse out of wedlock. This theory would explain why Jesse did not immediately call David to stand before Samuel alongside his seven brothers. It would also give context to Psalm 51:5, in which David wrote: *"Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me" (Psalm 51:5).*

All this made David an unlikely candidate to be selected as Israel's greatest king, through whose lineage the Messiah would come. And yet David went from obscurity to popularity, from overlooked to prominence, and from rags to riches under the selection and anointing of God. And he was counted among the superheroes of the faith by his induction into the Hebrews "Hall of Faith":

*"And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to fight the armies of the aliens" (Hebrews 11:32-34).*

We love David's story because it reminds us "average" people that God chooses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27). And that even those individuals whom society keeps hidden in the shadow of shame or obscurity are never without hope. God can and does elevate the "unlikely" to the status of superhero of the faith.

## **The Making of a Superhero**

Woman thinking about being strong. God is committed to bringing out the best in each and every one of us average people, and making us into spiritual superheroes.

When all other people see is the "shepherd boy" in us, God is committed to making us more and more like Jesus. He's committed to bringing out the gifts He put in us and using our story for His great glory. So how can we cooperate with God to become spiritual superheroes?

## **Stay Faithful**

David's story started when God decided to "impeach" Israel's King Saul. No congressional hearings, no investigation — just straight up impeachment!

As we previously read in 1 Samuel 16, God directed His prophet Samuel to go and anoint His choice for the next king. Samuel looked over each man as a possible choice, but

the anointing oil did not flow out until God's choice showed up.

When God has something for you, it doesn't matter who got there before you. It doesn't matter whether someone interviewed for the job the day before you. It doesn't matter if someone got an earlier start or inside information. When God has something for you, the oil will not flow until you arrive.

That's why you don't have to take shortcuts or try to get success the wrong way. God will make sure what He has for you will get to you.

Young David came into the room, and in front of his father and elder brothers, God says that's him. Rise and anoint him; he is the one I have chosen. And so David was anointed for his assignment in life.

Whenever God creates a person for an assignment, a mission or a destiny to fulfill, there will also be the enablement to do it though just the right gifts and talents. So any time the devil tries to convince you that you can't, just remind him that you are anointed, and that you can do all things through Christ! (Philippians 4:13)

We usually think of the word "Christ" as referring to the Anointed One, Jesus; but it also refers to His anointing. That means, His anointing on you makes you divinely equipped to fulfill the expectations that God has for you.

## **Be Patient and Humble**

After the high of being anointed to be king by the most noteworthy prophet in the land, David returned to the fields and his flock of stinky sheep.

Now I believe this is why many believers never become true superheroes in the faith. When God reveals His assignment to them, and gives them His anointing, they refuse to stay faithful until God opens the proper doors for them to fulfill their assignment.

David could have said, I'm not going back to tending sheep! Didn't you all see that God chose me to be king! Kings don't sweat in the field, kings chill in the palace!

But in God's way of working, it's our faithfulness in the field that makes us fit to stand the pressures of the palace. It's faithfulness in obscurity that makes a person ready to be used by God in a place of prominence. Indeed, I would argue it's a spiritual principle: God elevates people to more responsibility after they have demonstrated faithfulness in smaller things (Matthew 25:21).

So David, freshly dripping with oil, returned to being faithful in the field and waited for God's perfect timing. And God opened a door suddenly and supernaturally:

*"But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him. And Saul's servants said to him, 'Surely, a distressing spirit from God is troubling you. Let our master now command your servants, who are before you, to seek out a man who is a skillful player on the harp. And it shall be that he will play it with his hand when the distressing spirit from God is upon you, and you shall be*

well.' So Saul said to his servants, 'Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me.' Then one of the servants answered and said, 'Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him.' Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, 'Send me your son David, who is with the sheep'" (1 Samuel 16:14-19).

### Work On Your Gifts

David got summoned to the palace in God's time because he had remained faithful to his calling in the field. And what was David faithfully doing while in the field? Preparing. He was honing important skills and talents, maturing in years and in godly character. Look again at how he was described to King Saul: "...skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him" (1 Samuel 16:18).

David was being faithful in the field by perfecting the gifts God had given him. Faithfulness is not just being present, it's about being prepared!

He honed his musical skill before sheep, so it was fit to play before royalty. He trained in weapons and the art of war, to be useful to the King's army. David wasn't sitting around waiting for opportunity to come to him; he focused on perfecting his God-given gifts, in faith, so that they would be ready when needed for his assignment.

Faithfulness not only means sticking with something, but it also means committing yourself to hours of preparation. If we are not faithful in honing our gifts, if we are not prepared, why would God elevate us into a place where we would certainly fail?

"A man's gift makes room for him, And brings him before great men" (Proverbs 18:1).

Your gifts are an important part of becoming a superhero in the Kingdom of God. Commit to becoming the best you can be!

*By Frank Santora*

### CLEANING ROSTER

Week starting 17 May 2023 - Group 3 - Lily Disco, Shannon Lindsey, Margaret Bajada, Cathy Bartolo & Wendy Forbes-Perera

### READERS/COMMENTATOR/ COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

#### Tues 9:00 AM, 16-05-23

Reader Xuan Duong  
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen

#### Wed 9:00 AM, 17-05-23

Reader Carmen Camilleri  
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Carmilleri

#### Thurs 9:00 AM, 18-05-23

Reader: HEP School  
Eucharistic HEP School

#### Fri 9:00 AM, 19-05-23

Reader Helen Maddela  
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

#### Sat 5.00 PM, 20-05-23

Lit. Coordinator: Reno Attard  
Commentator: Anthony Naidu  
Readers: Alastair Surrao  
Violeta Montoro

Eucharistic Min. Miriam Vella  
Josephine Cassar  
Reno Attard

#### Sun 8.45 AM, 21-05-23

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

#### Sun 10:00AM, 21-05-23

Lit. Coordinator: Taoete Afano  
Commentator: Christine Pedroso  
Reader: Ed Cablao  
Christina Afano  
Eucharistic Min. Rita Martin  
Br. Anthony Gatt  
Saua Tufuga

#### Sun 6.00PM, 21-05-23

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

### CHOIR GROUPS

#### Saturday 20 May 2023

- ♦ 5pm – Tavallo Family

#### Sunday 21 May 2023

- ♦ 8.45am - Charlie Schembri
- ♦ 10.00am - DeSouza
- ♦ 6pm - Angeline Veigas

### LET US PRAY FOR

#### The Sick

Nguyen Thi San, 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.

#### Anniversaries

Dominic Kinh & Annie Mairie Bui, Vincent Chuc, Dominic Khat, Dominic Phuc, Maria Kien, Maria Tuan, Maria Moc, Rose Pace, Doris Borg, Mary Attard & family, Carmen Zammit & family, family Caruana, Grech & Bruce McLean, Mary, Charlie, Ally, Peter Spiteri & family, Ignatius, Esther, Joseph Borg & family, Laurance & Elizabeth Zarafa & family, Aliso & Antonia Spiteri & family, Tran Thi Huong, Cornelio Maddela, Grazio (Horace) Camilleri, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Reno Cauchi, Mac-co Ngo Van Tinh, 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, Duong Family, Do Family, Vincent Duong Kham Su, Michael Alphonsus Schiller, Mollie Rice (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

That Jesus rose from the dead is our Faith. That we can be reborn in the Spirit is our Hope. That we can do God's work is our Love. Follow God's Call.

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