



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 B

13 & 14 JANUARY 2024

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Parish Priest & Mission Leader

Fr Vincent Long Pham CSsR

Priests in Residence

Fr Joseph Xuan Hieu 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:** 8:45am, 10:00am,
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

BAPTISM: There will be no Baptism celebration in the month of January, the next Baptism will be on the **3rd of February 2024.**

ANointing MASS: There will be no Anointing Mass in the month of January. Anointing Mass will start again on **2nd February 2024 9am.**

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19

'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord, where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

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 6:13-15,17-20

Do not sin against your own body

The body is not meant for fornication: it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; do you think I can take parts of Christ's body and join them to the body of a prostitute? Never! But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Gospel Acclamation John 1:41. 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace. Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:35-42

'We have found the Messiah'

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means 'Teacher' – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

A personal call to a particular way of life is not always easy to explain, even to oneself. At my religious profession, I chose the challenging motto "To give without counting the cost". I have taken that motto seriously, even if I have been tempted to change it to something more manageable. Today's liturgy calls me back to what that commitment entails: I have come to realise that, in a very real sense, it encapsulates the gospel call to all the baptised. The first reading describes a prophetic call, the "call" of the young Samuel who is to become a prophet of great stature within Israel. The story insists that it is God who takes the initiative while Samuel hears God's call. Initially Samuel hears the word of God, but needs an interpreter in order to understand the import of God's word to him. Eli acts as interpreter and guide, so that Samuel can respond with confidence and faith and grow up to speak God's word to the people. The gospel focuses on the "call" to discipleship, a call that is addressed to every baptised Christian. The opening scene depicts John the Baptist with two of his disciples. John actually points the two disciples away from himself and towards Jesus whom he identifies as "the lamb of God". What does it mean to call Jesus "God's lamb"? Does the expression refer to the Passover lamb whose blood signifies deliverance? Is it a reference to the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 who takes on the sins of the many? Is it an image of the lamb that God provides for Abraham's sacrifice (Genesis 22)? Is it 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 for the symbolism in John's gospel. There can be many levels of meaning at the one time. The symbol of strength in vulnerability certainly has potential for understanding who Jesus is in this gospel. John 1:29 tells us that the Lamb of God "takes away" the sinful condition of the world. Twenty-one centuries down the track there is still violence and hunger and exploitation of planetary resources 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 also the work of disciples. It is the way of those who hear God's call and choose to walk the way of Jesus of Nazareth, in openness and love for God's people. The call to discipleship is a call to pour out one's lifeblood for the sake of the gospel, "to give without counting the cost". Maybe I should not be too ready to relinquish my motto!

By Veronica Lawson RSM



The Preca Community wishes to thank Holy Eucharist Parish for welcoming **Bishop Charles Gauchi**, the bishop of Darwin and the Northern Territories. **Bishop Gauchi** is a member of the Preca community. In Malta, he lived not far from **Saint George Preca** and knew him well. Pope John Paul II called him "Malta's second father in faith". St George Preca was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2007. The photo captures the wider Preca community and many of their local helpers.

THE END OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Traditionally, Catholics, take down the Christmas tree and remove the crib the day after Epiphany. The 12 days of Christmas end on Epiphany - the day that the three wise men came to pay homage to the child Jesus.

THE EPIPHANY



The *Adoration of the Magi* or *The Epiphany* is an oil painting by the Dutch artist **Hieronymus Bosch** around 1485. There is an early Eastern tradition that one of the wise men was from Africa. Hence the black figure. The Epiphany celebrates Jesus being manifested to the wider world. The Eastern Church also give the wise men names. **Melchior**, the eldest of the Magi, is kneeling at Mary's feet with his gift of gold (Jesus' kingship). **Caspar** stands behind. He brings frankincense (Jesus' Godhead). Finally, the last of the Magi, the dark-skinned **Balthazar**, wearing white garments brings a spherical pix with myrrh (a reference to Jesus' death & burial)

POPE FRANCIS' NEW YEAR MESSAGE



Pope Francis devoted his **New Year's Address to the Ambassadors** of the **184 countries** that have diplomatic

relations with the Holy See. to discussing the **pressing need for peace and an end to armed conflicts in today's world**. Of the 193 member states of the United Nations, 184 now have diplomatic relations with the Holy See. Among the notable absentees are the People's Republic of China, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan and North Korea.

Pope Francis mentioned the word "**peace**" **27 times** in the strongly worded, lengthy address, in which Francis again called for a ceasefire and an end to the wars in Gaza and in Ukraine. He said the wars are "indiscriminately striking the civilian population" and resulting in "**war crimes**."

F Francis told the ambassadors and their governments: "We must not forget that grave violations of international humanitarian law are **war crimes**, and that it is not sufficient to point them out, but also **necessary to prevent them**."

"We need to realize more clearly that civilian victims are not 'collateral damage' but men and women, with names and surnames, who lose their lives. They are children who are orphaned and deprived of their future. They are individuals who suffer from hunger, thirst and cold, or are mutilated as an effect of the power of modern explosives. Were we to be able to look each of them in the eye, call them by name, and learn something of their personal history, we would see war for what it is: nothing other than an immense tragedy, a 'useless slaughter,' one that offends the dignity of every person on this earth."

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH IN SOUTH AMERICA

According to information collected by **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)**, Nigeria was the country with the highest number of victims, with four priests killed

NICARAGUA

Bishop Rolando Álvarez.

Bishop **Rolando Álvarez** has been one of the most outspoken critics of the Ortega regime, and its crackdown on civil and religious liberties. In May 2022 he announced he was beginning a hunger strike to protest against police harassment.

On 10 February the government announced that Álvarez had been declared a traitor, stripped of his citizenship, and sentenced to **26 years in prison**. The Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union called on the government to release Álvarez. Pope Francis is among those calling on the Nicaraguan government to release Bishop Rolando Álvarez immediately and without conditions.

President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Rosario Murillo have unjustly incarcerated Bishop Rolando Álvarez for 500 days. During that time, Nicaraguan authorities kept Bishop Álvarez in isolation, blocked independent evaluation of the conditions of his imprisonment, and released photographs that only increase concerns about his well-being.

In addition to Bishop Álvarez, many religious leaders remain unjustly detained in Nicaragua, including fellow **Bishop Isidoro Mora** and several priests. The Ortega-Murillo regime continues to impose severe restrictions on religious communities and deny Nicaraguan citizens the ability to freely practice their



religions and express their beliefs.

Bishop Alvarez represents many held unjustly in prison. **Aung San Suu Kyi** (Myanmar Burma) Chairperson of the National League for Democracy. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, while still under house arrest, and hailed as "an outstanding example of the power of the powerless".

Russia: Since the invasion of Ukraine, nearly all of the Kremlin's critics have been jailed, killed or gone into exile. **Alexey Navalny** has been behind bars since January 2021 when he returned to Moscow after recuperating in Germany from nerve agent poisoning, which he blamed on the Kremlin. This month, his supporters reported they had lost contact with him. Recently, it emerged that he had been moved to a remote Arctic prison.

For I was hungry, and you gave me food: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and you welcomed me:

I was in prison, and you came unto me Matthew 25:36



By Fr. Pat Corbett, CSsR

PARISH OFFICE - will be opened again Monday 22nd January 2024.

FOODBANK:
It will reopen in February.
Please contact the
Parish Office 03 9366 1310

CHURCH CLEANING
Week starting 17th January 2024
Group 2 - Jenny, Jeff, Lily,
Shannon, Paul & Margaret.



**READERS/COMMENTATOR/
COORDINATOR/EUCHARISTIC
MINISTERS**

Tues 9:00 AM, 16-01-24

Reader Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen

Wed 9:00 AM, 17-01-24

Reader Carmen Camilleri
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Camilleri

Thurs 9:00 AM, 18-01-24

Reader: Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharistic Shirley Krizmanic

Fri 9:00 AM, 19-01-24

Reader Helen Maddela
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

Sat 6.00 PM, 20-01-24

Lit. Coordinator: Charlie Pace
Commentator: Anthony Naidu
Readers: Miriam Vella
Alaistair Surrao
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Camilleri
Josephine Cassar
Reno Attard

Sun 8.45 AM, 21-01-24

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

Sun 10:00AM, 21-01-24

Lit. Coordinator: Christine Pedroso
Commentator: Rita Martin
Reader: Joh Cablao
Susan Hallorina
Eucharistic Min. Br. Tony Gatt
Br. Noel Debono
Christine Pedroso

Sun 6.00PM, 21-01-24

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

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 20th January 2024

♦ 6.00pm – Tavalo Family

Sunday 21st January 2024

- ♦ 8.45am - Charlie Schembri
- ♦ 10.00am - Volunteer Choir
- ♦ 6.00pm - Angeline Veigas

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

Marlene Ferdinand, Pam Norris, Alfred & Pauline Storace, Arnord Fernandez, Toni Antonowicz, Anna, Maria Kim, Yulette Tanner, Stella Sandle, Frank, Doris Carabott.

Death Anniversaries

Marko Dorinko, Jan & Jovan Vala, Elizabet & Jan Danicek, Maria Lojdova, Zammit, Ivica Krizmanic, Nihal Ellawala, Ananda Wickrema, Maria Nguyen Thi Dao, Joseph Formosa, Hoang Family(Fanxico, Maria, Maria & Teresa) & Nguyen Family(Joseph, Anna & Maria), Nazareno & Josephine Spiteri, Antonio Mifsud, Philip Gauci, Joseph, Frank & John Xerri, Cornelio Maddela, Grazio (Horace) Camilleri, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Reno Cauchi, 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, Maria Tran Thi Huong, Mary Camilleri, Richard & Connie 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

A good Vocation prayer to say everyday, from the time we are ten years old till we are ninety years old, is found in today's first Scripture Reading: 'Speak, Lord for your servant is listening.' Just try it with sincerity starting today

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