



HOLY EUCHARIST PARISH

1A Oleander Drive, St Albans South 3021

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

9 & 10 MARCH 2024

REDEMPTORIST COMMUNITY

Parish Priest & Mission Leader

Fr Vincent Long Pham, CSsR

Assistants

Fr Joseph Xuan Hieu Nguyen, CSsR

Fr. Dominic Carrigan, CSsR

Fr. Robin Lomangkook, 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

Fr Stephen Battal

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ **Working Bee - 23/3/2024.**
We will be making palm leaves ready for Palm Sunday and candles for Easter Vigil, please come and join us from 9am onwards.
- ♦ **PARISH MULTICULTURAL DAY:** Come join the Multicultural Day with the Celebration of the Eucharist in multi languages at **10am Mass on the 24th March 2024.** We are many but we are ONE. All are welcome!

LENTEN PROGRAMME

STATION OF THE CROSS

During this Lenten Season we have Stations of the Cross every **Fridays at 8.30am** in the Church until the 22nd March 2024. This will replace Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays during the time of Lent.

Preca Community will organise Station of the Cross for children on the 22nd March at 7pm in the Church.

* Individual Confession

- ♦ Tuesday-Friday 9.30am

* Communal Reconciliation

English

- ♦ Wednesday 13th March 7.00pm

- ♦ Wednesday 20th March 7.00pm

Vietnamese

- ♦ Thursday 14th March 7.00pm

- ♦ Thursday 21st March 7.00pm

THE LIVING WORD

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

God's wrath and mercy are revealed in the exile and release of his people

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed eve-

rything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."' "

Responsorial Psalm Ps.136(137):1-6

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps.

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.'

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?

If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys!

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

You have been saved through grace

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation John 3:16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel John 3:14-21

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The gospel for today is the concluding section of Jesus' conversation with a Pharisee called Nicodemus who comes to him "by night". It features a number of typically Johannine themes: life, eternal life, believing, seeing, God's love, salvation, judgment, light, darkness, the world, truth. John loves to play on words. Without losing sight of the material reality underlying each image, we need to keep asking:

how is this word or expression to be understood in this particular context? In John's gospel, the characters often misunderstand and this gives Jesus the opportunity to lead his hearers to a deeper or different understanding of his words.

As 21st century readers, we operate out of a symbol system that belongs in a different time and a different place. Hence the need to explore the traditions informing the stories. The first two verses of today's reading evoke the ancient Israelite tradition of the bronze serpent (Numbers 21:5-9). According to the story, the Israelites are unhappy with their lot in the desert. They complain about the food or lack thereof. They blame both God and Moses. Their situation worsens with the outbreak of a plague of poisonous snakes whose bite has killed a considerable number of them. The people interpret the plague as punishment for their sin of speaking against God. They ask Moses to intercede with God. God instructs Moses to make an image of a fiery serpent and set it on a pole: anyone affected by snakebite has only to look upon the image to find life and healing. And so it happens: the bronze serpent is lifted up and those who "see" or "look upon it" find life.

Life and death, seeing and believing in God's love and mercy are at the heart of the story of the bronze serpent. The gospel writer taps into the collective memory of the emerging Christian community: just as the serpent was lifted up and the people found life, so will Jesus be lifted up and those who believe in him will find life. In John's gospel, seeing is often equated with believing and believing leads to "life".

The bottom line is God's saving love for "the world", for the whole Earth community, human and other-than-human. Most of the themes in this passage have already been introduced in the prologue to the gospel. Here for the first time in the gospel, God's saving activity is expressed in terms of "love". God's love is explicitly related to the gift of Jesus, God's Son, for the salvation of the world. Salvation resides in acceptance of Jesus while judgment is the refusal to accept Jesus as the revelation of God. Later in this gospel (12:33), Jesus will again reference the bronze serpent story in an expansive embrace of all creation: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself."

By Veronica Lawson RSM

ANTHONY KELLY, C.S.S.R. - OBITUARY

With profound sorrow, we announce the passing of Father Anthony J. Kelly CSsR, a distinguished theologian and revered Redemptorist priest. Father Kelly, affectionately known as Tony, leaves behind a legacy of scholarly excellence, spiritual guidance, and profound



influence on Australian and international theological discourse. In February 2004, Tony Kelly was appointed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the International Theological Commission.

Among Tony's many writing is his **Way of the Cross**. We print here Tony's prayer:

Holy God, Loving and Merciful One, we come to you in the darkness of our world. The weight of our cares and responsibilities, of our struggle and longings, lies heavy upon us. Yet in our hope we know our paths lead to you, that your Holy Spirit is within us, and that Jesus has gone before us as our Way, Because he bore the Cross of all the world, we gather now to follow, to receive from him the peace the world cannot give, the joy that no one can take from us and the energies of new life

Funeral Notice: St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne, on Wednesday 13 March, commencing at 10:30 am.

FUNERAL OF ALEXEI NAVALNY

Australia's ambassador to Russia, **Mr John Geering** joined a large crowd at the funeral of opposition

leader Alexei Navalny in Moscow on Friday. He said when he and the other Western diplomats attempted to enter the church, police stopped them.

The church is famous for the Icon of Mary,

Soothe My Sorrows. It is one of the many Icon of the Passion and resembled the Icon of our Mother of Perpetual help here in our Church. The Ambassador later released a statement saying he had been "profoundly impacted and moved by the depth of grief shown by many thousands today at the funeral of Alexei Navalny. Those remembering his legacy at the funeral carry on his hopes for a better Russia. Australia and the world shares your grief and your hopes".



Navalny's mother hold a candle- the light of hope! In his hands hand in the coffin was a small Icon of Mary. May he rest in peace.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

Bishop Jo Bailey Wells, Sister Giuliva Di Beradino, Pope Francis, Sister Linda Pocher,



An Anglican woman bishop Jo Bailey Wells, deputy secretary-general of the Anglican Communion, addressed Pope Francis and his **advisory Council of Cardinals**. Bishop Wells has taught at Duke University and Cambridge. She believes the Pope took a "risk" in extending her an invitation to speak to the group and hopes that the Catholic Church will continue to explore women's leadership with 'courage.'

Bishop Jo said, "Many have suggested this was an historic moment. Certainly, I was honoured to be invited to describe the Anglican journey in regard to the ordination of women, both in the Church of England and across the Communion. There was deep engagement and some good discussion... I hope and pray it will serve to enable more women to explore and fulfil the calling God gives to each one of us."

Ramadan, observed by nearly **1.8 billion Muslims worldwide**, is a sacred month in the Islamic calendar dedicated to **fasting, prayer, and reflection**. It's a time when believers draw closer to God, practice self-discipline, and engage in acts of charity.

Ramadan closely resembles our **40 days of Lent**; however, their fasting is far more strict! Fasting during Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. It was ordered in the Qur'an and is expected that all able Muslims should fast from sunrise to sunset.. During this time, fasting is more than just abstinence; it is a means of worship and for Muslims to feel a closer and more profound connection with God. Fasting allows each individual to understand what it means to go without and to learn patience with oneself and those around them, as well as compassion for those less fortunate.



Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth

Just before the start of Ramadan, a new document has been published in Arabic and in English: 'Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth'. A very exciting development! A document written by Islamic scholars that covers many of the same issues covered by Pope Francis in 'Laudato Si'. on caring for our common home - planet earth.

Al-Mizan is a historical document that represents the collective voice of the Islamic community on environmental issues. It calls on all Muslims to embrace sustainability in their daily lives and work together to protect our common home. "Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth," aims to demonstrate how Islam can be a driving force for sustainable development and environmental care. Al-Mizan also highlights the importance of culture and religion in driving behavioural change, along with scientific, technical and political solutions.

By Fr. Pat Corbett, CSsR

PILGRIMAGE to SHRINES OF OUR LADY

Led by
Fr Richard Rosse,
the Parish Priest
of St Catherine
of Siena Catholic
Church
Caroline Springs.
Tel 8361 9822



Portugal, Spain, France, Italy
Fatima, Avila, Lourdes, Avignon,
Siena, Assisi, Rome

**DATES: 21st May – 3rd June,
2024. Fully inclusive \$8,190**

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Your Thanksgiving Envelopes are now ready. Please collect your box of envelopes from the Church Foyer; they are sorted in alphabetical order by your street address.
Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING

Week starting 13th March 2024
Group 10 - Ed & Joh Cablao & family, Jinky Monteros & family

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

Tues 9:00 AM, 12-03-24

Reader Xuan Duong
Eucharistic Min. Monica Lomen

Wed 9:00 AM, 13-03-24

Reader Carmen Camilleri
Eucharistic Min. Carmen Camilleri

Thurs 9:00 AM, 14-03-24

Reader: Shirley Krizmanic
Eucharistic Shirley Krizmanic

Fri 9:00 AM, 15-03-24

Reader Helen Maddela
Eucharistic Min. Catherine Bartolo

Sat 6.00 PM, 16-03-24

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

Sun 8.45 AM, 17-03-24

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

Sun 10:00AM, 17-03-24

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

Sun 6.00PM, 17-03-24

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

CHOIR GROUPS

Saturday 16th March 2024

♦ 6.00pm – Tavalo Family

Sunday 17th March 2024

♦ 8.45am - Charlie Schembri
♦ 10.00am - DeSouza Family
♦ 6.00pm - Angeline Veigas

LET US PRAY FOR

The Sick

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

Recently Deceased

Joseph Buan Minh Ho, Dianne Hubbard

Death Anniversaries

Josip Listar, Joseph Formosa, Grazio (Horace) Camilleri, Maria Nguyen Thi Dao, Hoang Family(Fanxico, Maria, Maria & Teresa) & Nguyen Family (Joseph, Anna & Maria), Nazareno & Josephine Spiteri, Antonio Mifsud, Philip Gauci, Joseph, Frank & John Xerri, Cornelio Maddela, Joseph & Franc Xiberras, Reno Cauchi, Macco 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

When we are 'born again' in baptism, we really become a new creation, fired with a new love, and aimed in a new direction - heaven. Let Jesus talk with you. Let Jesus challenge you

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