

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A 27-28 JUNE 2020

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

Secretaries: Millicent (Tuesday: 9am-4pm, Friday: 1pm-5pm),

Corrie (Wednesday-Thursday: 9am - 3pm)



LORD
EMPTY ME OF ME,
SO I CAN BE FILLED
WITH YOU.

HE SAID WHAT

Have you ever noticed the number of flat-out contradictions in scripture? For example,

- the last shall be first;
- lose your life to find it;
- take the lowest seat if you want to have the highest;
- the Son of Man came to serve, not to be served;
- a virgin will conceive; and,
- if you are an old woman with an old husband, you will have a child, and so on.

To begin with, if we want to be first, we would have to get to the front of the line, not the end of it. And, if we want to be alive, we must make some moves not to lose our lives. These are common sense.

Instead, this Sunday's readings are introducing us, gently and partially, to ways in which such common sense opinions do not go deep enough.

In the First Reading a distinguished lady in the little village of Schunem shows great hospitality to the prophet Elisha, even to the point of building and furnishing a little room on the roof of her house with a bed, table, chair, and lamp for him for whenever he visits. She is childless, yet Elisha promises that in one year she will be fondling her own baby son. She is shocked. But the promise comes true.

Then, when the boy becomes a young man, he suddenly dies (2 Kings 4:18-37). Elisha comes from twenty miles away and brings him back to life.

Life is given twice where there was no hope of life; death triumphing but life restored. Contradictory. Is this the way of the Lord?

Then in the Second Reading, St. Paul writes to the Church in Rome that they are baptized into Christ's death and are buried with him!

A grim statement. But then he says, if we die with Christ, we shall also live with him, shall live a life in God (Second Reading).

Die in order to live?

In the Gospel Jesus makes a most enigmatic statement: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

No matter how we try to explain that statement away and neuter its content, it still means what it says. Losing your life is the only way to possess it. Letting go is the only way to hold on. How can such contrary claims simultaneously be true?

I want to suggest a metaphor. A glass has to start out empty in order to succeed as a glass. If it is sealed up, or if it is solid, or if it is already full, nothing can be poured in.

Does this sound like one more contradiction? No. A container has to be empty if it is to be filled.

The same goes for us. We have to be empty, like earthen vessels, so that God can pour life and love into us. This is the source of all the "contradictions" in the Gospels and certainly in the readings this Sunday.

We have to empty out if we are to be filled up with God's gifts.

Fr. John Foley, SJ, is a composer and scholar at Saint Louis University. Copyright © 2020, John B. Foley, SJ All rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce for personal or parish use.



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*My Jesus, I believe that You are truly present
in the Holy Eucharist.*

*I love You above all things, and I desire to
receive You into my soul.*

*Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at
least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace You as if You are already here and unite
myself wholly to You.*

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

*Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Most Divine,
All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine. (say 3x)*

PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

St Joseph, You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at this time of trial. You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need. You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love. You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day. You spent your life in service: may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days. You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, Thy will be done. Amen.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

“...whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:38)

Pope Benedict XVI said, “The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness.” “Comfort” puts me first. “Picking up your cross and following Jesus” puts God and others first. Why settle for comfort when you can achieve greatness! Pick up your cross, ask Jesus for guidance on using your gifts and live the life God intended for you!



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL 27-28 JUNE 2020

You Can Help End The Pain Of Poverty

This bulletin note is to again seek your support for the St Vincent de Paul Society's 'Winter Appeal'.

As you know, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, being present in the community to assist people experiencing poverty and disadvantage is more important now than ever.

This year, because there are fewer parishioners able to attend Mass, we have adapted our Winter Appeal so that donations can be made by calling 13 18 12 or online at www.vinnies.org.au. Donors can direct their gift to our Conference by entering 'Forest Hill' in the comments field. Also, there will be some envelopes available in the church foyer for cheque and credit card donations.

We are also appealing for non-perishable goods including foods and toiletries, suitable clothing, blankets, doonas etc and these items can be left at the Piety Stall.

All donations received are used for the local needs of the St. Timothy's (Forest Hill) Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society.

We thank you again for your generous support.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY FATHER PETER'S PENCE

We will have a 3rd collection for the Holy Father on all Masses this weekend.



Thank you for using St Timothy's Parish Thanksgiving Online Payment Portal and for your continuing support to our parish. Our site link is

Parish Pay Portal

<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=116521&langPref=en-CA>

Alternatively, you may opt to use the direct/debit facility, kindly email or call us for the Parish bank details.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Kevin Coffey, Melita Azzopardi,
Ethell Donohoe, Tanya Egberts-Tobin,
Veronica Carroll, Angelo Viola,
Nellie Lissenden, Lillian Wills,
Margaret Bradley, Klaus Clahsen,
Michael Kelly, Madeleine Bradley,
Giovanna Pinzone, Joseph Pinzone,
Doreen MacDonald, Anna Koay,
Giuseppe Muscatello, Rose Curmi,
Caterina Cannestra.

NEXT WEEK: 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10;
- Second Reading: Romans 8:9,11-13;
- Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30



LATEST UPDATE ON COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

In relation to the latest directives announced by Government (Saturday 20 June 2020), there are to be no further changes put in place across Victoria for places of worship, with numbers remaining the same until 12 July 2020, or as otherwise directed.

As of 22 June 2020, the following directives are given for places of worship, ceremonies and Prayer Groups:
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/religion-and-ceremony-restrictions-covid-19#>

- Places of worship can open for private worship or small religious ceremonies for up to **20 people** in a single undivided indoor space, subject to the four square metre rule plus the minimum number of people reasonably required to perform the service or ceremony.
- Contact details are to still be obtained if visits extend beyond 15 minutes, and must be retained for 28 days.
- There are no changes to numbers for Weddings (20), Baptisms (20), or Funerals (50) held in places of worship.
- Up to ten (10) people can gather for a Prayer Group if it is held in a place of worship or another public space. A prayer group can meet if it is held in someone's home as long as there are no more than five visitors in addition to the normal residents of the household.
- At all times consideration must be given to: NUMBERS - DENSITY - HYGIENE

St Timothy's will still continue with the Mass booking via [signupgenius.com \(https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A49A4AE2CA2F85-sttimothy\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A49A4AE2CA2F85-sttimothy)



PROPOSED CHANGE IN MASS TIME

In relation to the proposed change in the Sunday Mass time from 9:30AM to 9:00AM, those who have not yet registered their preference will still have until 30 June to do so. Please know that your opinion counts in this important decision for our Parish Community.



MORNING TEA WITH FR TONY ON ZOOM EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:10AM

Meeting ID: 288 646 3871 -
<https://zoom.us/j/2886463871>

Fr Tony continues to be present for chats, updates, counselling, queries and even prayer requests. You can contact him at tony.kerin@cam.org.au or call **9401 6371**.

Fr Tony's Mass live streaming and replay at

Catholic-Parish-of Greater-Box Hill

(root: <https://www.facebook.com/Catholic-Parish-of-Greater-Box-Hill-345491692726741/>)

St Timothy's Vietnamese Sunday Mass at 5 pm

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Timothy-Vietnamese-Community>

ROSTERS:	6:00PM	9:30AM
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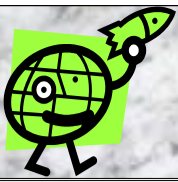
PROCLAIMERS

◆ This Week C:	H. Lobo	A. Lee
P:	P. Kelly	K. Barritt
◆ Next week C:	H. Lobo	T. Fernandes
P:	R. Grealy	R. Yee

COUNTERS

This Week: Peter Deayton / Lester Steele

Next Week: Adrian Farrell



FRANCIS GIVES VIRGIN MARY THREE NEW TITLES

Pope Francis has given the Virgin Mary three new titles that will be added to the Church's traditional "Litany of Mary", the Vatican has announced. The new titles are "Mother of Mercy", "Mother of Hope" and "Comfort of Migrants".

In letter dated June 20, Guinean Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, announced the titles would be added to the Litany of Mary, called the "Litany of Loreto", which is usually recited during the Rosary or on major Catholic feasts.

Addressed to the presidents of all bishops' conferences worldwide, the letter said the move comes at the express wish of Pope Francis.

The first new title is to be placed after "Mother of the Church", the second after "Mother of Divine Grace", while the third will go after Mary's designation as "Refuge of Sinners."

In the letter, Cardinal Sarah said "the Church which walks along the pathways of history as a pilgrim towards the heavenly Jerusalem and enjoys inseparable communion with Christ her Spouse and Saviour, entrusts herself to her who believed in the word of the Lord".

"We know from the Gospel that the disciples of Jesus had in fact learned from the very beginning to praise her as 'blessed amongst women' and to count on her maternal intercession," he said, insisting that the numerous titles given to Mary throughout history are a "privileged and sure way to an encounter with Christ."

ARCHBISHOP PETER JOINS VINNIES CEO SLEEPOUT

The Vinnies CEO Sleepout is a one-night event over one of the longest and coldest nights of the year (Thursday 18 June). Hundreds of CEOs, business owners as well as community and government leaders sleep outdoors to raise funds and support the many Australians who are experiencing homelessness and people at risk of homelessness.

Last year, the Vinnies CEO Sleepout raised \$7.9 million for people experiencing homelessness and people at risk of homelessness. Now in its 15th year, the restrictions caused by COVID-19 have meant the event has had to move to a more interactive, online format. Participants have been asked to nominate an alternate sleeping option (their couch, backyard or car) and will share the experience through an interactive live stream program, logging in with others all around the country.

Participating in his first Vinnies CEO Sleepout, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli is sleeping out in his car to help raise awareness and funds for the important cause. "It's a little bit of discomfort for a good bit of awareness," he said.

Ellen Holmes has already contributed to the Archbishop's fundraising effort and says, "I love the Vinnies CEO sleepout for raising awareness and money to fight homelessness. It's awesome that the Archbishop of Melbourne is sleeping out - hope it's not too late to spread the word - I'm sure you could raise lots of money and really make people think Peter!"

POPE: WE MUST PROTECT REFUGEES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Pope Francis says the coronavirus pandemic has heightened awareness regarding the need to protect refugees and migrants and to care for the environment.

Addressing pilgrims in St Peter's Square after the recitation of the Angelus prayer, the Pope appealed for respect and care for displaced persons recalling that on Saturday the United Nations celebrated World Refugee Day.

He invited all believers to join him in praying "for a renewed and effective commitment, on the part of us all, to the effective protection of every human being, especially those who have been forced to flee as a result of situations of grave danger to them or their families".

The Pope's appeal comes as statistics show there are almost 80 million displaced persons across the globe, the highest number ever recorded.

He went on to note that "another aspect on which the pandemic has made us reflect is the relationship between man and the environment".

"The lockdown has reduced pollution and revealed once more the beauty of so many places free from traffic and noise," he said, inviting people to resume activities with a heightened awareness and responsibility in looking after "our common home".

EMBRACE LIFE'S GIVEN AND FIND HOPE

In the face of searing unfairness, we embrace the painful realities of life by digging deeper for hope, writes Sr Patty Fawcner SGS. Source: The Good Oil.

Nothing is certain in life except death and taxes, so Benjamin Franklin told us more than 200 years ago. This holds true, but there are other certainties in life, certainties which everyone in the world has become more acutely aware of during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some of life's certainties are explored in a book by psychotherapist David Richo, *The Five Things We Cannot Change ... and the Happiness We Find by Embracing Them*. The certainties, or "givens", are:

Everything changes and ends,

Things do not always go according to plan,

Life is not always fair,

Pain is a part of life, and

People are not loving and loyal all the time.

Our ongoing experience with the pandemic reinforces the notion that everything has changed, with our wiser self telling us that we won't be returning to life as we knew it. Plans we had made have quickly crumbled, challenging the myth that we are in control of our destiny.

Despite government measures that were put in place to contain the spread of the coronavirus and save jobs, not everything has been fair. People caught out breaking the social distancing laws. People who are ineligible for the Federal Government's JobKeeper scheme.

Richo's five givens are real, they are part and parcel of everyone's life, not only in a time of pandemic. In a crisis, all five givens can be experienced simultaneously with excruciating intensity.

In the face of searing unfairness and injustice, we set ourselves up for misery and frustration if our response is merely to rail, rant or hunt for a scapegoat.

We embrace injustice by working for justice. We embrace the painful realities of life by digging deeper for hope.

INTRODUCTION:

The demands and rewards of discipleship. The cost of discipleship cuts right to the core of our beings—there is no real growth in the Spirit if self-interest prevails. As Christ's disciples we can not put ourselves first. We must be willing to spend ourselves and to be spent, to serve others in the daily unfolding of life. God promises that if we lose our lives in this way, we will really gain them. If we are unselfish in the way we share ourselves with others, we will be enriched through our generosity. We will be filled with blessings unimaginable.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, if we have died with you, we live with you.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you call us to discipleship.

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are our eternal reward.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

FIRST READING: *2Kings 4:8-11, 14-16*

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said, 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

Response: Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)

3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

SECOND READING: *Rom 6: 3-4, 8-11*

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL : *Mt 10: 37-42*

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

'Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

'Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

'If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'