

## ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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## 23RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

07-08 SEPTEMBER 2019

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

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

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

### DISCIPLESHIP



How many of you felt a little uneasy as you listened to today's Gospel? I would hope that most of us were a little uneasy as we heard Jesus' challenging words to anyone who chooses to follow him as a disciple.

From the very beginning, Jesus tells us that he is not offering us an easy way of life. He is asking us to be like him - focused on doing the will of the Father no matter the cost. We know that this focus took him away from his family, cost him the lack of material comforts, and eventually brought him to the cross. If we choose to follow him and focus our lives on doing the Father's will, then we too may have to make choices in our relationships.

We may have to renounce some material comforts, and certainly we will have to carry our own crosses in this life. Jesus is telling us that we must sit down and calculate our willingness to make these choices and our courage to follow them through.

It's very easy to listen only to the challenge in Jesus' words, and forget that he spoke them out of love for us and for his Father. He has told us often that he will never ask us to do anything on our own. He will always be with us and provide the grace we will need to meet the challenges. Any challenge will be only a bump on our road to eternal union with God.

That is why we heard Solomon's prayer for wisdom in today's first reading. His prayer must become ours. The Holy Spirit gifts us with wisdom that will enable us to see the events of life from God's perspective. Wisdom enables us to trust that everything that happens to us is in some way part of God's plan for our salvation. He will give us whatever we need to be faithful.

We pray this morning and every morning for the wisdom and the courage we need to answer Jesus' challenging call to discipleship. May we learn to depend on grace for the strength we need to live out our response.

SOURCE: <https://www.oblates.org/sundays-salesian-feed>

### THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world.

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace.

At the human, biological level Mary is our precious link to the incarnate Son of God, Jesus Christ, whose birth some 2000 years ago we recall at Christmas. Mary leads us uniquely and constantly to Christ's incarnation, his taking on of flesh and blood. We look with Mary at Jesus and with Jesus at Mary, so as to understand the union of God with humanity and, by grace, to begin to share in what it means, to begin to become saints.

Each time we celebrate Mary's birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

SOURCE: [Franciscanmedia.org](http://Franciscanmedia.org)

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

**“EVERYONE OF YOU WHO DOES NOT RENOUNCE HIS POSSESSIONS CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.” LUKE 14:33**

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

### GREAT DATE NIGHT 2019

FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER, 7-9PM

OAKS ON MARKET, 60 MARKET STREET, MELBOURNE

Enjoy a night of fine food and fellowship at the Great Date Night, with international guest presenter Fr Leo Patalinghug. Drawing from his experience of working with couples for marriage preparation and his penchant for creating culinary masterpieces, Fr Leo will offer a fresh message to couples filled with inspiration, hope and God's love.

Cost: \$70 per person

Enquiries: the Life, Marriage & Family Office on 9287 5587 or [lmf@cam.org.au](mailto:lmf@cam.org.au)

Registrations: by Thursday 12 September at [www.trybooking.com/BDVVJ](http://www.trybooking.com/BDVVJ)

**ROSTERS:** 6:00PM 9:30AM

#### EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

◆ This Week	S. Chen H. Greal Sr June	D. Hickman E. Mendes A. Yee
◆ Next week	C. Buchan M. Italiano S. Samarasundera	E. Mendes C. L. Tay A. Benedict

#### PROCLAIMERS

◆ This Week	C: P. D' Cruz P: R. Greal	B. Ross T. Yee
◆ Next week	C: H. Lobo P: P. Kelly	T. Fernandes T. Yee

#### COUNTERS

This Week: Terry Drew / Patrick Kelly  
Next Week: Peggy D' Cruz / Kenneth D' Cruz



### MERCY PILGRIMAGE WITH OBERAMMERGAU

Explore the iconic pilgrimage sites of Eastern Europe in this 16-day pilgrimage led by Fr. Patrick Jackson. Witness the famous Passion Play 2020 which takes place once-a-

decade. For inquiries & bookings call **03 8839 6615** or email [info@magiholidays.com.au](mailto:info@magiholidays.com.au)



We would like to thank everyone for your generosity in responding to last week's Father's Day Sunday Appeal.

### CAPUCHIN VOCATIONS INFO NIGHT

Friday 20th September 6:30pm

The Hermit's Retreat, St Anthony's, 180 Power Street, Hawthorn

The Capuchins invite young men (18-35yrs) for an information evening to find out more about the vocations to religious life and priesthood, to hear about the Capuchins, and to answer any questions.

Cost: Free.

Dinner provided. **RSVP to Father Thomas:** [vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au](mailto:vocations@capuchinfriars.org.au) or 0432 362 052. **More info:** <https://www.capuchin.org.au/event/melb-vocn-info-night/>

### MGL SISTERS CONSECRATED LIFE WEEKEND

Saturday 14 to Sunday 15 September

Sisters' House, 6 Dunstan Street, North Balwyn

How can you discover what God is calling you to? What are you on fire for? What do Sisters really do anyway? The MGL Sisters invite young women to come to a consecrated life weekend to discern your vocation and explore these questions.

Enquiries: 0478 627 056 or [melanieedwards77@gmail.com](mailto:melanieedwards77@gmail.com)



A parishioner is seeking to rent 3-4 bedroom house within the Parish area. If you know one, please contact

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Henry Gleeson, Michael William White, Eileen Leach, Carmel Curmi, Angelito Pelayo, Catherin Cribbin, Margaret Cook, Eileen Blanchfield, Patti Costello, Patricia O' Connor, Rolly Jones, Annie Calleja, Erlinda Abadilla, Charles Greal.

### SACRAMENTS: Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement

- ◆ **Baptism:** 1st Sunday of the Month (9:30 AM Mass )
- ◆ **Reconciliation**
- ◆ **Marriage**
- ◆ **Anointing of the Sick**
- ◆ **Funerals**



### 2019 FIRST EUCHARIST, RECONCILIATION & CONFIRMATION

- ◆ For children attending St. Timothy's school, preparation for these three sacraments is through the school.
- ◆ For children not attending St. Timothy's school, preparation and enrollment is through the Parish Office every Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday: 1:00 to 5:00 PM

### MASS TIMES:

- ◆ Saturday: 6:00 PM
  - ◆ Sunday: 9:30 AM
  - ◆ Indian Mass: 12:00 NN every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
  - ◆ Mass in Vietnamese : 5:00 PM (All Sundays)
  - ◆ Adoration 7:30 PM every 1st Friday of the month
- VIETNAMESE ENQUIRIES: AHN LOC 0434 239 212 or ANH TOAN 0422 295 115.

### WEEKDAYS:

- ◆ 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:30am (Strathdon)
- ◆ 4th Tuesday of the month, 10:30 am (Livingstone)
- ◆ Wednesday & Thursday, 9:15 am
- ◆ 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am, Anointing Mass
- ◆ Every Friday, 10:00 am



## **VOLUNTARY EUTHANASIA IS NOT OUR WAY, SAY ELDERS**

Church leaders and community elders have warned that remote Indigenous communities are bitterly opposed to voluntary euthanasia and its introduction would undermine trust in the health system.

The concern is the sleeper issue in Western Australia and Queensland in the intensifying debate over the expansion of assisted dying law from Victoria to states with big Aboriginal and islander populations.

Rose Elu, an elder in Brisbane's Torres Strait Islander community and an Anglican, said she recognised the compassionate argument for easing the suffering of dying people, but the taking of human life would offend the deep sense of spirituality and Christian faith permeating remote Indigenous communities, whatever the circumstances.

Australian Conference of Catholic Bishops president Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane Phillip Aspinall say that euthanasia legislation before the West Australian parliament and moves to introduce a law in Queensland send "mixed messages" when Indigenous suicide rates are soaring. Victoria's right-to-die law came into effect only eight weeks ago. The Anglican bishop of North Queensland, Keith Joseph, said voluntary euthanasia could rebound on healthcare providers.

## **AUSTRALIA TO JOIN GLOBAL ROSARY INITIATIVE**

Australians are invited to take part in a global Rosary next month, praying for protection of this country and its people, priests and religious, sanctity of life and marriage. The consecration of Australia to the Immaculate Heart Of Mary and for the nation to live out its calling as the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit are also included in the prayer intentions.

With the focus being the Eucharist and Rosary, coordinators are being asked to work with their parishes and priest for this event to organise eucharistic processions, Adoration, and Rosary recitation.

The worldwide Global Rosary on October 13 will pray for world peace and reparation for the world, as well as each country's specific intentions. Australia's participation is under the spiritual guidance of Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus David Cremin.

The Global Rosary movement began in 2017, when Poland's bishops gathered to re-consecrate their country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This initiative resulted in more than two million faithful accompanying their priests and bishops to the borders of the country to pray the Rosary for its protection.

## **DOCTORS, CHURCH LEADERS WARN OF 'DEATH CREEP'**

Doctors and faith leaders have sounded the alarm on the "creeping" expansion of voluntary euthanasia, warning that safeguards in the Victorian law have been stripped out of proposed legislation in other states.

"There is serious concern about this slippage," the chair of the Australian Medical Association's ethics and medico-legal committee, Chris Moye, told The Weekend Australian, voicing concerns about the West Australian legislation, while further changes are being proposed in Queensland. Dr Moye warned that protections in the Victorian law had been cut from the WA bill, which also allows doctors to raise a discussion of euthanasia.

"A lot of this (change) was happening even before the Victorian law, which is only two months old, has actually been tested," Dr Moye said. "At this point, we haven't seen how assisted dying works in Victoria and yet the slippage is happening across these various jurisdictions.

In Victoria, euthanasia eligibility is restricted to dying adults assessed as having fewer than six months to 12 months to live. Doctors are not allowed to raise the option of assisted death with eligible patients. The proposed WA law reverses this, allowing doctors to instigate a euthanasia discussion.

## **A SYNOD IS NOT A PARLIAMENT: POPE**

Before a synod, bishops must learn what their people want and think and need, not so they can change Church teaching, but so they can preach the Gospel more effectively, Pope Francis said this week. Source: CNS.

The Pope discussed synodality with 47 bishops of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Australia, the United States and Canada.

Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, told Francis that "every bishop made his journey to Rome carrying with him the sufferings and hopes of the people of God entrusted to our pastoral care."

The bishops, he said, want to be synodal – walking together with their people – "not only during our sessions but also when we return to our communities. Because, in fact, one cannot walk while seated!"

Speaking to the bishops, Francis focused on Archbishop Shevchuk's remarks and on how the Eastern like the Orthodox churches, have a longer and uninterrupted history of decisions flowing from bishops' synods.

"There is a danger," the Pope said, which is "thinking today that making a synodal journey or having an attitude of 'synodality' means investigating opinions – what does this one and that one think – and then having a meeting to make an agreement. No! The synod is not a parliament!"

While synod members must discuss matters and offer their opinions, he said, the purpose is not "to come to an agreement like in politics: 'I'll give you this, you give me that.'" Bishops must know what their lay faithful, priests and religious think, Francis said, but it's not a survey or a vote on what should change.

"If the Holy Spirit is not present, there is no synod," he said. "If the Holy Spirit is not present, there is no Church. Synods are not for deal-making, but for listening to Spirit."

## **SUPPORTING PARENTS TO SUPPORT THEIR KIDS**

The message of this year's National Child Protection Week, which concludes on Saturday, is "kids do well when parents are supported". Source: Catholic Voice.

Camilla Rowland, of Canberra-Goulburn family support service, said more parents were seeking support because of increased family separation. Other factors were mental health issues, disability and financial pressures.

"Family functioning improves when parents are supported with education and when they are supported with therapeutic interventions, particularly those families who are vulnerable," Ms Rowland said.

Daryl Higgins, director of the Australian Catholic University's Institute of Child Protection, said that "What is often missing in our suite of services is broad support for all families. Rather than wait until a crisis occurs, service providers should support families to "get out in front of issues and address them before they become a crisis."

## **INTRODUCTION TO MASS:**

Put Jesus first. It is somewhat shocking to hear Jesus say, 'whoever comes to me without hating (family members) cannot be my disciple.' Jesus is using hyperbole to stress that we must give first place to following him. If that puts us in conflict with our family, we must choose Jesus. Thankfully most of us don't face such a conflict. We can rejoice in God and in family, as Paul does in today's Second Reading.

## **PENITENTIAL RITE:**

Lord Jesus, your Spirit teaches us wisdom.

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

Lord Jesus, you ask us to take up the cross and follow you.

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

Lord Jesus, you call us into radical discipleship.

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

## **FIRST READING:** *Wisdom 9:13-18*

The wisdom tradition from which the first reading is taken is rooted in the fact that life is a series of choices. It is hard enough to 'guess what is in our grasps' let alone 'the things of heaven.' God's gift in the form of Wisdom is our friendly companion that God sends to us for guidance.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM :**

***Response: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.***

1. To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. (R.)
2. You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. (R.)
3. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. (R.)
4. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

## **SECOND READING:** *Phil 9-10, 12-17*

Slavery was an important part of the social infrastructure of the Roman Empire – nothing would make the Christian community stand out more than if they liberated their slaves. Paul asks Philemon to accept Onesimus a former a slave as a beloved brother.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

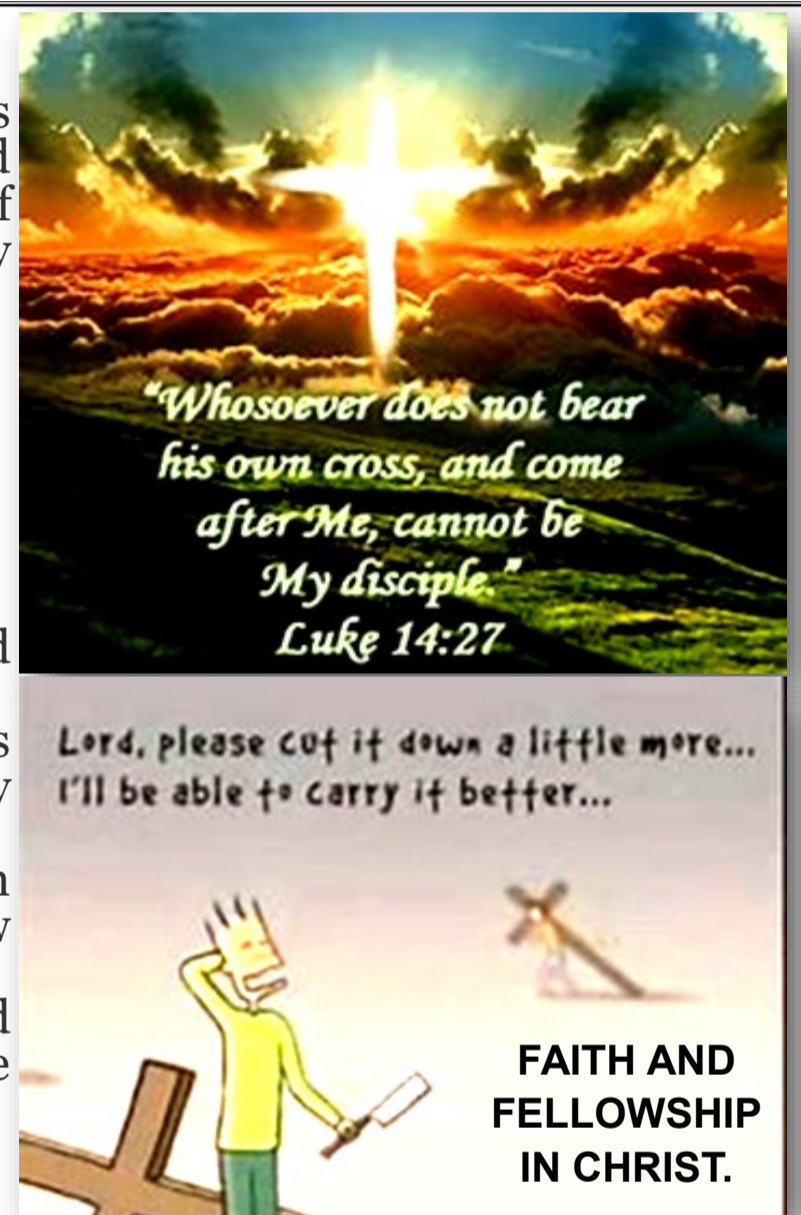
***Alleluia! alleluia!***

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

***Alleluia!***

## **GOSPEL :** *Luke 14: 25-33*

Jesus' teaching and miracles have been attracting crowds of would-be followers. Today's Gospel challenges these followers to realise that discipleship has a cost. Jesus speaks of the utter commitment needed to be a disciple.



**NEXT WEEK: 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*First Reading: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14 ; Second Reading: Timothy 1: 12-17 ; Gospel: Luke 15: 1-32*