

## ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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## 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

19 –20 OCTOBER 2019

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

Secretaries: Millicent (Tues: 9am-4pm, Fri: 1pm-5pm)

Corrie (Wed-Thurs, 9am - 3pm)



## PRAYING

Many years ago I remember hearing the story of a charismatic prayer meeting which went all night. The leader was convinced that, 'God wants to do a strong and powerful work here tonight and we have to show we are worthy.' So he insisted that everyone stay until it happened. By dawn nothing had overtly occurred, so the leader declared, 'God has worked hundreds of miracles here tonight - on the inside.' He may have been right, but it sounded like mystical spin doctoring to me! What worries me about his story is that it can portray God as a remote and severe figure whom we need to convince that we are serious about him before he will be moved by our plight.

Today's Gospel is often used to support this idea. The persistent widow gets her way because she nags the judge into submission. While Jesus praises her endurance, he tells the disciples that God is NOT like the judge, but rather that God will quickly attend to our needs, rather than see us cry out all night.

There is a long and venerable tradition in the Church that prayer can influence God's will. Our belief in the power of intercession is predicated on it. This tradition holds that God regularly and actively intervenes to effect good outcomes in the world. In this school God is waiting to be asked or have us ask others to petition him.

The problem with this school is how much an all-knowing, unchanging God changes his mind in regard to our petitions. Furthermore God's interventions in the world are fine if all the decisions are running our way, but what happens when they run against us?

This approach can downplay free will. It can minimize our role, with God, to discern our options and choose carefully. If most of our petitions are focused on what God can do, it shifts all the responsibility (and the blame) on to God.

An equally long and venerable tradition in the Church, however, is that prayer changes us. This tradition has had less airplay. Fasting, abstinence and pilgrimages, for example, do not change God, but are meant to change the person who undertakes them. These things can enable us to be more receptive to whatever happens in life. I think this tradition needs to be reclaimed.

The idea of prayer changing us, changes our prayer - giving it greater dynamism and urgency. While we may not know the mind or will of God, we often know our own thoughts and desires. We can usually pinpoint what needs reshaping in us so that we may live out the goodness and love of God more clearly. Confronting and converting these obstacles, with God, can see our prayer at its boldest and bravest. At these times we can enjoy God's healing and forgiveness. And because conversion is a lifetime process, Jesus encourages us not to lose heart but to pray always and hold on to faith even when the going gets tough.

John Powell once said, 'God knows what we want and need before we open our mouths. In prayer, then, he does not need a performance from us. He longs for an act of love.' May this Eucharist help us to move away from demanding that God change his mind or will to allowing his love to keep converting and changing us.

**Richard Leonard SJ** is the Director of the Australian Catholic Office for Film and Broadcasting, is a member of the Australian Catholic Media Council and a film critic for all the major Australian Catholic newspapers.

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

*"...proclaim the word, be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient..." (2 Timothy 4:2)*

It is not always convenient to be a good steward, especially when all the temptations of our busy and materialistic world get in the way. Now add our own pride and ego into the equation and living a stewardship lifestyle may be downright uncomfortable! Remember, God didn't call us to be comfortable. He called us to be faithful.



### THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM AIRS 27 October 2019

Journey Catholic Radio is a weekly radio program and podcast all about faith, hope, love and life. Airing in the coming weeks on the Journey, Fr Mike takes us on a humbling reflection on the Gospel from Luke. Mother Hilda brings us an excellent piece on 'Presence Left Behind', and we'll also here from Pete Gilmore, Fr Dave Callaghan and Trish McCarthy just to name a few. Go to [WWW.jcr.org.au](http://WWW.jcr.org.au) or [www.itunes.jcr.org.au](http://www.itunes.jcr.org.au) and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email - for free



When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel. ~ GIRM 29

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

#### EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

|             |                                 |                                      |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ◆ This Week | C. Buchan<br>H. Grealy          | A. Benedict<br>C.L. Tay<br>E. Mendes |
| ◆ Next week | S. Samarasundera<br>M. Italiano | L. Cigana<br>D. Hickman<br>A. Yee    |

#### PROCLAIMERS

|             |                            |                        |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| ◆ This Week | C: R. Grealy<br>P: H. Lobo | K. Barritt<br>Sr Betty |
| ◆ Next week | C: H. Lobo<br>P: P. Kelly  | T. Fernandes<br>A. Lee |

#### COUNTERS

This Week: Peter Deayton / Lester Steele  
Next Week: Adrian Farrell



## WORK WITH CHILDREN CHECK

'Questions have been raised regarding the necessity of registering for Working with Children Check. The Parish Church is on a shared property with the Primary School and the Childcare Centre. Although Church volunteers have no direct contact with school kids and infants/toddlers, it is a State Government requirement (not a Diocesan one) that all church volunteers apply for the check. The parish office will be able to assist volunteers in applying for the check. Please inform the office if assistance is needed.'

### ST TIMOTHY PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL



We are accepting nominations for our Parish Pastoral Council. Nomination form is available on Church and foyer table. Submit to church collectors during Mass or to Parish Office.

Nominations close end of November for the election (if required) of the council to begin meeting in February 2020.

### MESSIAH

**MONDAY 21 OCTOBER, 7PM**  
**ST PHILIP'S CHURCH, 60 JUNCTION ROAD,**  
**BLACKBURN NORTH**

An intimate chamber performance of Handel's beloved oratorio Messiah in the beautiful surrounds and fine acoustics of St Philip's Church in Blackburn North. Joachim Neugart will be directing German Baroque ensemble Sonare and Cantus Novesia from the Basilica of St Quirinis, Neuss on Rhine. Complimentary supper to follow in the Parish Hall. Plenty of on-site parking.

Enquiries: 9878 6597

Cost: \$40 adults, \$20 children under 12

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BFCGU>

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Mary Julia Morton, Rob Donohoe, Addie Perez, Kevin John Pretby, Maria Nguyen Thi Lanh, Gabriele Cigana, George Arulanandam, Pam Hosking, Des McCoy, Alma Dauksa, Benjamin Galam, Kevin Joseph Carroll, Thecla Floor, Nicholas Bertie Fernandes, Francesco Boccaccio, Laura Boccaccio, Vita Boccaccio, Felice Boccaccio, Maria Casano, Laura Ciritelli, Eloide Leonardi, Yin-Foong Kong.

### 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

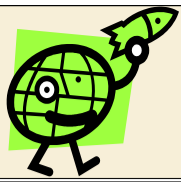
- ◆ For children attending St. Timothy's school, preparation for these three sacraments is through the school.
- ◆ For children not attending St. Timothy's school, preparation and enrollment is through the Parish Office every Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday: 1:00 to 5:00 PM

### 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, 10:30am (Livingstone)
- ◆ Wednesday & Thursday, 9:15 am
- ◆ 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am, Anointing Mass
- ◆ Every Friday, 10:00 am



# AROUND THE CHURCH—THE GOOD, THE BAD, THE UGLY

Catholic Resources : melbournecatholic.org.au; cathnews.com



## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

*For I know the plans I have for you, to give you  
a FUTURE with HOPE*



Pope Francis: "Faith in the Easter event of Jesus; the ecclesial mission received in baptism; the geographic and cultural detachment from oneself and one's own home; the need for salvation from sin and liberation from personal and social evil: all these demand the mission that reaches out to the very ends of the earth". Thank you for all you do to lead your parish in ways which demonstrate this outreach, offering a future with hope.

This year's Catholic Mission World Mission Appeal highlights the missionary work of Jesuit priests Father Raymond De Souza and Father Rajesh Lobo, who are following the call to serve children from disadvantaged areas, broken families and other situations of need in the remote mountainous state of Nagaland in north-eastern India.

Please give generously today to help Father Raymond and Father Rajesh continue to provide opportunities for children in Nagaland and around the world so they can pursue their dreams.

Appeal envelopes are available in the Church Foyer. Please return to the parish or send to Catholic Mission, PO Box 1668, North Sydney NSW 2059.

### **PRAYER**

*Loving Creator God, we pray for children in Nagaland and all around  
the world, especially those experiencing challenges through poverty,  
lack of health and education, or other forms of discrimination.  
Please provide them with examples of Your constant love,  
support and understanding through the people they encounter,  
so they can be the person You created them to be and live "life to the full".  
Amen.*

### **ROSARY GOES HIGH TECH**

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network has launched the first "smart Rosary", an app-driven device that aims to foster global prayer for peace. Source: *Crux*.

Technically called "Click To Pray eRosary," the small black bracelet with ten rosary beads and a cross was presented yesterday in Rome as a "tool for learning how to pray the Rosary."

The eRosary is activated by making the sign of the cross, and it synchronises with a free app of the same name that provides access to an audio guide, exclusive images and personalised content about praying the Rosary.

Fr Frederic Fornos, the international director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, said yesterday that praying the Rosary for world peace is something Pope Francis asked from every young person participating in World Youth Day in Panama earlier this year.

"In a world of indifference in comparison to so many injustices, poverty, denied elementary rights," he said, "praying for peace means being reconciled in our daily relationships, with the poorest, with the foreigner, with different cultures and spiritual and religious traditions, but also with our land, our forests, rivers and oceans."

The device is available on the Click to Pray eRosary website, at 99 Euros (\$161), and in Amazon Italy, and will soon be available in every Amazon store. The app, available in IOS and Android, is free and works without the device.

### **MORRISON TALKS UP THE POWER OF PRAYER**

Prime Minister Scott Morrison promoted the power of prayer in a further demonstration he is perhaps the most religiously motivated prime minister of the modern era.

At a prayer breakfast in Parliament House last Monday, organized by the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship, Mr Morrison said prayer could bring about nonpartisan unity by reminding MPs of their vulnerability and humanity.

And he quoted an American preacher he met in Washington as saying "the only prayers that you can be assured are never answered, are the ones that are never prayed". "I think that's true and it's a reminder of the importance of prayer," Mr Morrison said.

Mr Morrison is arguably the first Liberal prime minister from outside the major Christian blocks of the Catholic Church and the establishment Protestant churches. He is member of a prominent Sydney Pentecostal church.

Mr Morrison said prayer could aid political unity. "Because there's certainly one thing we all have in common, whether we sit in the green or red chairs in this place, or anywhere else, and that is our human frailty. It is our human vulnerability."

"Faith, religion is actually first and foremost an expression of our human frailty and vulnerability and an understanding that there are things far bigger than each of us."

## **INTRODUCTION TO MASS:**

Pray continually. Does this teaching about the need for continual prayer mean that God needs to be convinced of our cause? Does a one-off prayer not get heard? Is God swayed by the force of numbers? Can the prayers of ten people carry more weight than the prayers of one? All these questions miss the point of the Gospel parable. It is not God who needs our prayers, but we who have to recognise, through prayer, our need for God's mercy and gracious love.

## **PENITENTIAL RITE:**

Lord Jesus, you are our constant help .

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

Christ Jesus, you ask us to pray and never lose heart .

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

Lord Jesus, your Word brings salvation and life .

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

## **FIRST READING: *Exodus 17: 8-13***

God delivers Israel from the Amalekites as God delivered Israel from the Egyptians. Nothing thwarts God's purpose. Like Israel, any power that Moses enjoys over enemies and evil of whatever kind, comes from God.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Response: Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains: from where shall come my help? My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth. (R.)

2. May he never allow you to stumble! Let him sleep not, your guard. No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, Israel's guard. (R.)

3. The Lord is your guard and your shade; at your right side he stands. By day the sun shall not smite you nor the moon in the night. (R.)

4. The Lord will guard you from evil, he will guard your soul. The Lord will guard your going and coming both now and for ever. (R.)

## **SECOND READING: *2Tim 3: 14-4:2***

The Scriptures offer wisdom for our faith. Paul reflects on the role of scripture in the life of the community of faith. Those, in particular, who would aspire to leadership must take care to equip themselves with this resource.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**Alleluia! alleluia!**

The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart.

**Alleluia!**

## **GOSPEL : *Luke 18: 1-8***

The Gospel commends an attitude of trust in God that would motivate such persistence in prayer – even when the answer seems a long time coming. The parable is an encouragement to be persistent in faith. Don't give up.



I think I need to set up a spam filter to catch  
Lotto prayer requests.

**NEXT WEEK: 30TH SUNDAY ORD TIME**

**First Reading: Ecclesiasticus: 35: 12-14, 16-19, Second Reading: 2Tim 4: 6-8, 16-18; Gospel Luke 18: 9-14**