

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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31ST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

02 - 03 NOVEMBER 2019

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

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

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



OVER THE TOP

Don't you find yourself attracted to people who are a bit 'over the top'? In fact, one seeks *them* out rather than the apathetic, the bland or the lukewarm.

Zacchaeus was one of those 'over the top' characters, not only figuratively but, in the incident in the gospel, literally. He was curious about Jesus of Nazareth and so desperately wanted to catch a glimpse of him that he climbed into the branches of the sycamore tree so that he could be above, over the top of, the crowd.

But Jesus had his eyes peeled for an 'over the top' character. He was on the lookout, and he looked up and saw Zacchaeus and invited himself to his home! That is, the home of Zacchaeus, the home of a man whose name means 'clean'. He was 'Mr Clean'. But he was regarded as dirt by his fellow Jews, a filthy collaborator with the Romans, collecting their taxes. In fact, he was so contaminated by his association with them that many Jews regarded Jesus as putting himself in danger of contagion in going to the home of Zacchaeus. But, Jesus knew his man.

Zacchaeus had already reacted in an over the top way: 'So he made haste and came down and received him joyfully.' But there was to be more. The enthusiastic sightseer was being sought by an even more enthusiastic insight-seer. Jesus of Nazareth was and is the Divine Seer into the heart.

Jesus looked at Zacchaeus and saw him in a double perspective. He saw Zacchaeus not only as he was but as he could become, was destined to become if only he would respond to the grace on offer.

In fact, Jesus' gaze unlocked the potential within, turned the deep down impulse to do something good into reality. And what resulted was truly 'over the top'.

'Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.'

So much for Zacchaeus, but what about for us?

Sunday after Sunday we come to Mass to catch a glimpse of Jesus. We do try to get away from 'the madding crowd' so that we can get a good vantage point and at Mass we are graciously given a perspective which allows us to see Jesus in the Scriptures and the Sacrament.

But, whilst we catch a glimpse of Him, He is gazing at us. The reality is we are in the real presence of the One who is seeking *us* out.

He sees me as I am. He sees you as you are.
He sees the person I am capable of becoming;
He sees the person you are capable of becoming.

When we become aware of the over the top impulse to do good, how do we translate that impulse into reality? What gives us the courage to act in an exuberant way?

Our Lord is gazing on each one of us as a friend. Our Lord offers us his friendship. As Jesus says elsewhere in the gospels 'I no longer call you servants but friends.' Believe that, really believe that, and anything could happen. There were 'over the top' consequences for Zacchaeus. There could be 'over the top' consequences for you and for me!

Rev Prof Michael Tate is currently Vicar General in the Tasmania Archdiocese and is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

THE BIBLE EXHIBITION

EXPLORING THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING BOOK

IS COMING TO MELBOURNE!

Dates: 9th - 24th November 2019

Times: Mon - Sat: 11am - 5pm; Sun: 1pm - 5pm

Location: The Marquee at Nunawading Gospel Hall
116 Junction Road, Nunawading

You're warmly invited to this rare and unique opportunity to explore the history, wonders and message of the world's bestselling and most widely distributed book of all time, the Bible. Entrance is FREE.



UPDATE ON WORK WITH CHILDREN CHECK

We would like to thank all our volunteers who have now complied with the application and/or submission of their Work With Children Check (WWCC).

For others who have yet to comply, the Parish Office is happy to assist. For seamless application we will need:

1. Photo ID proof: drivers license or passport or proof of age obtain from Vic Roads or participating Australia Post (Proof of Age is in absence of a passport or driver's license), AND
2. One other ID proof: birth or marriage, or Australian citizenship certificate or Medicare or pension card.

WWCC is a state mandated requirement for employees and volunteers of a Religious organisation.

VERMONT CHILDREN CENTRE

Vermont Children Centre on the premises of St Timothy School will be opening soon. A funded Kindergarten program will be available. Expressions of interest are being taken. Please call: Celine on (03) 98075208

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

"But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.'" (Luke 19:8)

We are all called to gratefully give back to the Lord in proportion to the blessings we have been given. This means everyone isn't called to give the same amount, but is called to give equal sacrifice. No amount is too small or insignificant! Open your heart, how is God calling you to be more generous with your financial resources and possessions?

OPENING HOURS

PARISH OFFICE OPEN HOURS

From 01-25 November, our parish office is open on Monday and Tuesday from 9AM to 4PM and Friday from 1PM—4PM. For any urgent need to the parish, please email us at foresthill@cam.org.au. Thank you.

ROSTERS: 6:00PM 9:30AM

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

◆ This Week	P. Naughtin Sr June	E. Mendes C. L. Tay A. Benedict
◆ Next week	S. Chen C. Buchan	L. Cigana D. Hickman P. Kawalevski

PROCLAIMERS

◆ This Week	C: P. D' Cruz P: R. Grealy	B. Ross B. McKenna
◆ Next week	C: P. Kelly P: H. Lobo	B. Ross P. O' Reilly

COUNTERS

This Week: Mary Choy / Eileen Tam
Next Week: Terry Drew / Patrick Kelly

SATURDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT

BY SILVER GROVE BAND

Saturday 9 November, 2pm to 4pm St Francis Xavier Parish Hall 1087 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill

Join the Band for an afternoon of toe-tapping big band music from the 40s and 50s.

Cost: \$15 per person. Bookings are essential for catering purposes. Book at the Parish Office or by direct deposit to the Parish of Box Hill Social Account BSB 083 347 A/c No.109901654 then email your details to the Parish Office at boxhill@cam.org.au

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Michael Joseph Barritt, Moya Atkins, Vin Smith, Raymond Joseph, Mary Josephine Meade, Mary Miller, Bienvenido Ustaris Sr, Peter Kelly, Christianus Peters, Mary Howard, Colin Joseph Connelly, Michael Haining.

SACRAMENTS: Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement

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



The Sacraments

2019 FIRST EUCCHARIST, 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



REDRESS SCHEME ‘NOT WORKING’

Victoria's Attorney-General Jill Hennessy is calling on the Morrison Government to fix delays that have plagued the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. Ms Hennessy says the scheme is failing to give the quick, simple and sensitive compensation that victims were promised.

Ms Hennessy will take a blueprint for reform of the initiative, which is just 14 months old, to an upcoming meeting of her state and Commonwealth counterparts who sit on the board of the scheme. She also identified the problem of institutions that received taxpayers' money but who have failed to join the scheme, saying she has ordered officials to compile a list of the outliers.

The scheme was established in July, 2018 to provide compensation for institutional child sexual abuse survivors and was meant as an alternative to civil court cases, requiring victims to provide less supporting information than they would to a litigation process. But the initiative has been dogged by problems, with unhappiness among survivors emerging early on.

MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

In the leadup to next month's World Day of the Poor, the Church in Australia is recognizing volunteers who work to bring hope to those in need. Source: *ACBC Media Blog*. The third World Day of the Poor, to be observed on Sunday, November 17, will focus on the theme "the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever".

Taken from the Book of Psalms, Pope Francis said those words "express a profound truth that faith impresses above all on the hearts of the poor, restoring lost hope in the face of injustice, sufferings and the uncertainties of life".

"The psalm was composed at a time of great economic development that, as often happens, also led to serious social imbalances," Today, too, Pope Francis says, "we must acknowledge many new forms of bondage that enslave millions of men, women, young people and children".

Bishop Vincent Long van Nguyen OFM Conv, chair of the Bishops Commission for Social Justice, paid tribute to the many thousands who volunteer in Catholic organizations across Australia to assist those in need. "They work in our jails, in charitable organizations with those who have fallen on hard times, and they help the most vulnerable members of our community," he said.

"For this third World Day of the Poor, we say thank you to each and every one of our volunteers. Know that your work is bringing hope to the lives of the poor and poor in spirit."

POPE: GOD'S CREATION NOT A RESOURCE TO BE EXPLOITED

Poor people from the Amazon have shown that God's creation must be treated "not as a resource to be exploited but as a home to be preserved, with trust in God", Pope Francis said in the Mass mark the end of the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon.

Synod participants, some wearing their native dress and feathered headdresses, led the procession into St Peter's Basilica. During the offertory, an indigenous woman presented the Pope with a plant.

Instead of using a crosier made of precious metals, the Pope carried a carved wooden crosier that the Vatican said was a gift from the Synod. During the assembly, participants described the environmental devastation and social problems caused by mining in the Amazon.

TAIWANESE OFFICIALS SAY VATICAN-CHINA DEAL NOT HELPING CATHOLICS

A year after the Vatican made its agreement with China on the appointment of bishops, top Taiwanese officials have expressed doubt that the deal is making a difference for Catholics. Source: *Crux*.

The officials voiced hope that the Holy See would not drop Taipei in favour of Beijing. Last September the Vatican announced a "provisional agreement" with China on the appointment of bishops. Though the terms of the secret deal have not been made public, it is widely believed that it allows Chinese officials to propose bishops for the pope to approve.

Most Taiwanese officials have said that for the moment, they are not concerned about the agreement, but are unsure about the future."

FAITH LEADERS SIGN DECLARATION AGAINST EUTHANASIA

Representatives from the Catholic and Orthodox churches and the Muslim and Jewish faiths signed a joint declaration at the Vatican reaffirming each religion's clear opposition to euthanasia. They also encouraged promoting palliative care so that dying patients could receive the best, most comprehensive physical, emotional, social, religious and spiritual care and appropriate support for their families, according to the joint statement.

Pope Francis met with the signatories, who presented him with a copy of the declaration they signed a few hours earlier at a Vatican ceremony. The signatories included representatives from the Vatican, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Patriarchate of Moscow and All Russia, Muslim and Jewish scholars and leaders.

The declaration, titled, "Position paper of the Abrahamic monotheistic religions on matters concerning the end of life," was prepared by the Pontifical Academy for Life. Because of wide worldwide debate and discussion concerning end-of-life issues and policies, the aim of the joint statement was to clearly present the positions of the monotheistic faiths concerning "the values and practices relevant to the dying patient", their families, health-care providers and policy makers who belong to one of these religions, it said.

CATHOLICS PRAY TO END 'COCKROACH, DOG' APPROACH

As protests continue on the streets of Hong Kong pitching pro-Government groups against pro-democracy protesters, Catholics were urged to pray for the realisation that all are humans and not "cockroaches or dogs".

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Ha of Hong Kong addressed a prayer gathering of some 300 people on Saturday in the Chinese-administered city where demonstrations continue to demand freedom and democracy. The bishop prayed that "God can help us realize that everyone is human, not cockroaches, dogs or yellow objects", reported Radio Television Hong Kong. The prelate was referring to slogans and statements where pro-government groups often referred to protesters as "cockroaches" while protesters called police officers "dogs." The bishop explained that the prayer meeting was not held in a church but at a public place to show that the Church cares about society.

INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

'**The little man's revenge.**' Zacchaeus just wanted get a good look at Jesus and ended hosting him at dinner. Jesus enables Zacchaeus to face up to his extortion and wealth and to claim his salvation. It's the same with us. If only we have the eyes to see, the ears to hear and the arms to embrace, Jesus comes to us through the most unusual people, times and places. We are his family, he calls us by name and he dines with us as often as we choose to accept his standing invitation to this table. But there's a price tag: we are meant to be different people for this encounter, generous with all we have to offer the world and transparent in all our relationships.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you show mercy to sinners .

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

Christ Jesus, you are our promise of the future .

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

Lord Jesus, you seek out those who are lost .

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

FIRST READING: *Wis 11: 22-12: 2*

The reading presents a God who is personally involved with every dimension of the natural world, filled with providence, love and mercy.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

Response: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. **(R.)**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**

3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. **(R.)**

4. The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds. The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down. **(R.)**

SECOND READING: *2Thess 1:11-22*

Paul's words are very provocative; for Christians, Jesus is now our Lord, not the Emperor. Paul encourages this community to continue in their faith while awaiting the coming of Jesus.

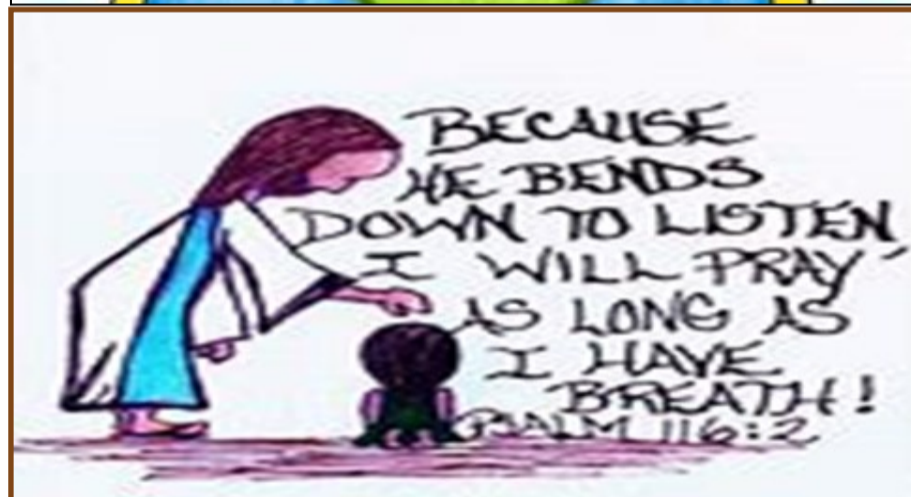
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia!

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

GOSPEL : *Luke 19: 1-10*

Zacchaeus recognises God's generosity and makes the only appropriate response, humble gratitude and generosity in return. Jesus' consistent message has been, 'You are welcome; the kingdom is for all, and none of us are worthy.'



"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

-James 4:10 NIV

NEXT WEEK: 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14; Second Reading: 2Thes 2:16-3:5; Gospel: Luke 20: 27-38