

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR A

15 – 16 FEBRUARY 2020

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

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

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

Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them.

~ Jesus



FOLLOW GOD'S LAW

The vast wisdom of God is revealed in the law God has given to us, a law designed to lead us to the fullness of life and happiness.

Today's First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. What is referred to as the 'Law' is generally used as shorthand for the Torah – the first five books of the Bible – which first of all establishes the history of relationship between God and humanity through the books of Genesis and Exodus and then provides detailed instructions about how that relationship should be honoured and observed. When Jesus speaks about the Law and the Prophets, he is deliberately including the extensive collection of prophetic writings that interpret the Law in terms of justice and right relationships with others as being a

reflection of the right relationship with God.

By declaring that he has come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete – or fulfil – them, Jesus is making it perfectly clear that his ministry and teaching is in alignment with and in accordance with the historical tradition and he is not setting out to overthrow the Jewish tradition. Rather, throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication. His constant complaint is against those who live by the letter of the Law and ignore what we would call the spirit or intention of the Law. This is the root of his swipe at the shallow virtue of the scribes and Pharisees in today's gospel. The criticism that Jesus levelled at these two groups was that their adherence to the Law made no room for the compassionate heart that the writings of the Prophets demanded.

Living the Gospel. Jesus demonstrates the crucial nature of interpretation. It is easy for us today to look at something like the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes and dismiss them as irrelevant. Taken literally, they have fairly limited application to our modern lives. However, interpreted in a broader context and within the context of our own lives, such ancient codes of behaviour can take on new significance. ***Jesus points us towards the importance of looking beyond the surface and searching out the truth of such statements. Interpretation of scripture for our modern lives and modern world is vital to living life to the fullest.***

Source: Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter. He has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:20)

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it’s the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.



**WELCOME & CONGRATULATION
ON YOUR BAPTISM
ETHAN MICHAEL NG
16 FEBRUARY 2020**



SHROVE TUESDAY

25TH FEBRUARY 2020 AT 10.00 AM

ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED FOR A PANCAKE MORNING TEA AT ST TIMOTHY’S SCHOOL IN OBSERVANCE OF THE SHOVE TUESDAY. SCHOOL TOUR WILL FOLLOW AFTERWARDS.

ASH WEDNESDAY
26 FEBRUARY
MASS TIMES

- 9:15 AM
- 7:30 PM

(Vietnamese/English Mass)

EMMAUS COLLEGE

40th Anniversary Gala

SATURDAY, 14 MARCH 2020
7:00PM - MIDNIGHT

PALLADIUM AT CROWN MELBOURNE, SOUTHBANK

Dress: Black Tie/Formal

Tickets: \$149 per head

Drinks on arrival. Three-course dinner including wine, beer, softdrink

Entertainment by Ross Wilson and The Peaceniks
Bookings and Information at www.emmaus.vic.edu.au

Bookings close on 28 February!



BUSHFIRE RECOVERY APPEAL

16 FEBRUARY 2020

HOPE AND HEALING FOR GIPPSLAND FAMILIES

All parishioners are invited to take part in rebuilding the lives of children, youth and families of East Gippsland. With your donations, CatholicCare will be able to provide therapeutic counselling, community development and pastoral care.

ROSTERS:	6:00PM	9:30AM
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EUCHARIST MINISTERS

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

PROCLAIMERS

◆ This Week	C: R. Grealy P: P. D’Cruz	P. O’Reilly B. Ross
◆ Next week	C: H. Lobo P: P. Kelly	R. Yee T. Yee

COUNTERS

This Week: Raj Fonn / Violet Fonn
Next Week: Peter Deayton / Lester Steele

THE GOSPELS OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER RETREAT

BY FR FRANK MOLONEY SDB ON 16 – 19 MARCH
DON BOSCO RETREAT CENTRE, LISTERFIELD

Cost - \$430 all inclusive (meals, accommodation, etc).
Further information and registration: Candy 9752 2432 or
e-mail: dbrclysterfield@gmail.com

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Tyrone Oosthuizen, Dot Lester, Flo Bryan,
Mary Veronica Deering, John Chapman,
Stephen Kelly, Tom Macrory, Harold Leach,
Frances McGrath, Patrick O’Reilly, Errol Flynn,
Marcella O’Reilly, Giovanna Di Totto,
John Byrne, Maddalena Iaccarino,
Paul Blanchfield, Adrianus Van Den Boogaard.

SACRAMENTS: Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement

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



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

2020 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, enrollment is through the Parish Office every Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday: 1:00 to 4:00 PM but the sacramental preparation classes will be coordinated to Box Hill Parish Office.



CATHOLIC, MUSLIM LEADERS MAKE INTERFAITH COMMITMENT

Australian Catholic and Muslim leaders have adopted an interfaith commitment statement on the first anniversary of Pope Francis and Al-Azhar Grand Mufti Dr Ahmed al-Tayyeb signing the Document on Human Fraternity. The anniversary was marked at an event at Australian Catholic University's North Sydney campus on Tuesday attended by dozens of people from the two faith traditions.

The Catholic leaders at the event were headed by Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, the apostolic nuncio to Australia. Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohammed, the Grand Mufti of Australia, and Sheik Shafiq Abdullah Khan, chair of the Australian Islamic Cultural Centre, signed the document on behalf of Australian Muslims.

The Australian document upholds, recognises and commits to a number of values such among others the concept of citizenship and the "capacity of every person to pursue the good and the true, through the exercise of the freedom of belief, thought expression and action". It also recognises all human beings "as children of God by divine grace", as brothers and sisters. It commits to fraternity between believers, non-believers and people of good will and to the rejection of violence, hate, extremism and "the shedding of blood throughout the world".

POPE'S FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION: HEAR THE CRIES OF MIGRANTS

The February theme and the Pope's reflection coincide with the commemoration of the World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking.

Migrants and refugees, he said, often fall victim to trafficking caused by "corruption on the part of people willing to do anything for financial gain."

Here's his Pope's prayer:

Migrants are often victims of criminal human smuggling and human trafficking.

Among other causes, this happens because of corruption on the part of people willing to do anything for financial gain.

The money from their dirty, underhanded business is blood money. I'm not exaggerating: it's blood money.

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal human smuggling and human trafficking, may be heard and considered.

VATICAN DONATES FACE MASKS TO CHINA AMID CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

The Vatican has donated hundreds of thousands of face masks to China to help limit the spread of coronavirus, which has killed over 600 people since the start of the new year.

The masks have been sent to the Chinese provinces of Hubei, Zhejiang, and Fujian, according to Vatican News. The medical supplies were donated as part of a joint initiative of the Office of Papal Charities and the Missionary Center of the Chinese Church in Italy, in partnership with the Vatican City Pharmacy.

Pope Francis prayed for people infected by the coronavirus during his Sunday Angelus prayer on Jan. 26. Since that date, the number of confirmed cases of the virus has increased by tenfold.

The World Health Organization's has declared the coronavirus outbreak a "global health emergency".

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SECTOR LOSING GROUND ON ENROLMENTS

A greater proportion of parents are choosing to send their children to independent and state schools, while the Catholic sector's share of enrolments has fallen.

Independent schools that charge fees of less than \$5000 have experienced the biggest leap in enrolment growth, increasing their share of students by 4.7 per cent, new data shows.

While the number of students enrolled in Catholic schools grew last year, rising for the first time in three years, it was not enough to stop the sector from continuing to lose ground to government and independent schools.

Australia's Catholic school student population has grown by just 0.5 per cent over the past five years, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics data. In the same period, the government school sector grew 6.1 per cent and the independent school sector grew 8.1 per cent.

AUSTRALIANS ENCOURAGED TO GO FURTHER

Caritas Australia is encouraging all Australians to "Go Further Together" to help communities around the world during its annual Project Compassion campaign, which runs during Lent.

Project Compassion will be launched on Sunday, February 23, and will run for six weeks during Lent. Money raised will go to Caritas Australia's long-term development and emergency relief programs, which help millions of people each year.

"We encourage everyone to support Project Compassion which is now in its 55th year, so that we can continue to transform lives, strengthen the resilience of communities and contribute to peace and stability," Caritas Australia chief Kirsty Robertson said.

VIETNAMESE CATHOLICS URGED TO SHOW CHRISTIAN LOVE OVER VIRUS

Bishops in Vietnam have asked Catholics to live out Christian faith in the fight against the fast-spreading coronavirus by treating infected patients fairly and not seeking profits on health supplies.

Bishop Paul Nguyen Thai Hop of Ha Tinh said the world is seriously affected by the coronavirus epidemic, so "local Catholics should make a great show of Christian love in the hard time".

Bishop Hop urged them not to make profits from a lack of medical supplies, especially face masks which now fetch much higher prices.

Archbishop Joseph Nguyen Nang of Ho Chi Minh City called on Catholics not to be greedy and self-interested in making money on the sufferings of other people.

"We should pray for the human community to love and help one another generously in this difficult time," Archbishop Nang said in a message on February 5.

He also asked them to pray for leaders of nations to be wise to find effective solutions for the virus epidemic and to serve people in truth and love.

Bishop Hop called on Catholics not to discriminate against but love and respect virus-infected patients, suspected ones and those who are from affected areas.

INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

Follow God's law. The vast wisdom of God is revealed in the law He has given us. The demands of Gospel living—Jesus is uncompromising. It is not enough to be outwardly good and religious, our inmost thought and feelings must be thoroughly purified as well. If we wish to be his disciples, we must undergo conversion of heart and mind.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you call us to proclaim your kingdom.

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

Lord Jesus, Your spirit strengthens every disciple in every

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

Lord Jesus, you command us to love God and one another.

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

FIRST READING: *Sir 15: 15-20*

Is God responsible for making the world in which sin is possible? Or are human beings responsible for sin because they have free will? "God never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin".

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

Response: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **(R.)**
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **(R.)**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. **(R.)**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. **(R.)**



SECOND READING: *1Cor 2: 6-10*

The Corinthians are inflated with pride at their supposedly superior knowledge but Paul confronts them and preaches the infinitely superior wisdom of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia! alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL : *Mt 5: 17-37*

Matthew points to the continuity in Jesus of the Mosaic tradition. Jesus came to fulfil, not to abolish the Laws and the Prophets.

NEXT SUNDAY: 7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Lev 19: 1-2, 17-18; Second Reading 1Cor 3:16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5: 38-48