

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

29 FEBRUARY - 01 MARCH 2020

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

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

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



USE ALL OUR KNOWLEDGE TO PRAISE, REVERENCE AND SERVE THE LOVING ONE

Hearing the story of Adam and Eve in today's first reading reminds me of the little boy who opened the large family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages. 'Mummy, look what I found', the little boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: 'I think it's Adam's suit!'

The Genesis story about the origins of sin in the world requires careful reading. The serpent promises Eve two things: that her eyes will be opened to know good from evil and that this will make her like God. Such a temptation was irresistible and nothing has changed.

Knowledge is a gift given us by God. As anxious as the Church has sometimes been about scientific investigations, our best traditions are to see God revealed in human thoughts and scientific achievements that ennoble our human family. It is the application of knowledge, or the way it is abused, that can be harmful.

On the domestic front, many families have a 'know-it-all', the relative who has an extraordinary ability to retain facts and figures and who seems to gain a sense of self-worth by correcting us mid-sentence when we get a number, place or fact wrong. He or she can be very irritating. On the world stage we have seen how scientific knowledge can try and seduce us into believing that all scientific achievements are good no matter how unknown the consequences of these choices might be for future generations. Every new piece of knowledge brings with it wonderful potentialities and serious responsibilities.

As this story demonstrates, the temptation to know as much as God has never been more real than it is right now.

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. The scientists walk up to God and say, 'God we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost.'

God listened patiently and after the scientists were finished, said, 'Very well! How about this? Let's have a woman-and-man-making contest.' To which they agreed. However God added, 'How about we do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam?' The scientists said, 'Sure, no problem', and bent down and grabbed some dirt. God just looked at them and said, 'No, no, no. You go and get your own dirt!'

Today's Gospel is about knowledge too. Satan knows who Jesus is. His temptations are an attempt to get Jesus to betray his humanity and not endure the limitations of his daily life. Jesus knows that the only way to be true to his divinity is allow us to see it shine in and through his human life. The rejection of the temptation to compromise his frail human frame gives us the hope that we, too, can glimpse the power of God's greatness in every moment we reject the desire to be directors of our own destiny and to see good triumph over evil in the choices we make.

It's a relief to know we don't have to be God!

May this Lent see us do what we are created for: to use all our knowledge to praise, reverence and serve the Loving One who willed us into being.

Francicanmedia.org.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

"IT IS WRITTEN: THE LORD, YOUR GOD, SHALL YOU WORSHIP AND HIM ALONE SHALL YOU SERVE." (MATTHEW 4:10)

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things. Ask God how he is calling you to serve.

VERMONT CHILDREN'S CENTRE

AT ST TIMOTHY'S SCHOOL GROUND

6 weeks to 5 years old includes 3 and 4 Year Old Kinder

STILL ACCEPTING ENROLMENT

A FUNDED KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM AVAILABLE.

Please call: Celine at (03) 98075208 or email info@vermontchildcare.com.au

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

3 March at 7:00pm in the Church Foyer
Minutes of 1st Meeting & Agenda for 03 March available in sacristy. Please pick up your copy.

Anthony & Veronica Benedict

480 months of hugs, 2087 weeks of laughter

and

Endless blessings

Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary

ROSTERS:

6:00PM

9:30AM

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

◆ This Week	H. Grealy S. Samarasundera	E. Mendes C.L. Tay A. Lee
◆ Next week	M. Italiano S. Chen	A. Benedict L. Cigana P. Kawalevski

PROCLAIMERS

◆ This Week C: P:	P. D'Cruz P. Kelly	K. Barritt T. Fernandes
◆ Next week C: P:	H. Lobo P. Kelly	A. Lee B. Sr. Betty

COUNTERS

This Week: Adrian Farrell
Next Week: Mary Choy / Eileen Tam

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2020
FOR CHILDREN IN NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AT
ST TIMOTHY'S PARISH**

Our Parish Office is now accepting enrollees for the following Sacramental Program:

- **CONFIRMATION** classes for children in Year 6 or above will commence on Tuesday 3rd March. It will be held every Tuesday night from 7.00pm to 8.00 pm in the Friars Room.
- **Reconciliation** classes for children in Year 3 or above (ages 8 & older) will commence from Saturday 18th April at 4pm in Friars Room.
- **First Eucharist** classes for children in Year 4 or above (ages 9 and older) will commence from Saturday 18th July at 4pm in Friars Room.

Please note that preparation classes will be handled by the Box Hill Parish. For more information please contact the Parish Office on 9401 6371 or boxhill@cam.org.au



WELCOME & BLESSINGS

ON YOUR BAPTISM

FREYA THERESE WESTON

01 MARCH 2020

**THE GOSPELS OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER:
A RETREAT WITH FR FRANK MOLONEY SDB**

MONDAY 16- 19 MARCH

DON BOSCO RETREAT CENTRE, LYSTERFIELD

Join Fr Frank Moloney SDB as we explore the gospel readings of Holy Week and Easter. From Jesus' triumphant entry into the holy city of Jerusalem, to the washing of the feet, the Passion of Jesus and the Resurrection.

Cost: \$430 (all-inclusive of retreat, meals and accommodation)
Further details and registrations: DBRC -(03) 9752 2432, dbrclysterfield@gmail.com



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Robert Defina, Rosemary Cardenti,
Aquinaldo Buquina, Andrew Joseph Yeo,
Ferruccio Cigana, Graham Williams,
Cecilio Abadilla, Armando Colasanti,
Charlie Curmi, Gerald Oliver, Karen Day,
Dympna O'Reilly, Noel Tenorio,
Noreen Kelly, Frank Boyle.

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: 9:00AM to 3:00PM and Friday: 1:00 to 4:00PM but the sacramental preparation classes will be coordinated to Box Hill Parish Office.



POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE FOR LENT 2020: A DIALOGUE OF THE HEART

The Vatican releases Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2020, in which the Holy Father invites the faithful to embrace the paschal mystery as the basis for conversion.

In his Message, Pope Francis points to the paschal mystery – the mystery of Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection – as the basis of conversion. The Message bears the title "We implore you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God", a quote from St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

An invitation to relationship with God

"This kerygma [fundamental proclamation of the Gospel message] sums up the mystery of a love 'so real, so true, so concrete, that it invites us to a relationship of openness and fruitful dialogue' (Christus vivit, 117)", the Pope writes. "Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do as we will".

Pope Francis says that during this season of Lent, he wants to invite the faithful to fix their eyes on the crucified Lord, and allow ourselves "to be saved over and over again". "Jesus' Pasch is not a past event; rather, through the power of the Holy Spirit it is ever present, enabling us to see and touch with faith the flesh of Christ in those who suffer".

The importance of prayer

The Holy Father emphasizes the importance of prayer during Lent, as a means of responding to God's love, "which always precedes and sustains us". We are also

called to hear and respond to the Word of Jesus, in order to experience "the mercy He freely gives us".

God is always engaged in a "dialogue of salvation with us", despite our weaknesses and failings, the Pope says. This desire to save us "led the Father to burden His Son with the weight of our sins, thus, in the expression of Pope Benedict XVI, 'turning of God against Himself' (Deus caritas est, 12)".

A commitment to building a better world

"Putting the paschal mystery at the centre of our lives means feeling compassion towards the wounds of the crucified Christ present in the many innocent victims of wars, in attacks on life, from that of the unborn to that of the elderly, and various forms of violence". This means being personally committed to and involved in "the building of a better world", the Pope says. In commending charitable giving, the Pope notes the meeting he has convened for the end of march "with young economists, entrepreneurs and change-makers, with the aim of shaping a more just and inclusive economy".

Pope Francis concludes his message with a prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary "that our Lenten celebration will open our hearts to hear God's call to be reconciled to Himself, to fix our gaze on the paschal mystery, and to be converted to an open and sincere dialogue with Him".

Thank you

To all our Parishioners offering their prayers for Fr Rod's repose.

To all who were able to come and send off Fr Rod to God's eternal Kingdom.

To all who provided fillings and refreshments to share after the service.

To all who provided kitchen & hospitality help.

To St Timothy's School teachers and students for their preparation, presence and help.

For those who brought plates, kindly collect your plate from the church kitchen.

PROVIDERS ON HIGH ALERT OVER CORONAVIRUS

Aged care operators are on high alert with elderly residents considered the most at risk of becoming seriously ill if they catch the deadly coronavirus. *Source: Sydney Morning Herald.*

Raina MacIntyre, head of the Biosecurity Program at UNSW's Kirby Institute, said the coronavirus could infect between 25 and 70 per cent of the Australian population and warned the impact in Australia could be worse than in China because of the ageing population. In China, about 9% of the population are over 65 compared with 16% in Australia.

"We know already that the infection is much more severe in older age, that's the age group that's going to mostly end up hospitalised and in intensive care."

The federal health department has contacted aged care providers urging them to use active "containment processes" to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, known as COVID-19. Authorities suggested measures such as hand washing and cough etiquette, and to be prepared to identify and isolate cases to "ensure that the other residents are safe".

Health Minister Greg Hunt said yesterday the threat to the elderly was the federal government's "primary focus" in working with states and territories to prepare for a potential human-to-human coronavirus outbreak in Australia.



INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

Lent is a season of invitation. It invites us to step into the desert with Jesus; to confront our own purpose and ministry and to renew our trust in God's vision for the world and for us individually. Seen in this light, Lent is so much more than fasting from meat and giving up ice cream for a few weeks. The whole idea of fasting and sacrifice is an attempt to simplify our lives. Through simplifying our life and removing some of the daily distractions, we can share in the desert experience of Jesus and then truly celebrate the hope reborn in the Easter season.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you are our strength in times of trial.

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

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner.

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

Lord Jesus, you call us to serve you alone.

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

FIRST READING: *Gen 2:7-9, 3: 1-7*

The Lord creates man and the garden of Eden. The garden story looks simple yet it reveals much about the human condition and how God brings order out of the disorder unleashed by human infidelity.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

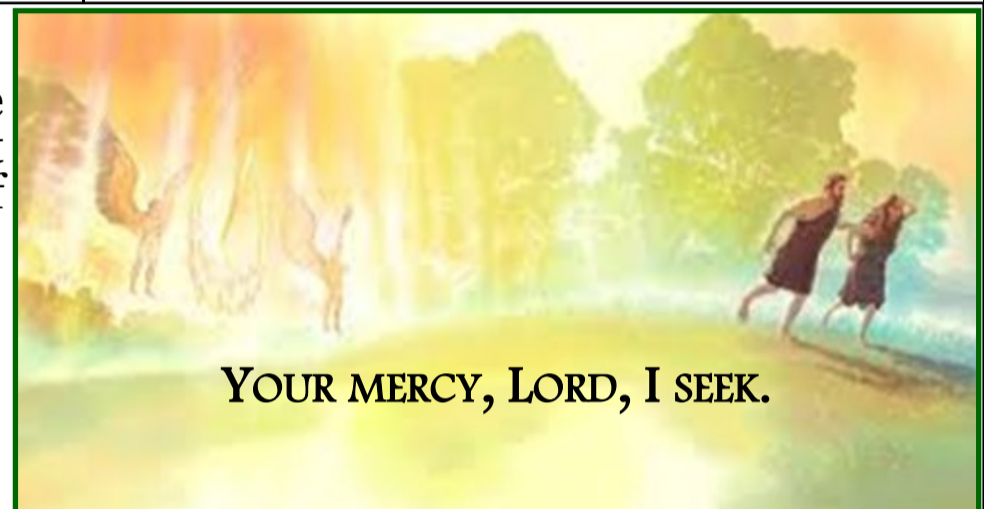
Response: Be merciful O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**

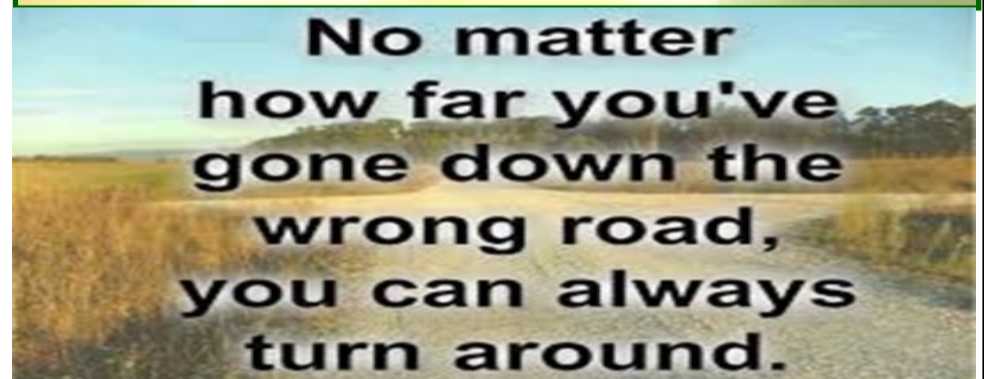
2. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**

4. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R.)**



YOUR MERCY, LORD, I SEEK.



No matter
how far you've
gone down the
wrong road,
you can always
turn around.

SECOND READING: *Rom 5: 12-19*

The triumph of the gift of grace and eternal life. Death reigned until Christ came to atone for sin.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL : *Mt 4: 1-11*

Jesus was offered three shortcuts for his ministry. First, exceptional powers to satisfy his own needs (bread out of stones). Second, when he needed to take risks, angels to keep him safe. Third, when he wanted to change the world, absolute political power.

NEXT WEEK: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4 ; Second Reading: 2Tim 1:8-10

Gospel: Mt 17: 1-9