

**31st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
(Year B) 31 October 2021**

**First reading Deuteronomy 6:2-6**

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51 )**

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise,  
when I call I am saved from my foes.

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be the God who saves me,  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown his love for his anointed.

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*

**Second reading Hebrews 7:23-28**

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mark 12:28-34**

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**Sacred Heart Parish  
Preston**

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Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -2pm

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Gerard Grant (chairperson), Kay Duffy  
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Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau, Mark  
Tierney, Ben Fortuna and Natalie Baran  
Parish Finance Committee:  
Peter Constable (Chair)  
Ph: 0425 779 831  
St. Vincent de Paul Society:  
Stephen Costello (President)  
Ph: 0432 405 417

**Parish Mass Schedule**

**Weekend Masses:**

**Saturday:** 6:00pm  
**Sunday:** 9:00am (*Italian*),  
10:30 am, 6:00 pm  
12pm-for not fully vaccinated

**Weekday Masses:**

**Monday to Friday:** 9.10am  
**Healing Mass:** 1st Thursday of  
the month at 1.30pm  
Next Healing Mass: 4 November  
**Current restrictions allow 70 fully  
vaccinated people at Mass.**

**Devotional Practices:**

**Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament:** Wednesday after  
9.10am Mass  
**Holy Rosary:** Thursday (English)  
**Reconciliation:**  
Weekdays: 30 minutes before  
Mass or by appointment  
**Baptisms & Weddings:**  
By appointment only

**31st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
(Year B) 31 October 2021**

**There is no commandment greater than these**

In today's Gospel, Jesus was asked by a scribe about the greatest commandment. The background of this question was a long dispute among the Rabbis about the greatest commandment. As we know the Jewish law contained over six hundred different regulations, and it was common for scholars to try to distil them into fewer, more fundamental principles. How did Jesus respond? He said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength." And the second great commandment, He said, is to "love your neighbour as yourself." With this answer Jesus successfully settled the rabbis' dispute. Moreover, Jesus' answer is great revelation to His followers. They need not to dispute again about the greatest commandment. At the end of His conversation with the scribe, Jesus said to him: "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." What does this mean? On the one hand, Jesus praised him for realizing that the love of God and of neighbour is more important than the religious observances at the temple. On the other hand, it is also a reminder for the scribe that he won't be able to enter the Kingdom of God unless he observes the greatest commandments in his daily life.

How do we express our love of God and neighbour? Throughout the history of the Church there have been thousands of songs, poems, talks and sermons dedicated to the subject of loving God. But how do we actually do it in practical life? Responding to this question, Jesus said: "love your neighbour as yourself." Loving neighbours is something we can do on everyday life. And by loving our neighbours as ourselves, we are loving God. The two commandments are inseparable. They link to each other. We cannot love God and follow Jesus without loving and living for others, especially people in need, strangers and even enemies.

To help us better understand the link between loving God and loving neighbour, let us reflect on the experience of Saint Martin of Tours from France who lived in the 300s. He was an army officer before embracing the Christian faith. The rough and tumble life of the military didn't discourage him from receiving instruction in the Christian faith. He also learnt the great commandments of love God and neighbour. One cold winter's day, as he returned to the city gates on his huge war horse and in his full military regalia, a poor beggar shuffled up to him to ask for money. The man was dressed in rags, almost naked, and shivering violently with cold. Seeing the beggar, Martin was moved with sincere compassion. But he didn't have any money with him. He stared for a moment at the beggar, and then dismounted. He took off his long, thick military cloak and cut it in half. He gave one half to the freezing beggar with a smile and kind word, and slung the other half onto his own shoulders, remounted, and continued on back to the barracks. His fellow soldiers gave him a hard time about his torn cloak. That night, as he was sleeping, Jesus appeared to him in a vision, surrounded by angels, and - wonder of wonders - the Lord himself was wearing the cloak that Martin had given to the beggar! Jesus looked with love and gratitude at Martin and said, "It was Martin, still only a catechumen, who gave me this cloak." The future St. Martin was soon baptized, and



afterwards followed his call to serve the King of Heaven instead of the Emperor of Rome, first as a monk, then as a priest, a missionary, and the holy Bishop of Tours.

The moral of the story is that our love for God and our love for neighbour are two sides of the very same coin - we can't have one without the other. We pray to the Holy Spirit that we be inspired and motivated to do what Saint Martin of Tours did, showing compassion and care for others in need.



**Sacred Heart Parish Prayer**

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Feast Days of the week:**

Monday 1 November Solemnity of All Saints  
 Tuesday 2 November Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)  
 Wednesday 3 November St Martin de Porres  
 Thursday 4 November St Charles Borromeo  
 Friday 5 November Saints Zechariah and Elizabeth

**WE PRAY FOR:**

**The elderly and the sick**

Anthony, Peter Bourke, Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph Paige Lapenta, John Plum, Bronislawa Slobodzian

That they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect

**Those who have died recently**

**We Commemorate**

John, Alfonso, Dino & Natalina Bernardini,  
 Isa, Mario, Orfeo & Rino Bergamin,  
 Teresina & Valter De Stefani,  
 Carlo, Duilio, Livio, Pasqua & Beppi Trentin  
 and all deceased members of the  
 Ottaviano Bertonecello & Carlo Trentin families.  
 Mario Trentin & deceased family members  
 Antonietta Capobianco  
 Lupo, Consiglia Alfonsina & Lorenzo Gugliotti



O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.  
 May they rest in peace. Amen.

**All Saints & All Souls Days Masses**

As well as the 9:10am morning Masses, there will be additional Masses at 7pm on both these days.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Monday 1 November: All Saints - extra Mass at 7:00pm  
 Tuesday 2 November: All Souls - extra Mass at 7:00pm  
 Thursday 3 November: Healing Mass - 1.30pm

**Roster for weekend of 6 & 7 November 2021**

	Readers	Ministers
<b>Sat 6.00pm</b>	Celia Lemos Mary Harb	Charlotte Bainy
<b>Sun 9am (Italian)</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers
<b>Sun 10.30am</b>	Catherine Zanatta Ivana Lo Bello	Pauline Veamatahau
<b>Sun 6.00pm</b>	Margaret Bannan Robert Dullard	Damian Casamento

**Cleaning Roster:**  
**Saturday 6 November 2021**  
**Volunteers**  
 Thank you for your hard work



**New Guidelines - Bookings required for Mass attendance**

As of 6:00pm Friday 29 October 2021, the following measures will be applied to Masses at Sacred Heart Parish:

All regular weekday and weekend Masses will have a cap of 70 parishioners (including clergy) who are fully vaccinated. To be eligible to attend Mass you must have your vaccination record loaded in your Service Victoria App, or those without a smartphone please bring your printed vaccination certificate with you to Mass. **Pre booking is required for all weekend Masses.**

An **additional Mass** on Sundays for 30 parishioners (including clergy) who are not fully vaccinated will be provided at 12:00pm (Midday). **Pre booking is also required for this Mass.**


**Pre bookings are also required** for All Saints Day Mass at 7pm on Monday 1 November and All Souls Day Mass at 7pm on Tuesday 2 November. (fully vaccinated parishioners only)

PLEASE NOTE: at all Masses face masks are mandatory and you must check-in. Please do not attend Mass if you are feeling unwell, have tested positive or are waiting for a Covid test result.

We are now taking online bookings for **all weekend Masses, 7pm All saints & 7pm All Souls Masses** via the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BUZRO>

If your circumstances change and you can no longer attend Mass, the booking system allows you to cancel your booking to allow others to attend.

**THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS**



*The preaching of the Gospel reinvigorates hope because it reminds us that God is present in everything. He accompanies us and gives us the courage and creativity we need to start ever anew.*

**Blessed—Daily Advent and Christmas Reflections 2021**

*Blessed* is a 92-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (28 November 2021) through to the Baptism of the Lord (9 January 2022). If you wish to purchase *Blessed* you must do so by ordering and paying for it in advance. **Cost \$5 each.**

To Order please place your money with your name, address and phone number in an envelope and place it in the "Letters" slot near the front door of the presbytery before Monday 1 November. Please DO NOT use the letterbox along the fence as this is not secure. Thank you



**2022 Columban Art calendar**

This year, if you wish to purchase a Columban calendar, you must do so by ordering and paying for it in advance.

Calendars cost \$10 each.

To Order, please place your money with your name, address and phone number in an envelope and place it in the "Letters" slot near the front door of the presbytery before Monday 1 November. Please DO NOT use the letterbox along the fence as this is not secure. Thank you



**Last Week's Collection: 24/10/21**

1st Collection for our Church: \$2,151  
 2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$522  
 Thank you for your kind generosity



**LAUDATO SI: ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME**

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, will begin this week in Glasgow, Scotland. Vatican News 4 Oct 21 "Pre-COP26 Appeal: Action needed to heal our wounded humanity" by Lydia O'Kane

During the meeting 'Faith and Science: Towards Cop26' held in the Vatican Pope Francis along with scientists and religious leaders signed a document which calls for the world to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible, reduce its own emissions and finance emission reductions by poorer nations. "We have inherited a garden: we must not leave a desert to our children." Those are the words contained in a joint appeal signed by Pope Francis along with scientists and religious leaders in the Vatican during a meeting entitled "Faith and Science: Towards Cop26." The appeal spells out, in no uncertain terms, that unprecedented challenges "threaten our beautiful common home." It notes that "multiple crises facing humanity are ultimately linked to a crisis of values, ethical and spiritual, adding that as caretakers of the natural environment, there is a moral obligation "to cooperate in the healing of the planet." "We need a framework of hope and courage," the document underlines, "but we also need to change the narrative of development. Climate change is a grave threat." To follow up on this message from Pope Francis feel free to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

"Catholics and COP 26 what Catholics need to know".  
 Let us pray with St Francis for the success of COP26.  
*Lord make me an instrument of Your peace, where there is hatred let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness joy.*  
*O Divine master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love. For it's in giving that we receive and it's in pardoning that we are pardoned and it's in dying that we are born to eternal life.*  
 May the Holy Spirit inspire the leaders at COP26 to legislate for love and respect for all creation AMEN.

**Sacred Heart Christmas Appeal 2021**



For many years, our Sacred Heart Community and school has collected Christmas food items, assembled and delivered hampers to families and individuals who members of our St Vincent de Paul team have visited throughout the year and who continue to struggle with basic living costs. Last year, due to Covid restrictions, with the help of the Parish and Parishioners, we were able to support many families with food vouchers, so that they could purchase their own Christmas food. Due to the current COVID conditions, we will need to continue this approach for this year. Rather than cash, we are asking for donations of gift Cards of \$10 or more (from Coles or Woolworths) -for individuals, couples or families to be able to purchase Christmas food items. We would, of course, also welcome donations from parish or work groups to support us to reach more people who will be struggling not only towards Christmas but in the weeks that follow. Please place your donation in an envelope labelled "Christmas Gift Appeal" with your contact details so we can acknowledge your kind donation with a receipt. You may either deliver your gift to the presbytery or alternatively contact Moira Mc Mahon on 0439 619 623, Pauline O'Day on 9484 2445 or Stephen Costello 0432 405 417 if you require us to collect your donation. With thanks, Stephen Costello St Vincent de Paul Conference Preston

**Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist:**

As we move closer to reopening our churches to celebrate as one, we will be looking to preparing new rosters for Liturgical ministers and also current and potential volunteers who clean and prepare our church each week. Please take time to advise the office if you are willing to continue in your current roles after lock down, with details of your availability and experience. New volunteers will also be welcome. Please refer to the following information from the Archdiocese of Melbourne about who can serve as readers, altar servers or as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

- A person who is in full communion with the Catholic Church.
- Men, women, young and old who are committed to the practice of their faith and willing to participate in a parish initiated formation. (May soon be accessible online)

[Persons aged over 18 must have a current Working With Children Check or be willing to apply for one.](#)  
 Assistance to do so is available.

**Working With Children Checks (WWCC):**

It is a requirement of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne that all clergy, employees and volunteers over the age of 18 are required to maintain a current Working With Children Check throughout their involvement in parishes, Agencies and entities. This is to ensure that we all stand united in creating safe environments for children and young people. The application process can be commenced online and finalised at a participating Australian Post Office. While most of our frequent volunteers already hold updated WWCC that are recorded in our parish register, we urge volunteers who have not yet applied for a Check or whose Check has expired or not linked to the parish do so via the WWCC website: <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> Any questions- contact Rachel at the office, Pauline O'Day or other members of the Child Safe Standards Committee. Thank you

**CHILDREN'S WEEK 23-31 OCTOBER 2021**



Children's Week is a national celebration of children's rights, talents and citizenship held on the fourth Wednesday of October in Australia to coincide with Universal Children's Day. Each year the theme of Children's Week highlights a particular Children's Right. The Theme for 2021 is Article 15 – 'Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.' At Sacred Heart we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish. The safety of children, young and people is everyone's responsibility. Today, we pray for children and their families. As we acknowledge and celebrate their capacity to actively contribute to the world around them, let us as individuals renew our commitment to contribute to establishing a culture of safety within our Church that listens to the voices of children and ensures that all can safely and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community. Our Parish Policy and Code of Conduct is currently being updated and will be published and made available in the coming weeks.

**Joke Corner**

A priest is called to a Catholic nursing home in Sydney to talk to a man who is thinking of marrying one of the other residents.  
 "Do you love her?" the priest asked.  
 The old man replied, "I guess so."  
 Is she a good Catholic woman?"  
 "That I don't know."  
 "Does she have lots of money?"  
 The old man scratched his head. "I doubt it."  
 Confused, the priest then asked, "Then why in God's name are you marrying her?"  
 "She can still drive at night."