

**27th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
(Year B) 3 October 2021**

**First reading Genesis 2:18-24**

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:

'This at last is bone from my bones,  
and flesh from my flesh!  
This is to be called woman,  
for this was taken from man.'

This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.  
The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 127(128)**

*May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.*

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper.

*May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.*

Your wife like a fruitful vine

in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,

around your table.

*May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.*

Indeed thus shall be blessed

the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion

in a happy Jerusalem

all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children.

On Israel, peace!

*May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.*

**Second reading Hebrews 2:9-11**

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind.

As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

If we love one another,  
God will live in us in perfect love.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mark 10:2-16**

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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



**Sacred Heart Parish  
Preston**

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**The call to become "One Flesh"**

You probably have heard or read the story of a British couple who holds the Guinness world record for the longest marriage. Percy and Florence Arrowsmith married on June 1, 1925 and celebrated their 80th anniversary on June 1, 2005. "I think we're very blessed," Florence, 100, told the BBC. "We still love one another, that's the most important part." When asked for the secret of their long and successful marriage, Florence said you must never be afraid to say "sorry." "You must never go to sleep bad friends," she said. Of course, she's right. There are times in every marriage for forgiving and forgetting and saying, "I'm sorry," and going to sleep good friends. That's positive sentiment override. By the way, Florence's husband Percy, 105, said his secret to marital bliss was, "Are you able to overlook one another's faults and forgive one another's mistakes?"

This is an incredible story of a married couple. Congratulations to Percy and Florence for their achievement of a Guinness world record! But there is something more than achieving a Guinness world record that draws my admiration, that is, their fidelity and commitment to one another. They were so humble to acknowledge that love was the reason for the survival of their marriage. They did admit their personal weaknesses and shortcomings but had a strong belief in the power of a forgiving love which brought them back to their spousal union.

The marriage of Percy and Florence can be an excellent example and source of strength and inspirations for other married couples. I have no intention to encourage married couples to strive to achieve the Guinness world record. That's not that important at all! The Guinness world record is not the goal of marriage. But I would like to encourage married couples to build their marriage on the rock of love and forgiveness.

Our Sunday readings remind Christian couples that their marriage is a call to leave their parents, marry, and become one flesh. In the Old Testament and the New, becoming "one flesh" is very rich in meaning. It means that when a man and a woman come together in marriage each of them becomes a part of the other. This helps them understand why Eve was fashioned from the side of Adam and when Adam saw her for the first time, he immediately recognized her as a part of himself, someone without whom he would be incomplete, someone who was missing in his life. Moreover, when a man and a woman come together in a love of total mutual self-giving, it reflects the inter-personal love within the Most Holy Trinity. Hence marriage is holy as it is designed by God himself. Last but not least, God wills that the call to become "one flesh" lasts for ever, exclusive, and indissoluble. Jesus said, "What God has united, man must not divide."

However, living the call of becoming "one flesh" is not easy. We live in a society that embraces simple co-habitation and ignores both the escalating divorce statistics and the dangerous consequences of divorce. Many marriages encounter difficulties, "one flesh" itself falls apart. The challenge is how to create a good marriage?

Creating a good marriage, I believe, demands, firstly, that the couple should become the right person for each other as God-given gifts. Marriage must transform couples to be better persons for their spouse. Moreover, marriage is a union based on committed sharing and forgiving and sacrificial love. Hence, it requires adjustments, generosity and good will to forgive and ask for forgiveness. Finally, it requires divine nourishment and strength. Many marriages and families fail simply because of lack of spiritual nourishment. In fact, family that prays together stays together.



**Office Hours:**  
Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -2pm

**Parish Priest:**  
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Ph: 0428 715 282

**Italian Community Chaplain:**  
Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD  
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Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212  
**Committee Members:**  
Mary Harb: 0422 891 324  
Teresa Dang : 0434 583 911  
Pauline O'Day: 0497 935 593

**Parish Council Members:**  
Gerard Grant (chairperson), Kay Dufty (secretary), Tony Eley, Ophelia Swai, 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)

**No public Masses  
until  
further notice**

10:30am Sunday Mass  
and 9:10 weekday  
Masses are livestreamed.  
For the live stream links  
please visit:

[www.sacredheartpreston.com.au](http://www.sacredheartpreston.com.au)

**Parish Mass Schedule**

**Weekend Masses:**

**Saturday:** 6:00pm

**Sunday:** 9:00am (Italian),

10:30 am, 6:00 pm

**Weekday Masses:**

**Monday to Friday:** 9.10am

## 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 4th October	St Francis of Assisi
Thursday 7th October	Our Lady of the Rosary
Saturday 9th October	St Denis and Companions St John Leonardi

### PRAYER OF PETITION TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

We stand before you, Holy Spirit, conscious of our sinfulness, but aware that we gather in your name. Come to us, remain with us, and enlighten our hearts.

Give us light and strength to know your will, to make it our own and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom, support us by your power, for you are God, sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for All enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favour. Unite us to yourself in the bond of love and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in your name may we temper justice with love, so that all our decisions may be pleasing to you, and earn the reward promised to good and faithful servants, Amen.



### Joke Corner

The Pope is visiting Australia. He's in Adelaide and realises that he needs to be in Melbourne in just a few hours. He tells his driver to step on it. The driver isn't going fast enough for the Pope. He tells him "Pull over, I'll drive". The Pope floors it. Halfway there, he gets stopped by the local police. The officer goes up to the driver's side window, and asks, "Do you know how fast you were going?" The Pope replies, "Do you know who I am?" The officer realising who it is radios in, "Tell the Senior Sergeant we have a situation here."

The Senior Sergeant gets on the radio and asks, "Did you pull the Premier's wife over again?" The officer replies, "It's bigger than that." The Senior Sergeant asks, "You didn't pull the Supreme Court Judge over again, did you?" The officer replies, "It's bigger than that." The Senior Sergeant finally asks, "Then, who did you pull over?" The officer replies, "I don't know, but he has the Pope for a driver!"

## Victoria's Roadmap out of lockdown

As you would be aware, the Premier announced a proposed Victorian Roadmap on 19 September outlining a slow and staggered re-opening. When 80% of people aged 16 years and over are fully vaccinated (expected around 5 November) churches can have up to 150 fully vaccinated people indoors

You may access the current Victoria's Roadmap at: <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-09/210919%20-%20Roadmap-Metro.pdf>

### STOP PRESS: From Archbishop Comensoli

There remains many unanswered questions regarding the proposed Victorian Roadmap. Media have expressed interest in the implications for places of worship, and the Archbishop has provided a quote for The Age (below), which we wanted to share with you.

*"Spiritual wellbeing is as important as psychological and physical wellbeing.*

*Lockdown has affected Victorians deeply, no less for the thousands of people of faith who have not been able to attend worship or receive the sacraments of the Church. We have been very flexible throughout this pandemic, but are urging Government and health authorities to make clear what the end goal is after we hit 80% full vaccination status.*

*It would be a tragedy if two classes of citizens, the vaccinated and the unvaccinated, were to emerge and be entrenched as we look towards a COVID-normal goal. In our faith tradition, all the available vaccines in Australia are permissible to receive, and our clergy and people are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated. We believe we can achieve ways that allow both vaccinated and unvaccinated people to worship in-person safely, and are working with other faith leaders to bring those proposals to the table."*

The Archbishop will offer a more detailed message when there is a clearer understanding of the pathways forward, and following further negotiations with authorities.

† † †

### Rosary Crusade for Victory Against the Darkness

You are invited to share this wonderful Worldwide Virtual event "Rosary Crusade for Victory Against the Darkness"

This will be a live, worldwide virtual event at 6:30pm central (US time) on October 7, 2021 – yes, that's right on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

You will need to register in advance to receive the link to join in. Here's where to sign up:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/avilafoundation/568089#> to connect with the USA, otherwise we encourage you to participate on this day at your local time of 6:30pm.

Please share this wonderful opportunity with family and friends.

Our Lady of Victory, pray for us!

### Working With Children Checks:

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.

To apply go to <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply#>



### Lockdown Light—a weekly series

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown ...

Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations at [www.bit.ly/LockdownLight](http://www.bit.ly/LockdownLight)

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

The Season of Creation concludes on the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi Monday October 4. During this time Pope Francis has invited everyone to get involved with caring for our common home. He invites us to:

- Recognise God's ownership of the whole earth, and all our 'possessions'?
- Release what we have back to God, both spiritually and practically?
- Recognise our total dependency on God and his creation?
- Receive God's provision, in patience and trust?

As God's earth suffers, God's people suffer also. The Season of Creation 2021 has encouraged churches and Christians to participate through:

**Prayer:** including praise for God's provision, repentance for our greed and complicity in the suffering of earth and our neighbours, intercession for those vulnerable to climate chaos, and releasing all we have back to God.

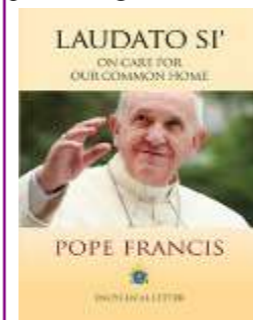
**Practice:** Auditing our own mistreatment of the earth, and committing to new practices individually and as worshipping communities.

**Advocacy:** Encourage states to ensure that climate justice and steps to a green economy are part of the COVID-19 economic recovery plans

**Action:** Participate in civil action to put pressure on Governments to produce ambitious national targets for COP 26.

Please visit <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

*During this Season of Creation, we ask you to grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation. In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.*



**SAVE THE DATE:** Pending advice on Covid 19 restrictions, we at Sacred Heart Church Preston intend to join Australian Religious Response to Climate Change by demonstrating on Bell St beside our church in support of Pope Francis' call to be proactive for the health of our planet as we approach COP 26 in Glasgow November 1. Please join the Laudato Si' Group: Sunday October 17 from 11.30 to 2 pm.

### WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick  
*Anthony, Peter Bourke,  
Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph  
Paige Lapenta, John Plum ,and  
Bronislawa Slobodzian*

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

Those who have died recently

We Commemorate

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



### THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS



*Fighting against the terrible scourge of hunger means also fighting waste. To throw food away means to throw people away. It is scandalous today not to notice how precious food is as a good, and how so much good ends up so badly.*

### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

*I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

(say this prayer in lieu of receiving Communion)

### Online Mass Service

10:30am Sunday Mass and 9:10am weekday  
Sacred Heart parish Masses are livestreamed.  
For the live stream links please visit:  
[www.sacredheartpreston.com.au](http://www.sacredheartpreston.com.au)

Daily Mass from St. Patrick's Cathedral can be attended live online every day at  
<https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/mass-online>

Live telecast of Sunday Mass from St. Patrick's Cathedral can be viewed on Channel 44 (31) at 11am

### Cleaning Roster: Saturday 9 October 2021

Volunteers  
Thank you for your hard work

