

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 10th - 11th October 2020

First Reading: Is 25:6-10

The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22. R. v.6

R/ I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Second Reading: Phil 4:12-14. 19-20

I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: See Eph 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

The personal question/action for today:

Do I have GOoD memories of special festive meals and/or Sunday celebrations?

What do those memories tell me about GOD's desire to have me celebrate forever in heaven? What can I do to make the LORD's Day a blessed time of re-creation and celebration of GOD's GOoDness?

How can I share with others the richness and joy of GOD's abundant GOoDness?



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All are Called, Few are Chosen

In today's gospel parable, the king sends out his servants, referring to the long line of prophets sent to the people of Israel calling them to love and service. "But they would not come," says Jesus.

Other servants are sent out. "Tell those who have been invited that I have my banquet all prepared... Everything is ready. Come to the wedding." When God calls there is always a sense of urgency. The only time to respond is NOW. But that is not what happens here. Those invited were simply not interested. They reacted in two ways.

Either they were too involved in their own worldly interests to be bothered or else they seized the king's messengers, "maltreated them and killed them".

After the treatment his messengers received, "the king was furious," Jesus says. "He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town."

With the refusal of those originally invited, the king once again repeats that the wedding is "ready". The servants are now sent out, not to the houses of the wealthy and respectable, but to the "crossroads" where large crowds of ordinary people would gather. No exceptions are made. All are invited, good and bad alike, until the wedding hall is filled.

There is now no "chosen people", no elite. The Church calls all to enter. It is, and always will be, a Church of both saints and sinners. It would be so nice to have a parish consisting only of totally dedicated Christians but it would not be truly representative of the love of God reaching out to all. It would not be truly a catholic church, a church for all.

The last part of the parable seems a gross contradiction. It seems so unjust. Having gone out to the highways and byways to bring in all without exception, how can one justify tossing out someone because he does not have a "wedding garment"? Yet, some reflection will reveal that it is really part of the same teaching. The Jewish leaders rejected Jesus. Other people, outcasts and pagans, were invited to take their place at the banquet. However, it is not enough just to be present at the banquet. One was expected to come properly dressed and not in dirty and untidy clothes. This would show a total lack of respect for one's fellow-guests.

While many, in fact all, are called to the banquet, they are expected to behave as wedding guests. In practical terms, while the Church opens wide its arms to the sinner, it expects that he /she makes an effort to repent and put on the "wedding garment".

cf Sacred Space <http://www.sacredspace.ie/>



Office Hours:
Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:
Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Assistant Priest:
Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

Italian Community Chaplain:
Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD

Deacon:
Yosef Meda, SVD

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:
Ylenia Useli
shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:
Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:
Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:
Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),
Kay Dufty (secretary),
Tony Eley, Gerard Grant,
Ophelia Swai,
Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,
Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna and
Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:
Peter Constable (Chair)
0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:
Pauline O'Day (President)
Ph: 9484 2445

Parish Mass Schedule

Zoom Live Stream Masses

Monday – Friday at 9.10 am

Sunday at 10.30 am

Please call Fr Jan for
Zoom ID on: 0400469540

**For other
Online Mass
Schedule
see next page**

Release of Fratelli Tutti (FT) - on Fraternity and Social Friendship

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
“..if the music of the Gospel ceases to resonate in our very being, we will lose the joy born of compassion, the tender love born of trust, the capacity for reconciliation that has its source in our knowledge that we have been forgiven and sent forth. If the music of the Gospel ceases to sound in our homes, our public squares, our workplaces, our political and financial life, then we will no longer hear the strains that challenge us to defend the dignity of every man and woman”. [FT 277]

On this Feast of St Francis of Assisi, passionate and poetic missionary of the Gospel, I share with you the Holy Father’s awaited Encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti – on Fraternity and Social Friendship”, which extends the guiding paths laid down by Evangelii Gaudium and Laudato Si’:

[Please click here for ‘Fratelli Tutti’](#)

I urge you to read it, and to then return to it with time and space to draw more deeply into the riches within. Situated as we are in the latter stages of this Pandemic, it offers much that we might embrace as we determine who we are as people of God in Melbourne, and how we might emerge from this time of exile to go on mission into the world with the beating heart of Jesus.

The Holy Father speaks to us as ‘fellow travellers...children of the same earth... brothers and sisters all.’ Our own Saint Mary of the Cross also spoke to our shared pilgrimage as being ‘but travellers here..’. We are not on this path alone, but together as humanity, accompanied by the One who through His great sacrifice, calls us to live always with love, mercy and compassion for all.

Yours in peace and fraternity

+ Archbishop Peter Comensoli

Friendship and Solidarity

A world that looks beyond a global pandemic with no roadmap can find one in Pope Francis’ new encyclical Fratelli Tutti, which Archbishop Mark Coleridge says “is not just for believers but for the entire human family”.

“It is a vision of the dignity of every human being from which flows the call to build a new culture of fraternity and dialogue,” said Archbishop Coleridge. “In his previous encyclical Laudato Si’ Pope Francis spoke of care for our common home. Here he speaks of care for each other, the family that dwells together in the common home.”

Online Masses

St. Patrick’s Cathedral - Live Streaming at:
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 8am, Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

TV Masses

Channel 44 (31): Live telecast from St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Sunday at 11am

Channel 10: Mass for you at home, Sunday at 6am.

RAI: Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday at 8:30am



World Mission Sunday ‘Here I Am, Send Me’


**MISSION
SUNDAY**

The annual World Mission Sunday joins all Catholics of the world into one community of faith. At Mass that Sunday, we recommit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism, to be missionaries, through prayer, participation in the Eucharist, and by giving generously to the collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Pope Francis, in his message for World Mission Sunday, implores us, “In this year marked by the suffering and challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the missionary journey of the whole Church continues in light of the words found in the account of the calling of the prophet Isaiah: “Here I am, send me” (6:8). This is the ever-new response to the Lord’s question: ‘Whom shall I send?’ This invitation from God’s merciful heart challenges both the Church and humanity, in the current world crisis.”

**Lord Jesus Christ, watch over your missionaries –
priests, religious, and lay people –
who leave everything to give testimony to your
word and your love. In difficult moments, sustain
their energies, comfort their hearts, and crown
their work with spiritual achievements.
Let the adorable image of you crucified on the
Cross, which accompanies them throughout life,
speak to them of heroism, generosity,
love and peace. Amen**

Celebrating World Mission Month

 October is recognised in the Catholic Church as World Mission Month, a time when Catholics all over the world join to support and celebrate global missionary work. Catholic Mission, as the Australian arm of the Pontifical Mission Societies, plays a vital role. 'What Catholic Mission and the international network of Pontifical Mission Societies can do, is to help some of the most vulnerable people in the world', says Catholic Mission Victorian Director, Kevin Meese. 'This year we focus on the essential work of priests, religious and lay missionaries in Cambodia, supporting people with disability and their families.'

In north-west Cambodia, The Arrupe Centre and Outreach Program is providing learning and growth opportunities for the community, still affected by landmine incidents and associated illnesses. This centre is managed by Bishop Enrique "Kike" Figaredo Alvargonzalez in the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang. For over 20 years, Bishop 'Kike' and his team have been working to advocate for people with disability. This program is just one of the many examples of the global work supported by Catholic Mission.

Special Collection

Traditionally, there has been a special collection to support the missionary work of the Church. Although we cannot celebrate in church and make an offering, those who can and would like to make a donation, you may make a bank deposit, specifying your deposit for “Mission Sunday” or bring your donation to the Presbytery. Thank you.



10th Anniversary of the Canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop

Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to order your free copy of ‘Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer’.

They have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2777

Equality for Faith Petition

Dear people of faith, an online petition has been created to address the inequality towards places of worship and people of faith in the Victorian government's 'Roadmap for Reopening'. The petition can be found on:

<https://www.equalityforfaith.com.au/>

We are not asking for special treatment - just equal treatment. We ask you to please sign and distribute the petition to people you know and encourage them to do the same.

Melbourne Academic Dr Tracy Rowland wins Vatican's Ratzinger Prize for Theology

Last week, the Vatican has announced the names of the winners of the 2020 Ratzinger Prize for Theology, considered as equivalent to a Nobel Prize in theology. Melbourne-based Professor Tracey Rowland was named one of two winners of the prestigious Prize and is the first Australian and the third woman to win the prize. The award recognises scholars who perform promising research relating to or expounding upon the theology of Pope Benedict XVI.

Pondering Grief - Reflection event via Zoom

Saturday 17th Oct 2020, 10am-1pm. Facilitated by Counsellor/Supervisor/Educator Linda Espie, this event provides the opportunity to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creative, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop will offer a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Limited to 10 participants. Cost \$30. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BLUEA> For more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or tel 9890 1101.



Dates to Remember

Sunday 18th October: World Mission Day

Collections

1st Collection: \$153.00

2nd Collection: \$103.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
*Dhea Abenir, Anthony, Lopisoni Amato,
Peter Bourke, Pasquale Curcio,
Nicola D’Orazio, Anthony Joseph,
Ray Mc Veigh & Bronislawa Slobodzian*

Those who have died recently
Peter Pennell

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

Thank You

A sincere ‘Thank you’ to so many of you who have offered your words of sympathy, support and prayers after the death of my Mum. Thank you for the flowers and gifts, the signs of your love and support.

I was not able to travel to Poland for her funeral but your sympathy made it so much easier for me to say ‘good bye’ to my dear Mother.

Fr Jan



Let us Return to the Eucharist with Joy!

“Aware that God never abandons the humanity He has created, and that even the hardest trials can bear fruits of grace, we have accepted our distance from the Lord’s altar as a time of Eucharistic fasting, useful for us to re-discover its vital importance, beauty and immeasurable preciousness. As soon as is possible, however, we must return to the Eucharist with a purified heart, with a renewed amazement, with an increased desire to meet the Lord, to be with him, to receive him and to bring him to our brothers and sisters with the witness of a life full of faith, love, and hope. In times of difficulty (e.g. wars, pandemics), Bishops and Episcopal Conferences can give provisional norms which must be obeyed. Obedience safeguards the treasure entrusted to the Church.” (From Cardinal Sarah’s Letter on the celebration of the liturgy during and after the COVID 19 pandemic, September 2020)

In light of this, and as a provisional measure for the time-being only, Archbishop Peter Comensoli asks that Communion be distributed in the hand only (and not directly on the tongue), as a precautionary step to protect against COVID-19. This is not done lightly, because in normal circumstances the Church in Australia does not limit reception of the Sacrament to one way or another. This is not a permanent situation, and will be reviewed at each significant change in the Victorian Roadmap. The Archbishop will lift this requirement at the earliest opportunity. Catholics who do not feel able to receive the Sacrament in this way due to personal devotion or piety are to be respectfully encouraged to make a spiritual communion. In the case of serious sickness or end of life the Sacrament is available without restriction.