

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

6th - 7th October 2018

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

They were two in one flesh.

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 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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 127

R/ May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have the same origin.

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

Gospel Acclamation: 1 Jn 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

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 blessings.

The Gospel of the Lord

Marriage is a sacrament, a divine, life-giving sign. Through the union of husband and wife, God intended to bestow His blessings on the human family—making it fruitful, multiplying it until it filled the earth (see Genesis 1:28)

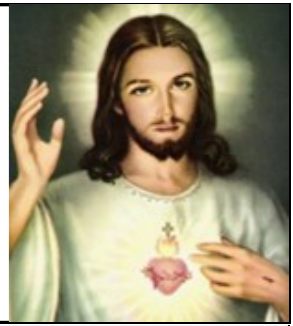


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27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B 6th - 7th October 2018

“May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.”

The creation myth - the second one in the Book of Genesis – is one of the most beautiful in the Bible, especially in its portrayal of a compassionate, providential God who, fashioning the human being and other living creatures from the earth, entrusts the care and guardianship of the earth and its inhabitants to humanity. The responsibility of naming the creatures is reminiscent of the privilege of parents to name a child entrusted to them and with whom they will share a unique, nurturing and loving relationship. Equally fascinating is the way in which the creation of the woman is described.

It is to this story that Jesus refers when some leaders put him to the test concerning the cold and limited views of marriage interpreted through rigid rules about divorce. Jesus is not seduced into a debate. His assertion is that marriage is more than a contract entered into by two persons; it is a participation in the creative plan of God – a partnership of mutual self-giving and care that should be nurtured and infuse family life.

In our times, human limitation is just as much a reality as it was in the ancient world. We have ideals but fall far short of them in so many ways; but such is the nature of an 'ideal'. When this happens in marriage, the consequences can be more far-reaching than in other aspects of our lives. The parties involved become the 'little ones' whose lives are shattered or disorientated. When parents part company, the best interests and needs of the children are the most vital but hardest to address. More so, when domestic violence or abuse of a partner is an element of the breakdown. Too often in the past, those who have experienced the trauma have felt alienated from the worshipping community.

The Gospel ends with a story about people bringing their children to Jesus. When the disciples attempt to send them away, Jesus reprimands them and reminds them that children are important persons never to be excluded from the inner circles of love and compassion. They are examples of the kind of complete trust and dependence on God that ought to be the attitude of all believers.

We might hear today's gospel as an encouragement to continue to build a warm and welcoming community in which families - and children in particular - feel supported, encouraged and protected.



Office Hours:

Tuesday to Friday
10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Priests in Residence:

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

Fr Phuong Vu SVD, La Trobe
University Chaplain

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9484 3514

Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Judeline Wadhvani

Child Safety Officer:

Judeline Wadhvani

Contact: 0490660787

judeline.wadhvani@gmail.com

Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Gerard

Grant, Ophelia Swai, Anisasio

(Pauline) Veamatahau, Mark

Tierney, Timothy Nolan,

Fr Jan Szweda SVD

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

Healing Mass: 1st Thursday of
the month at 1.30pm

DEVOTIONAL PRACTICES:

Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament: Wednesday after
9.10am Mass

Holy Rosary: Thursday

(English) & Friday (Italian) after
9.10am Mass

Legion of Mary: Thursday

7.30pm, in the Presbytery

Reconciliation:

Weekdays: 30 minutes before
Mass or by appointment

Baptisms & Weddings:

By appointment only

Parish Stewardship Program

As the renovation of our church building progresses, our parish will conduct a Parish Stewardship Program beginning next Sunday, October 14, 2018. The Program is the core initiative of the Parish Development team of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The Parish Stewardship Program is a comprehensive parish renewal which recognises that "Parishes are the Heartbeat of the Church." Over a period of several weeks, we will be taken on a journey to reflect and discuss what it means to be a valued member of a parish – through the communal celebration of the Eucharist, involvement in parish life and commitment to financial support.

I invite and encourage you to be involved in the Stewardship Program and contribute to its success by being involved as the Program unfolds – at Mass and by following us on our parish website and (soon) Facebook.

Today's Reflection

*"I will be their God and they shall be my people."
Jeremiah 31:33*

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything; we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our neighbours and the world, just as God cares for us.

Dates to Remember

20th/21st October - 17th/18th November:

Parish Stewardship Program

Welcome!

This weekend through Baptism we welcome:



**Leo CATALANO-HOLM,
Vinnie CATALANO-HOLM,
Aiden Darrien RAJKUMAR
& Lincoln Donovan KING**
into our Parish family

Last Week's Collection: 30/09/18

1st Collection for our Church: \$1365.05

2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$766.20

Thank you for your kind generosity!



Catholic Marriages

The Brisbane Archdiocese recently put together an *Amoris Laetitia* Task Force to 'develop and implement a strategy to promote Catholic marriage and family'.

The *Catholic Leader* story announcing the move noted that in 2016 there were only 8603 Catholic marriages registered in Australia. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics there were 118,401 marriages registered in Australia that year.

It will be interesting to see what reasons the task force finds for the declining popularity of Catholic marriages. It may be that more couples are choosing to explore different types of ceremonies, and don't want the restrictions that come with a Catholic ritual. It may be that some are turned off by the need to undergo a marriage course before embarking on the sacrament. And it may be that fewer people are finding meaning in a partnership that is consecrated before God.

There is, though, still something beautiful about Catholic marriage. The liturgy itself allows relationships to be affirmed and celebrated before family and friends. The sacrament, and the vows that are made, lays the grounding for a life-long journey. To embark on such a journey remains a huge commitment and the road might not always be easy. But I'm not sure any other understanding of marriage offers the same power, the same beauty, the same goodness that Catholic marriage offers.

This week, as we reflect on the Gospel readings, let us pray for those who are considering embarking on the journey of marriage together. Let's hope that God walks with them, and helps guide them into a journey that will enrich their lives and bring great fruits to the world.

Michael McVeigh, Editor - Australian Catholics



Living Icons

Love and salvation are for most of us, discovered within the ordinariness of every day family life. God chooses ordinary and imperfect people – mums and dads – to reveal his extraordinary love. For this reason, Pope Francis describes married couples as "living icons" of God's creative love.

This year, the Archdiocese of Melbourne's Life, Marriage & Family Sunday takes up this idea with the theme: Living Icons - Mothers, Fathers and the Gospel of the Family. Resources created, look at the unique yet complementary gifts of motherhood and fatherhood and the powerful role, parents play in raising and forming their children. While none of us are perfect, children are best served when those they look up – especially their parents – resolve never to stop striving for the perfection that Christ calls us to (Mt 5:48).

There are resources that have been designed to give practical suggestions and tips to encourage all, in the daily realities of family life.

Please, visit Life, Marriage & Family Sunday Resources on www.familylife.com.au

Muscle for Marriage

Wednesdays 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st October, 7pm – 9pm
Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne

Marriage can be tough but like anything worth having, it's worth working for! How do we build the strength and endurance to go the distance? Classical wisdom tells us that character and virtues are the key. Run over four Wednesday evenings in October, Muscle for Marriage will help you build the discipline, courage and wisdom needed to run the race.

Register: www.trybooking.com/WNRN

Cost: \$50 a couple for all four sessions or \$15 a couple for one session (Includes materials and a light wine and cheese supper)

Villa Maria Catholic Homes

Aged Care | Affordable Housing | Retirement Living | Home Care | Disability and Specialist Education

A Catholic, not-for-profit organisation providing services to more than 7000 people across Victoria.

We observe the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church by celebrating the life of individuals and their communities as expressed in their physical, social and spiritual wellbeing.

For more information please phone 1800 036 377
or visit www.vmch.com.au

Catholics and the Bible: with Tim Staples

When: Saturday 13th October, 7pm (after the 6pm Mass)
Where: St Anne's Catholic Church, 84 Austin Road, Seaford

Find out how the origin and interpretation of the Bible is related to the Catholic Church. Join inspirational, world-renowned Catholic apologist Tim Staples for an informative and inspirational talk about the greatest book ever written: the Bible. Food will be provided.

Cost: Free (donations gratefully accepted)

Register: parousiamedia.com/events

For more information: johnsmyth@parousiamedia.com or 0406 747 123

Volunteer Opportunity Assisting Refugee Students

MERCY CONNECT MELBOURNE – Mercy Works Ltd. is currently recruiting volunteers to support Refugee Students and Asylum Seekers in Primary and Secondary schools across the Melbourne Archdiocese. The volunteer commitment is approximately half a day per week for four school terms. Experience working in an educational setting is preferred but not limited to. Please contact Sr Mary Lewis RSM for an application form and further information.

Email: somml@bigpond.com (preferred for contact)



WE PRAY FOR:

Our loved ones who died recently

Yvonne Gardner & Dan J. Lane

The elderly and the sick

*Theresa Bittar, Gerard Grant,
Irene Navascues & Veronica Parker*

Those recommended to our prayers

Leonardo Liwanag & Gimina Nicassio

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.



Mission Fair

The Missionary Sister of St Peter Claver will hold their Annual Mission Fair on Saturday 13th October 9.00 am – 3.00 pm at 154 Cotham Rd, Kew. This year the proceeds will go to help provide primary education and health services for 150 poor girls and 100 poor boys in the Catholic Sohan Diocese, Egypt.

Enquiries Phone: 9817 3715

Retreat for the Feminine Heart



When: Friday 12th October, 9am–1pm

Where: Stella Maris Catholic Church, 2 Charlotte Road, Beaumaris

Fr Larry Richards speaks directly to the heart, as human beings and as children of God. In this retreat for women, Fr Larry will speak to two issues of significance for the feminine heart: surrender to the Holy Spirit and Jesus' words 'Let your heart not be troubled'.

Cost: \$15 Register: parousiamedia.com/events

Cleaning Roster: Saturday 13th October 2018



Legion of Mary

Thank you for your help!

Roster for weekend of 13th - 14th October 2018

	Readers	Ministers
Sat 6.00pm	Terry Murphy Marlene Vergou	Charlotte Bairy Mary Harb
Sun 9.00am (Italian)	Mancini M. Paiano T.	Santini G. Pavan M.
Sun 10.30am	Alan Castles Ivana Lo Bello	Giovanna D'Intino Eileen Stevens
Sun 6.00pm	Carolina Constable Peter Constable	Sharon Kotz