# 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B) 12 September 2021

#### **First reading**

living.

#### Isaiah 50:5-9

#### The Lord has opened my ear.

For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle.

The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who will dare to condemn me? The Word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114(116):1-6,8-9 **Responsorial Psalm** *I* will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. I love the Lord for he has heard the cry of my appeal; for he turned his ear to me in the day when I called him. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. They surrounded me, the snares of death, with the anguish of the tomb; they caught me, sorrow and distress. I called on the Lord's name. O Lord, my God, deliver me! *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the* living. How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion. The Lord protects the simple hearts; I was helpless so he saved me. *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the* living. He has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears and my feet from stumbling. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the* 

#### Second reading

#### James 2:14-18

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, 'I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty', without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.

This is the way to talk to people of that kind: 'You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds - now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show.' The Word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

#### **Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia!

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world. Alleluia!

#### Gospel

#### Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.' The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



# **Sacred Heart Parish Preston** 322 Bell St, Preston 3072

Parish Contacts: Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124 Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au

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

**Parish Priest:** Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD Ph: 0428 715 282

**Italian Community Chaplain:** Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD Ph: 0478 963 248

Parish Office: Rachel Costa

School Principal: Mark Tiernev School Phone: 9487 1001

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

**Child Safety Committee:** Child Safety Officers: Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958 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

**Parish Mass Schedule** 

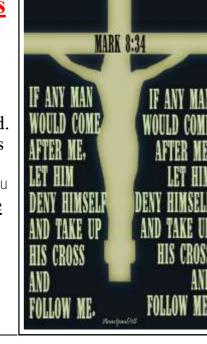
Weekend Masses: Saturday: 6:00pm Sunday: 9:00am (Italian), 10:30 am, 6:00 pm Weekday Masses: Monday to Friday: 9.10am

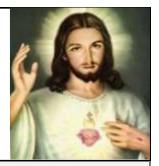
The Paralympic Games just finished in Tokyo on 5 September 2021. More than just a sporting event, it teaches us many valuable lessons. To achieve gold, silver and bronze medals, requires the handicapped athletes to go through tough training. Despite their disabilities, they must prove their best. The training demands self-discipline, courage, confidence, perseverance, humility and hard work. In other words, it demands sacrifice. Like the training of the Paralympic athletes which demands high cost so does following Jesus. It requires not only acceptance of him but also willingness to sacrifice. Jesus tells His disciples: "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me." Following Jesus requires self-denial and willingness to carry the cross which means accept rejection, insults, criticism, hatred, even death.

Jesus gives us a perfect example of carrying our cross. The purpose of His mission is to free us from the bondage of sin and give us salvation, but in carrying out this mission He suffers rejection, persecution, even tragic death on the cross. But He embraces His cross courageously and humbly. Why did Jesus accept his death on the cross without fear? For Him, death on cross is the moment to receive His glory. Only through suffering and death was He able to reach His glorious resurrection. Moreover, only through suffering and death was He able to bring salvation for all. The salvation of all is the fruit of His suffering and death on the cross. He says: "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24). And the fruit of His death is His glorious resurrection is our eternal life.

In daily life we encounter crosses of different kinds and weights such as health issues, marriage and family problems, financial problems, the loss of our loved ones, or the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. We also struggle to remain in a genuine relationship with God. We struggle with our faith and living God's commandments. We have temptations to give up. But Jesus encourages us not to be disheartened. We need to be humble and surrender to God.

When our crosses are too heavy to carry let us turn to our Mother Mary who is our model and help in carrying our crosses. She was called to be the mother of our Redeemer to which





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#### Take Up the Cross, and Follow Me!

she answered "Yes." Her mission is difficult as she encountered countless hardships. We have heard about the seven swords that pierced through Mary's heart: Simeon's Prophecy, the flight into Egypt, the three days loss in the temple, meeting Jesus with His cross, the crucifixion, taking Jesus down from the cross, and the burial of Jesus. True to her 'Yes,' Mary embraces her cross without complaint. Her example inspires us to embrace our crosses courageously. When our crosses are getting too heavy and unbearable let us turn to Mary for help and consolation.

I like Saint Paul who compares Christians to athletes. Like athletes who go through tough training so do Christians. For Paul, hardships and challenges are no more than tough training to be the best. That motivates him not to give up. Toward the end of his life, Paul says: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." (2Tim.4:7). Together with St Paul let us embrace our cross with sacrificial love for the crown is waiting for us at the end of this race.

## **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 13 September	St John Chrysostom, Bishop,
	Doctor
Tuesday 14 September	<b>Exultation</b> of the Holy Cross
Wednesday 15 September	Our Lady of Sorrows
Thursday 16 September	Saints Cornelius, Pope and
	Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs
Friday 17 September	St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop,
	Doctor
	St Hilegard of Bingen

#### **Safeguarding Children & Young People Survey for Parents and Carers**

The wellbeing of children and young people in our care is our collective priority. The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM) has a mission-driven moral and legal responsibility to create a safe, nurturing environment where children are respected and heard.

The Professional Standards Unit in CAM has prepared a survey for parents and carers to provide feedback on their safeguarding experience within the parish. Survey data will be used to improve safeguarding polices, practices, and procedures and will help shape any reviews and future support.

Please complete the survey by Friday 17 September 2021. For completing the survey and for more information on Safeguarding, please visit:

http://www.sacredheartpreston.com.au/professionalstandards.html

#### **Father's Day Appeal**

Due to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions and public Masses not being able to be said at Parishes, donations to the Father's Day appeal can be made through the Priests Retirement Foundation website via debit, credit card or Paypal where the donor's details are loaded and receipts can be issued. The site is www.cam.org.au/foundation.

## Joke Corner

A small town had three churches: Presbyterian, Methodist, and Catholic. All three had a serious problem with possums in the church building and each, in its own fashion, had a meeting to deal with the problem. The Presbyterians decided that it was predestined that possums be in the church and that they would just have to live with them.

The Methodists decided they should deal with the possums lovingly in the style of Charles Wesley. They humanely trapped them and released them in a park at the edge of town. Within three days, they were all back in the church. The Catholics had the best solution. They baptised and confirmed the possums. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.



This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters.

We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church, settings. We will recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk to be heard, respected and protected.

#### 'The safety of children, young and vulnerable people is everybody's business.'

#### Refer: www.catholic.org.au/safeguardingsunday. PRAYER FOR GOD'S CHILDREN

#### Gracious God,

you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable. We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been sexually abused.

and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed.

Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for those whose lives have been broken.

Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard.

We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support,

so that now and in the future their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace.

Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required.

We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

## Child Safety Committee.

It is a fundamental human right of all children not only to 'feel' safe but to be safe at all times and in all circumstances. All adult members of communities and organizations have a responsibility to protect this right. It is the ongoing commitment of the Child Safety Committee in conjunction with the leadership of Sacred Heart Parish to ensure that the extent of responsibility for taking action to prevent any form of harm to children is understood and accepted by every member of the community, visitor, volunteer or employee. The members of the Committee are:

Child Safety Officers:

Committee: Members:

Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958 Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212 Mary Harb: 0422 891 324, Teresa Dang : 0434 583 911, Pauline O'Day: 0497 935 593



#### 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

#### Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer in Australia and Overseas -The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for January 2022 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Australia. When it is possible and safe to do so, we will recommence sending volunteers to work with disadvantaged young people in Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste & the Solomon Islands. Applications close October 30th. Send us an inquiry - www.cagliero.org.au



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

# SEASON OF CREATION

The Sacred Heart Laudato Si' Group met via zoom Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September to discuss further opportunities to engage with Pope Francis' call to an ecological conversion to care for our common home. We are planning some activities that you might like to join us in. October 17 and 18 there will be a Global Day of Action for the climate called Faiths 4 Climate Justice. This will take place in countries all over the world. One of the main vehicles for our message will be places of worship putting up banners about climate action. We will be protesting for Climate Action on Bell St beside our beautiful church, and you are invited to join with us.

LS 71: The ancient scriptures remind us that the earth is God's. All are to share its gifts, taking what is needed for a good life. In God's plan, the earth can provide abundantly for the needs of all creatures. Human beings are called to be good stewards, looking after it, sharing its fruits with everyone, especially with the poor.

LS 219: The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion.

# *"Triune Lord, wondrous"*

LAUDATO SI ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME POPE FRANCIS 激

community of infinite love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe, for all things speak of you. Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every being that you have made. Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is. Amen." (Pope Francis)

WE PRAY FOR: The elderly and the sick Anthony, Peter Bourke, 💆 Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph Paige Lapenta, John Plum , and Bronislawa Slobodzian Ze That they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect Those who have died recently

Giuseppina Cordima Antonietta Viceconte We Commemorate Kevin Sievers (1st anniversary)

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

THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS



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Education is one of the most effective ways of making our world and history more human. Education is above all a matter of love and responsibility handed down from one generation to another.

# 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 9:10 weekday

Sacred Heart parish Masses are livestreamed.

For the live stream links please visit: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au

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

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

> **Cleaning Roster:** Saturday 18 September 2021 Volunteers Thank you for your hard work

