

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 5th - 6th September 2020

First Reading: Ex 33:7-9

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2.6-9.R. v.8

R/ O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: 2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

God wants the best for each of us.

**We can help each other to goodness, we can support each other,
advise each other, pray for and with each other,
and help each other on our way to God.**

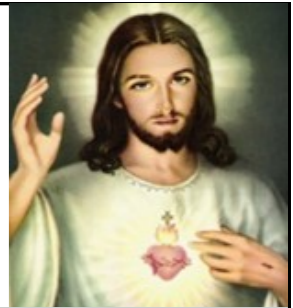
**Recall an occasion when another gave good advice,
even when you may not have liked it at the beginning. Be grateful!
Give me wisdom, Lord, when others ask me for advice or an opinion.**



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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Love cannot Hurt your Neighbour

Life in a family or neighbourhood can be comforting at times but not always. Sharing life with other people means sharing responsibilities and basic human values, abiding by common rules designed to maintain a community in which all have the potential to live, grow and thrive. But there can be differences, disagreements, tensions, bullying, and even worse - taking advantage of the most vulnerable and innocent.

So, what do you and I do when someone hurts or offends us or put another's life at risk by reckless behaviour. Do we ignore the offender, keep our hurt or the harm done to another to ourselves and become bitter and hateful? If so, couldn't that put others at risk should the behaviour not be acknowledged and be allowed to continue? In short, do we do anything but, speak to the person who has been bugging us, and towards sorting it out, describe the impact of the offence upon the victim?

In the Gospel today Matthew draws on the attitudes, example and teachings of Jesus to offer his community a process for forgiveness, reconciliation and harmony. For after all, wasn't the whole purpose of Jesus' mission as the anointed Son to reconcile humanity, including the outcast and the sinner, with Abba, God the loving and forgiving Father of all. Matthew states a three step process:

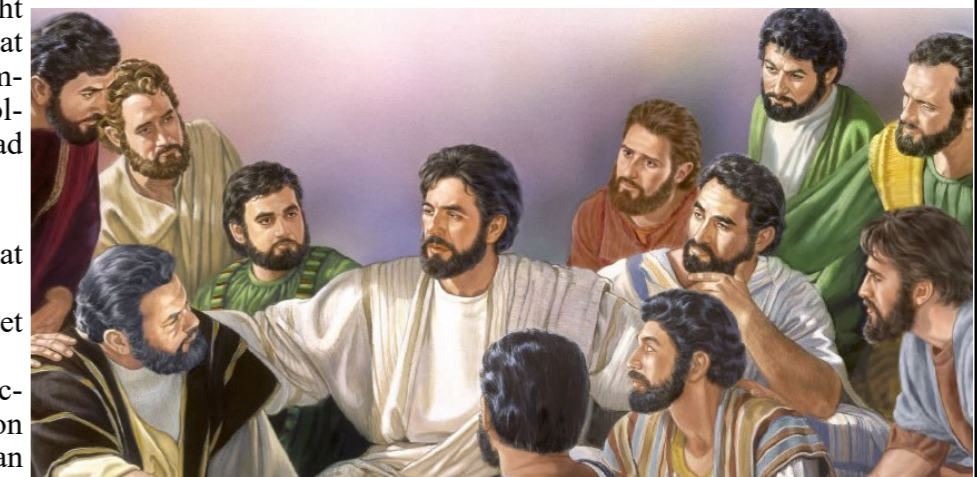
At first just two people are involved: "If your brother or sister sins against you go and have it out with him/her alone. Note that it is the one offended who takes the initiative and privately so as not giving scandal to weaker members of the community who might assume that the community tolerates bad behaviour of others.

If that doesn't work, get support from a second person to be an unbiased witness to the interactions of both.

Approach the offender and try to settle the matter before it goes viral and public.

Then if the offender refuses to listen, involve the church community that of its nature professes and vows to live the teachings of Jesus grounded in love of God and neighbour.

So what do we learn today? First our identity comes from belonging to Christ and so we wish only to act in his name. This means more than invoking Him in prayer. We must not only be aware of our rights and devotions as members of Church but also of our responsibilities, especially to protect those most vulnerable from exploitation by others. This is what the love of Christ is about, as St Paul says: 'Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour' (2Cor 13:10).



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**

Thank You for Your Support

My sincere gratitude to all parishioners who in this challenging time of lockdown since March have been supporting our Parish through Thanksgiving envelopes or cash donations, as well as direct bank donations. With your generous support we have been able to pay all our running expenses, help those who turn up at the Presbytery door asking for help and help some needy families. I am aware that many of you have faced difficulties in managing your family finances at this time or helping others who are in less fortunate situations than yourself. Therefore, your support for our Parish is more appreciated and valued. Once again, I humbly thank you for looking after your Parish and your clergy. Fr Jan

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Happy Father's Day to fathers, grandfathers, and stepfathers. This is not exactly a high holy day of the Church, but it does give us reason to pause, to pray for, and to reflect on our fathers whom we honour. We appreciate all fathers, many of whom lead in our parish family as well as their own families! May God bless you for all you are and all that you do!



God the Father gave up his only Son, Jesus Christ, so that we might be saved through him.

He provides an example of the very vocation of fatherhood. Fathers are to sacrifice their lives for their families.

They do this by:

- Being the spiritual leader and guardian of their families.
- Praying for and with their families.
- Being a courageous witness to the Gospel.
- Providing care and support for their families.
- Serving as an example of goodness and truth.
- Leading with courage and accountability.
- Laying down one's life for another.

Today, in a special way, let us be grateful for:

- Our fathers, by birth or adoption, who love us and support us through life.
- Our Church leaders, who take on the paternal role of guiding us through life.
- And God our Father, who will always teach justly and grant us boundless mercy.

The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him. Proverbs 20:7

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

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.



Putting Children First: Child Protection Week 2020

Sacred Heart Parish Preston is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and people at risk in our community. We uphold that child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of every adult. Access prayers and resources at www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Child Protection Week (6-12 September). This year's theme, 'Putting Children First', underscores the need to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children in all aspects of our community and family life. The occasion is of great significance for the Catholic Church in Australia as it emphasises the need for a continuous commitment to effectively safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Partnered with the commitment to safeguard those most at risk, the Church also acknowledges the devastating harm caused by the sexual abuse of children by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic settings.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8.



Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal Protoevangelium of James fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Mary's parents Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

Dates to Remember

Sunday 6th - Saturday 12th September:

National Child Protection Week

Tuesday 8th September:

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 13th September: Child Protection Sunday

Monday 14th September:

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation



Pope Francis

Each year, particularly since the publication of the Encyclical *Laudato Si'* (LS, 24 May 2015), the first day of September is celebrated by the Christian family as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the beginning of the Season of Creation,

which concludes on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on the fourth of October. During this period, Christians worldwide renew their faith in the God of creation and join in prayer and work for the care of our common home.

I am very pleased that the theme chosen by the ecumenical family for the celebration of the 2020 Season of Creation is Jubilee for the Earth, precisely in this year that marks the fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day. In the Holy Scriptures, a Jubilee is a sacred time to remember, return, rest, restore, and rejoice.

1. **A Time to Remember:** A Jubilee is indeed a time of grace to remember creation's original vocation to exist and flourish as a community of love. We exist only in relationships: with God the Creator, with our brothers and sisters as members of a common family, and with all of God's creatures within our common home. (LS, 92)

2. **A Time to Return:** A Jubilee is a time to turn back in repentance. We have broken the bonds of our relationship with the Creator, with our fellow human beings, and with the rest of creation. We need to heal the damaged relationships that are essential to supporting us and the entire fabric of life.

3. **A Time to Rest:** During the Jubilee, God's people were invited to rest from their usual labour and to let the land heal and the earth repair itself, as individuals consumed less than usual. Today we need to find just and sustainable ways of living that can give the Earth the rest it requires, ways that satisfy everyone with a sufficiency, without destroying the ecosystems that sustain us.

4. **A Time to Restore:** A Jubilee is a time to restore the original harmony of creation and to heal strained human relationships.

5. **A Time to Rejoice:** We also rejoice to see how the 'Laudato Si' Special Anniversary Year is inspiring many initiatives at local and global levels for the care of our common home and the poor. This year should lead to long-term action plans to practise integral ecology in our families, parishes and dioceses, religious orders, our schools and universities, our healthcare, business and agricultural institutions, and many others as well.

This weekend - Special collection for the:

Priest's Retirement Foundation

Collections

1st Collection: \$85.00

Direct Debit for August: \$1845.00

2nd Collection: \$60.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick
*Anthony, Lopisoni Amato,
Peter Bourke, Maria Crocco,
Nicola D'Orazio, Charlie Fragiaco,
Anthony Joseph, Stephen Meese, Ray Mc Veigh
Kevin Sievers & Bronislawa Slobodzin*

Those who have died recently

Marie Jones

We Commemorate

*Dominga Rosario, Emie Rosario,
Remediis Tenazas, John Paul Borro, Rogelio Iroy,
Gonzalo Iroy, Emerita Iroy, Jesus Conge,
Concepcion Conge, Quirino Libanan, Joan Co &
Patrocinio Conge*

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.



Marriage Encounter Online Weekend

If you are spending time together, but feel the distance between you...

A great opportunity to spend a weekend improving your communication in the comfort of your own home. This VIRTUAL Weekend gives couples the chance to sleep in their own beds and check-in on kids or animals during meal times. Come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing! The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. Couples from regional areas may find this option ideal.

Next weekend is on 9th -11th October 2020.

Info/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au

Website: wwme.org.au



Students are at the heart of everything we do.

Sacred Heart School Enrolments 2021

Dear Parishioners,

We still have a couple of positions for students commencing school in Year Prep 2021 and some positions in other classes, for parishioners who have moved into our area. If you would like some information about our school, please ring the school on 9487 1001

or contact the principal at:

mtierney@shpreston.catholic.edu.au

Sacred Heart Bulletin

The Sacred Heart Bulletin is available online and if you would like to have a copy emailed to you, please send an email to:

sacredheart3072@gmail.com or call the office on 94803398 to be added to the email list.