

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 24th - 25th October 2020

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow, the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans. "If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 17:2-4,47,57. R. v.2

R/ I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread - and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation: John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**We admire those who give energy in love and service.
We are proud of people we know whose lives make a
great and good difference to others.
We know that our family and neighbour-hood, parish
and school, workplace and leisure time
have been enriched by the self-sacrificing love
of many people, young and old.**



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



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The Greatest Commandment

God is love. He has loved us with an everlasting love and calls us to share in his love by love him and loving our neighbour. Love of God is the essence of our Christian life. Our Christian faith is based on the love of God and the love of our neighbour.

The message of the Liturgy of the Word today speaks afresh to us in the COVID-19 time. The message speaks directly to our current frustrations and perhaps even to our fears and hopelessness. It challenges us to step back and view our world as God sees it and then to respond as he would respond.

In the 22nd chapter of Exodus, God reminds the Israelites how to live their lives. They had been going through incredible hardships in Egypt and the Lord was now providing deliverance for them. But their hardships did not come to an end at all. As they journeyed through the desert there were new troubles that resulted in many losing their focus upon God. Their focus turned onto themselves, complaining about how unfair their circumstances seemed to be. With COVID and everything else that we are encountering today, it certainly seems that we have much in common with the Exodus people.

So how did God choose to respond? He simply and patiently reminded them how they should be living their lives – by focusing on the needs of others: the aliens, those facing crises, those deprived of basic needs.



How is God responding to our cries today? By simply and patiently reminding us to focus our lives on the needs of others. Who are the aliens around us today? Perhaps those with different viewpoints, the immigrants, those facing mental or financial crises, those living in isolation, victims of domestic violence, jobseekers, those without basic food, clothing and shelter, and others. God reminds the Israelites - and also us - that he hears the cries of those in need and that there are consequences if we fail to show compassion.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus reminds us that the greatest commandment is to

love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind, and Jesus adds the second commandment: 'you shall love your neighbour as yourself'. God shows his love for us through the people that enter our life. He loves us when we love the other and we love God when we sincerely love our brothers and sisters. The simple truth is that we have a Christian obligation to respond with respect, love and compassion to those God has placed in our lives.

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**

Pope Francis' Encyclical Fratelli Tutti

The heart of "Fratelli Tutti" is Francis' reflection on the Good Samaritan. Rather than look for "abstract moralising" or a "social and ethical message," Francis invites us to enter into this Gospel parable. Christ's words to the scholar of the law are readdressed to us: "Which of the persons (priest, Levite, Samaritan) do you identify with? Which of these characters do you resemble?" We face a fundamental choice. "Here, all our distinctions, labels and masks fall away: it is the moment of truth. Will we bend down to touch and heal the wounds of others?"

Welcome Back to Church Soon

Not having to arise on Sunday morning and travel to worship at church has become the convenient norm as Catholics have substituted watching Mass on a PC, laptop or iPhone during this year's COVID-19 lockdowns. But their doing so places the notion of community worship in question for many, for there is no Eucharistic meal. Online worship allows for neither full, active nor conscious participation, and does not encourage lay involvement in liturgy. Therefore, as stage 4 restrictions will hopefully be slowly lifted, everyone is most welcome back at church! If only limited numbers are allowed in church, we will offer more Masses on weekends so that most of those who like to come for Mass can be accommodated at different times. Please follow the website, Facebook or newsletter announcements in following weeks.



Thank You and Best Wishes to our Sacred Heart School Teachers!

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.

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



100 Years of SVD in Australia

The presence of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) in Australia started as a transit to support the SVD mission in Papua New Guinea. It was only about 20 years later, in 1920 that a plot of land

was bought in Epping, Sydney, and a house was constructed. From this humble and difficult beginning, the SVD Australian Province has grown and developed from a membership of 2, to over a hundred today. While we started as an outreach from PNG, we now have strong bonds of cooperation with many countries in Asia. We are truly an intercultural community promoting the: Formation of young men for Priesthood and Brotherhood, ministering to various ethnic chaplaincies, assisting in remote Parishes in Australia, Bible Apostolates in Myanmar, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand, parish work in Australia, Thailand and New Zealand, ministering to Aboriginal communities in Alice Springs, Santa Teresa, Palm Island and Townsville, and last, but not least, to promote Interfaith Dialogue at our Janssen Spirituality Centre in Boronia, Victoria.

All are Missionaries

'The work of mission is not limited to "missionaries" in the traditional sense. In supporting the work of both lay and religious leaders in dioceses around the world—through our prayers, donations or advocacy—we are being missionary ourselves.

Thank you very much for your donations to World Mission Sunday last week. Your prayers and contributions will help missionaries work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Please pray for the work of Missionaries and all those working to offer the love of Jesus, that we may remain strong in our witness to Christ's love for all peoples. To continue supporting mission throughout the year, please go to <https://bit.ly/3jbt6Jz> or call 1800 257 296 (office hours).

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

Collections

1st Collection: \$100.00

2nd Collection: \$55.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



Finding Christ in a COVID Christmas

Offered over four weeks, these Advent formation sessions are looking to bring the season to life in their local communities in this time of uncertainty with COVID restrictions. In the first two weeks, guest speaker Ria Greene will offer an overview of the Gospel of Mark (Year B of the liturgical cycle) and the Advent readings. In the third week, musician and liturgist Fiona Dyball will explore developing a suitable seasonal repertoire as we begin to celebrate a new liturgical year; then in the final week, Proclaim: The Office for Mission Renewal will explore the practical implications for parish services in the current COVID-19 climate.

SESSION TIMES

Session 1: Tuesday 20th October 2020, 7.30pm-9.00pm
'Gospel of Mark'

Session 2: Tuesday 27th October 2020, 7.30pm-9.00pm
'Sundays of Advent'

Session 3: Wednesday 4th Nov 2020, 7.30pm-9.00pm
'Musical repertoire'

Session 4: Tuesday 10th Nov 2020, 7.30pm-9.00pm
'Practical tips for parishes to navigate the Advent/Christmas journey'

LOCATION: Zoom - Link sent upon registration

For Bookings at Trybooking: <https://bit.ly/3kAHqNf>

People of Faith Deserve Hope not Exile: Archbishop Comensoli

For your information, you may like to read the Archbishop's Op Ed in Tuesday's Herald Sun (20th Oct). It may assist if you wonder where our Catholic voice is in the current landscape:

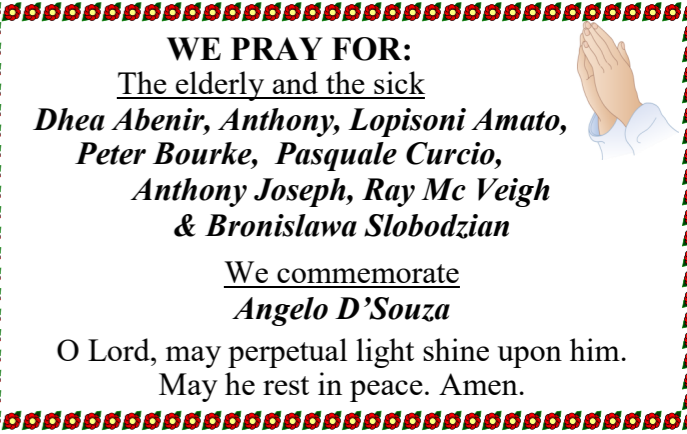
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/News/ArtMID/416/ArticleID/24685/People-of-faith-deserve-hope-not-exile-Archbishop-Comensoli>



Online Safety for Grandparents and Carers

The eSafety Commissioner has recently published a free e-book resource 'Online safety for grandparents and carers' which provides advice about online safety issues that children and young people may experience. This resource provides "key advice about online safety issues that can affect children and young people" including practical tips to help grandparents and carers to talk about these issues with children and young people and manage them. Helpful topics include: setting up devices safely; managing time online; preventing unsafe contact from strangers as well as a guide to some of the most popular sites and apps. Grandparents and carers can order a hard copy or download and view the resource online:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/seniors/online-safety-grandparents-carers>



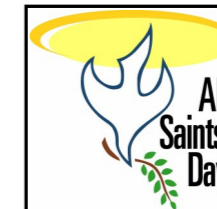
WE PRAY FOR:

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

We commemorate
Angelo D'Souza

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace. Amen.



All Saints and All Souls Day

Traditionally, in the month of November we remember our loved ones who have died and the souls in purgatory. We pray and offer

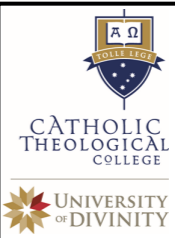
Masses for them. If anyone wishes to offer Mass, please write down the name/s of the deceased person/s and drop it in the Presbytery letterbox together with your offering before the 2nd of November. Masses for the deceased will be celebrated every day from Monday 2nd to Sunday 8th November.



Sacred Heart School Students Help Needy Students

With our students back to school this week, there are signs that hopefully we are heading towards lifting some of the COVID-19 restrictions imposed by our government and enjoy some freedom. We welcome them back and hope that they have an uninterrupted time until the end of the school year.

Sponsor a Student Appeal this year made us aware that there are many overseas students among us who cannot return home, have no jobs and are depending on help from NGOs, churches and people of good will. Our students collected non-perishable foods and clothing to help those in need. Fr Aloysius and Deacon Yosef have distributed the collected food in their weekly round of food distribution as part of the Kasih Project. The cloths will be donated to the Vinnies for distribution.

**Catholic Theological College**
2020 Knox Public Lecture
Thursday 5th November at 7.00pm
Sheree Limbrick
Safe Church: Commitment, awareness & action for cultural change
Bookings and Info: ctc.edu.au/knox-public-lecture
Enq: sarah.styring@ctc.edu.au or Phone 9412 3333
Venue: online