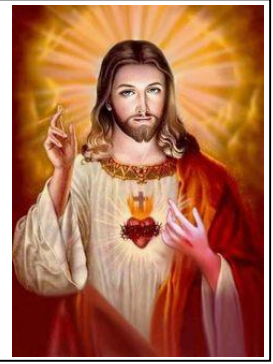




Sacred Heart Parish Preston



322 Bell St, Preston 3072

Phone (03) 9480 3398 or (03) 9484 2124

Email: preston@cam.org.au

Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au

Office Hours:

Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -3pm

Parish Priest

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

Italian Community Chaplain:

Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD

0478 963 248

Parish Office: Rachel Costa

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Coordinator: TBA

Safeguarding Committee:

Safeguarding Officers:

Robert Dullard

Kay Dufty

Safeguarding Committee: Members:

Mary Harb

Teresa Dang

Pauline O'Day

Parish Council Members:

Gerard Grant (chairperson), Kay Dufty

(secretary), Ophelia Swai, Anisasio (Pauline)

Veamatahau, Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna,

Natalie Baran, Judeline Wadhvani and

Joanne Verga

Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Stephen Costello (President)

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 Friday of February, May,

August & November at 1:30pm

Next Healing Mass: Friday 4 August

Devotional Practices:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Thursday at 7:30pm for 1 hour.

NO adoration on Thursday 21 July and

Thursday 28 July.



Holy Rosary: Thursday (English) after the

9:10am Mass

Reconciliation:

30 minutes before Mass or by appointment

Baptisms & Weddings: By appointment only

New Breakfast with Fr Aloysius

1st Monday of the month, the next one is on

Monday 1 August in the presbytery after

9:10am Mass.

Bulletin printed 21/7/2023

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 23 July 2023 (Year A)

Weeds or Wheat?

We live in a world of extremes. Leaders of nations have sent their young people to war intending to make life better but at a huge loss of their young ones and other innocent lives. As with many great ideals, things can have unconsidered consequences. There is much about our nation that is good and bad, just and indifferent. The 'Church' too is imperfect - 'always in need of reform and renewal' (Vatican 2). The same is true of our personal lives.

All three readings today draw attention to our interior strength, inspiration and ability. Rather than a way to dominate others, these qualities in our mind and soul ought to be exercised with compassion, tact, concern and respect, modelled on the way of God towards all of creation and guided by God's spirit dwelling within us. In the Gospel today, Jesus speaks about wheat and weeds growing together. A perfect image of the world we live in and the church of which we are members. He also uses two other very important images: a tiny mustard seed and a measure of yeast used to make bread.

The kingdom of God, present in the world, is like a field in which wheat has been planted. It's in the ground growing but hasn't matured yet. In the meantime, an 'enemy' sneaks in and sows seeds of weeds so that good and bad are sharing the same space, indistinguishable from each other for much of their growing time. To try to remove the weeds prematurely could result in destruction of the wheat seedlings as well and the end of an entire crop.

But God has a broader vision of the role of human beings in the spreading of the kingdom.

A tiny mustard seed, draws nourishment from the soil to grow into a sturdy bush sheltering birds in its branches: again, God's kingdom is like the yeast a woman mixed with flour. Through patient kneading, came bread to feed many. Just as the yeast though small in quantity, was the active ingredient transforming the flour to provide bread for the hungry, and the tiny mustard seed became a shelter from the elements, so we too as followers of Jesus - are called to slowly transform the world from within. It would be a mistake to think that big projects only ultimately bring about positive change. It can be the smallest of actions have a huge impact and spreads beyond ourselves.

So when Jesus urges members of the kingdom to be patient, alert and like yeast in the world, He is not saying accept or give in to evil - close your eyes and pray for a miracle.

His mission and message is saying - challenge evil and aggression not by acts of retaliation but by an internal change of heart, nurturing God's values of compassion, love and respect for humanity. Feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, speak up for the oppressed and the poor, protect the vulnerable, support the abused and excluded, accompany the dying and grieve with the mourner. Pray so that you will never Lose Heart. The kingdom of God is not far away and beyond your reach: it is within You. Share it with others and it will grow. Mother Teresa put it well.

"We can do no great things: only small things with great love"

It is love - compassion in action - that will change the world.



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.

	Saturday 6:00PM Mass - Readers	Saturday 6:00PM Mass - Ministers of Communion
15-Jul-23	Celia Lemos Mary Harb	Terry Murphy
22-Jul-23	Teresa Dang Terry Murphy	Mary Harb
29-Jul-23	Celia Lemos Marlene Vergou	Charlotte Bainy

	Sunday 10:30AM Mass - Readers	Sunday 10:30AM Mass Ministers of Communion
16-Jul-23	Jessy Thambiraj Ivana Lo Bello	Eileen Stevens
23-Jul-23	Jessica Suppiah Marilene Fortuna	Tony Eley
30-Jul-23	Eileen Stevens Ophelia Swai	Ivana Lo Bello

	Sunday 6:00PM Mass - Readers	Sunday 6:00PM Mass Ministers of Communion
16-Jul-23	Carolina Constable Peter Constable	Robert Dullard
23-Jul-23	Marijana Jurjevic Rachel Vorlander	Robert Dullard
30-Jul-23	Albert D'Souza Michelle Totawatte	Robert Dullard

Liturgical Ministers Roster

The current Liturgical Ministers roster will conclude on 30 July and the next roster (5/6 August to 28/29 October) will be prepared this week. Kindly advise your availability as Reader or Eucharistic Minister by contacting Rachel - preston@cam.org.au or 9480 3398 by Thursday 27 July.

Thank you.



WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

Sandra Bishop, John Storrie, Ylenia Useli, Catherine Zanatta

Our parishioners, family members and friends, that they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect.

Those who have died recently:

Vincenzo Carrocci (RIP 15/7. Funeral Mon 24/7 at 12pm)

We Commemorate:

John, Alfonso, Dino & Natalina Bernardini,
Isa, Mario, Orfeo & Rino Bergamin,
Teresina & Valter De Stefani,
Carlo, Duilio, Livio, Pasqua & Beppi Trentin
and all deceased members of the Ottaviano Bertonecello & Carlo Trentin families.

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



Please take the bulletin home

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Sacred Heart Community Preston acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of this Sacred land on which our Church stands.



We acknowledge their unique wisdom and ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.



✠ Solemnities / Feasts / Memorials of the Week ✠

Monday 24 July *St Charbel Makhlof, Priest*
 Tuesday 25 July *St James, Apostle, St Christopher*
 Wednesday 26 July *St Joachim & St Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
 Saturday 29 July *Saints Martha, Mary & Lazarus*



THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS



With sorrow, I learned that blood has been poured out again in the Holy Land. I hope that the Israeli and Palestinian leaders can resume direct dialogue to bring an end to the spiral of violence and open paths of reconciliation and peace.



First Eucharist Congratulations

We congratulate the following Sacred Heart school children for receiving their First Eucharist at the Sunday 10:30am Mass: Lauren, Jasmine, Gail, Adriana, Roman, Katelin, Aleisha, Maxie, Harper, Allie, Isabella. May the blessings of Christ be upon you always.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament **Please Note:**

There will be NO adoration on Thursday 28 July.



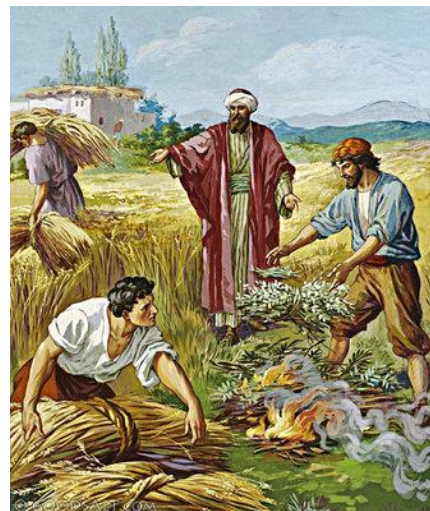
Piety Shop

The piety shop stocks small gifts and cards for all Sacraments as well as various religious items at reasonable prices. Please take the time to have a look after any of the weekend Masses. Thank you



Last Week's Collection: 16/7/23

1st Collection for our Church: \$1,183
 2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$917
 Thank you for your kind generosity!





GRANDPARENTS

“If you are lucky enough to still have grandparents, visit them, cherish them and celebrate them while you can.”

Grandparents, with their gentle presence and heartfelt advice, hold a special place in our hearts. They are a family’s greatest treasure and the family’s strong foundation. They can pass on important family traditions and life stories that a grandchild will not only relish when young but will grow to appreciate even more over time.

Grandparents have a magical ability to create a safe and nurturing space where their grandchildren feel cherished and accepted. In their embrace, grandchildren find comfort and understanding as they offer a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on and a wealth of wisdom from a lifetime of experiences. Loving grandparents celebrate the smallest achievements and shower their grandchildren with endless pride and encouragement. They instil a sense of belonging and self-worth, which builds confidence and resilience.

Grandparents provide an unwavering support system, empowering their grandchildren to dream big and reach for the stars.

The love of a grandparent is immeasurable.

“Dear God, bless our cherished grandparents with love, health and happiness. Thank you for the wisdom, care and unconditional love they bring into our lives. May our time together be filled with joy and precious memories. Amen.”

Sourced from www.majellan.media



A Vocation View:

There are many weeds growing with the wheat in our lives. Sometimes the weeds strangle our growth, or prevent us from hearing clearly God’s voice. We need time to reflect on the garden of our life.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field...He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.”-Matthew 13:24, 37-38

As children of God, we are all “good seeds”. We are blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfil God’s plan when we spend time in prayer every day, use our skills to help others and share our financial gifts to help build God’s kingdom on earth. Through our example of gratitude and generosity we sow “good seeds” on earth and ultimately help each other get to Heaven!



Sacrificial giving via QR code

To support our parish, you can make a donation by scanning this QR code which is unique to Sacred Heart Church, Preston.

It will give you direct access to the CDF pay webpage by following a few easy steps.

The QR code is also displayed in the Church foyer.

Many thanks for your continued generosity and support to Sacred Heart parish.



World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

On **July 23**, the Church celebrates the third World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Established by Pope Francis in January 2021, the observance is celebrated each year on the fourth Sunday of July, coinciding with the feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s parents and Jesus’ grandparents, Sts Joachim and Anne. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for 2023 is ‘his mercy is from age to age’ (Lk 1:50) and is connected to this year’s World Youth Day gathering in Lisbon, Portugal to emphasise dialogue with young people.

We pray for, and reflect with the elderly in our own families, communities, and country, that they feel loved, valued and appreciated, and can be signs of hope and wisdom among us.



Sacred Heart Primary School 2024 Enrolments

Enrolments for the 2024 school year Foundation classes, open on Monday 6th March. For a school tour, please contact the school principal on 9487 1001 or via the school website

<http://www.shpreston.catholic.edu.au>

Our school was ranked in the top 7% of primary schools across Victoria for NAPLAN in 2022.

At Sacred Heart School, our students are at the heart of every decision we make. Every day is Open Day and prospective students and their families are warmly invited to tour our school.



Children’s activity pages

Please find in the foyer of the Church activity pages and pencils for young children to use quietly during Mass.



Joke Corner

Two elderly people are living in a retirement home he was a widower and she a widow, had known each other for a number of years. One evening there was a community supper in the big arena in the Clubhouse.

The two were at the same table, across from one another. As the meal went on, he took a few admiring glances at her and finally gathered the courage to ask her, 'Will you marry me?'

After about six seconds of 'careful consideration,' she answered 'Yes. Yes, I will!'

The meal ended and, with a few more pleasant exchanges,

they went to their respective places. Next morning, he was troubled. 'Did she say 'yes' or did she say 'no'? He couldn't remember.

Try as he might, he just could not recall. Not even a faint memory.

With trepidation, he went to the telephone and called her. First, he explained that he didn't remember as well as he used to.

Then he reviewed the lovely evening past. As he gained a little more courage, he inquired, 'When I asked if you would marry me, did you say 'Yes' or did you say 'No'? He was delighted to hear her say, 'Why, I said, 'Yes, yes I will.' and I meant it with all my heart.'

Then she continued, 'And I am so glad that you called, because I couldn't remember who had asked me.'

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary Ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

FIRST READING

Wisdom 12:13,16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly; Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus, you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85(86):5-6,9-10,15-16

The Response Is:

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:

for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God.

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables

and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow, up to and including 'and became man', all bow.)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.