

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

19 November 2023

Readings

Next Week

Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17

Ps 22:1-3, 5-6

1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

Mt 25:31-46

in a nutshell

Well done, good and faithful servant! We all have unique gifts and talents. When we use them well, we enrich our community. We bring joy to ourselves and to others. Let us encourage each other to develop our gifts. Then, together, we will hear our Master say: 'Well done, good and faithful servants. Come and join in my happiness forever.'

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Harry & Dorothy Heering

For those who have died recently and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time; Angelina Musico

of special note

Parish sausage sizzle after next week's 10:30am Mass.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday

9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday—6:30pm (EST)

5:00pm (EDST)

Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary

Tuesday—9:00am

Thursday—9:00am

Friday—9:00am

Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation

Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm

Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition

Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:

smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/mountevelyn

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult family member to the toilet.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Alan Somers
Sue Van der Linden
Karla Zmegac

Car Parking –WEEKDAY Masses

Please use available car parks for Mass rather than the front of the church. Please Leave the front for the truly disabled.

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's
Conference 0427 874 374 or Alan Somers
0419 134 300

**Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday
please: moutevelyn@cam.org.au**

**For positions vacant within the Diocese
visit:**
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Regular Gardening/Working Bee—Friday November 3rd.

Thank you to the volunteers who turn up to assist with the maintenance of the grounds around the church. 4pm onwards

Parish Meetings: Tuesday, 14 November

Finance Committee 7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding 7:30pm
Parish Council 8:00pm

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH



Parish Notices

Feast of Christ the King Sunday, November 26

ALL parishioners are invited to stay after 10:30 Mass for a sausage sizzle, fun on the jumping castle and chance to purchase something yummy. A good chance to socialise with your fellow parishioners too!

Bake Sale—"bring a cake, buy a cake"! November 26

What is your favourite, cake, slice or biscuit recipe? Maybe your specialty is something savoury? Here is your chance to share it with fellow parishioners. You are being asked to make it and bring it along to sell at the Bake Sale to be held next Sunday after 10:30 Mass. Please include a basic list of ingredients. Hopefully there will be lots of delicious things to purchase so don't forget your cash!

Catholic Deaf Appeal

Thank you in advance for your generosity, \$451.55 was donated across both parishes.

November Masses

Names of deceased loved ones can be written in the Prayer Book which will be placed on the Sanctuary for the month of November. Masses throughout November will be offered for the repose of their souls. Envelopes are available to make an offering.

Mass Collections

The use of separate boxes for donations for Thanksgiving/stewardship) and the presbytery appears to be a popular decision. **If you have envelopes please continue with their use.**

Christmas Raffles—Don't forget your donation for the raffle hampers...

...maybe a bottle of wine or soft drink, some festive food, chocolates, packets of nuts, a voucher from a business your connected with etc. There is a box in the narthex to place your donations. All proceeds will go to help the parish. Thank you in advance for your donations! Raffle tickets available from next week.

SVDP News

The Saint Vincent de Paul Piety Stall now has in stock the 2024 Columban Art Calendar which includes beautiful artwork, liturgical information, and feast days at \$10.00 each. We also have a stock of Christmas Cards in packs of 5 for \$3.00 each.

Thank you to everyone who brought tomato plants.

Giving Tree

St Vincent de Paul Society will be having a giving tree this year, however, due to the covid virus, we will still be assisting people in need. Instead of presents we will be giving them gift vouchers so they can get what they need, as many have found this year very unpredictable. You are invited to make a donation of a gift voucher or make a cash donation by placing it in an envelope and placing in the box in the foyer by 17th December.

Parish Sacramental Program

For Children, not attending the Parish School, wanting to receive the Sacraments, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, instructions are available through our Parish. Contact the parish office or annevan.tilburg@gmail.com
Contact Anne by mid-December for 2024 enrolments.

St Mary's Prayer Group—Every Friday

The Prayer Group meets every Friday in the church from 2-3 p.m. "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (St. John Damascene).

Adoration of the Eucharist

If I can give you any advice, I beg you to get closer to the Eucharist and to Jesus....We must pray to Jesus to give us that love of the Eucharist. (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

Confession: Brethren, we ought to regard Jesus Christ both as the judge of the living and the dead, and we should not undervalue the fact of our salvation. We must realise what we have been called from, who has called us, and how much suffering Jesus Christ endured on our account. When we were rushing headlong on the way to perishing, he came and saved us. (A sermon of the second century)

Adoration: Friday morning 8:00am. Yarra Junction Thursday 6:00pm (first Thursday Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities." Matthew 25:21

God calls us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us. He expects us to grow our gifts, to use them wisely, and to be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us. God asks us to be generous with all our gifts, especially the one that means the most to you.

Parish Car Parks

Please leave the disabled car spaces for those people who require them. At school times this is a shared car park and there are families with children attending the school who require these spaces.

Advent Reflections "With Expectant Hearts"

To purchase a copy go to <https://evangelisation-brisbane.mysshopify.com/collections/adult-faith>

Night of the Witnesses

22 November 2023 at 7pm at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Night of the Witnesses is an inspirational evening of prayer, song, Adoration and reflection to honour the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with more than 220 million Christians worldwide who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ.

Morning Tea after 10.30am Sunday Mass

Stay and chat over a cuppa! Consider joining the roster to assist in serving. If you are unable to serve but would like to contribute, donations of packaged biscuits would be appreciated. Contact Rachael 0437123802

Morning tea after 9:00am Mass first Tuesday of the month.

Something to make you smile!

I asked my wife if she'd like a new diamond ring to celebrate our anniversary. "Nothing would make me happier!" She replied. I took her at her word so I got her nothing.

My old mate said, "It's me and my wife's tenth wedding anniversary next weekend, so I thought we could go somewhere really nice together." I replied, "Sounds great to me! But what are you going to tell your wife?"

Readings Reflection

Settling Accounts

The day of the Lord is coming, Paul warns in today's Epistle. What matters isn't the time or the season, but what the Lord finds us doing with the new life, the graces He has given to us.

This is at the heart of Jesus' parable in today's Gospel. Jesus is the Master. Having died, risen, and ascended into heaven, He appears to have gone away for a long time.

By our baptism, He has entrusted to each of us a portion of His "possessions," a share in His divine life (see 2 Peter 1:4). He has given us talents and responsibilities, according to the measure of our faith (see Romans 12:3,8).

We are to be like the worthy wife in today's First Reading, and the faithful man we sing of in today's Psalm. Like them, we should walk in the "fear of the Lord"—in reverence, awe, and thanksgiving for His marvelous gifts. This is the beginning of wisdom (see Acts 9:31; Proverbs 1:7).

This is not the "fear" of the useless servant in today's parable. His is the fear of a slave cowering before a cruel master, the fear of one who refuses the relationship that God calls us to.

He has called us to be trusted servants, fellow workers (see 1 Corinthians 3:9), using our talents to serve one another and His kingdom as good stewards of His grace (see 1 Peter 4:10).

In this, we each have a different part to play.

Though the good servants in today's parable were given different numbers of talents, each "doubled" what he was given. And each earned the same reward for his faithfulness—greater responsibilities and a share of the Master's joy.

So let us resolve again in this Eucharist to make much of what we've been given, to do all for the glory of God (see 1 Corinthians 10:31). That we, too, may approach our Master with confidence and love when He comes to settle accounts.

[Dr. Scott Hahn
stpaulcenter.com](https://stpaulcenter.com)

Our destiny is “life everlasting”

The life story of any individual or community gets its meaning, point, and purpose from its end. So to know what kind of story we are in, to know what is the “meaning of life”, we must know our end. The Church tells us our end. It is one with our origin. In the words of the old Baltimore Catechism, “God made me to know him, love him, and serve him in this world and to be happy with him forever in the next.”

What does the Church tell us about life after death? Her teaching is summarized in the “Four Last Things”: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. But even humanity outside the Church instinctively knows something about these four things.

Life’s one certainty is death. Everyone knows this, though not everyone knows what comes next. Nearly all religions, cultures, and individuals in history have believed in some form of life after death. For man’s innate sense of justice tells him that there must be an ultimate reckoning, that in the final analysis no one can cheat the moral law and get away with it or suffer undeserved injustices throughout life and not be justly compensated. And since this ultimate justice does not seem to be accomplished in this life, there must be “the rest of the story”. This instinctive conviction that there must be a higher, more-than-human justice is nearly universal. Thus the second of the Four Last Things, judgment, is also widely known. As Scripture says, “Whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Heb 11:6). And most men do “draw near to God”; most men have a religion; most men believe that God justly “rewards those who seek him”.

Most men also know that justice distinguishes the good from the evil and, therefore, that after death there must be separate destinies for us, rewards for good and punishments for evil. Thus mankind also usually believes in some form of heaven and hell. What the Church adds to this universal human wisdom—what man could not discover without divine revelation—centers in Christ. The Church gives a radically sharper focus to mankind’s instinctive but vague sense of justice by telling us about God, and then gives an even sharper focus to our knowledge of God by showing us Christ.

This applies to the final judgment too. It is an encounter with Christ. For a. “ ‘At the evening of life, we shall be judged on our love’ ” (CCC 1022). b. And our love is a response to God’s love, which was given to us in Christ (1 Jn 4:16). c. Therefore the standard at the final judgment is Christ. Like life, judgment is Christocentric. “In the presence of Christ, who is Truth itself” [Jn 14:6], “the truth of each man’s relationship with God will be laid bare [cf. Jn 12:49]” (CCC 1039).

“Death puts an end to human life as the time open to either accepting or rejecting the divine grace manifested in Christ [cf. 2 Tim 1:9–10]. The New Testament speaks of judgment primarily in its aspect of the final encounter with Christ” (CCC 1021). In this judgment, “[e]ach man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death, in a particular judgment that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of heaven—whether through a purification”² [purgatory] “or immediately³—or immediate and everlasting damnation⁴” (CCC 1022), hell.

There are only two eternal destinies: heaven or hell, union or disunion with God, the one and only ultimate source of all goodness and joy. Each one of us will be either with God or without him forever. There is no reincarnation, no “second chance” after time is over. There is no annihilation, no end of the soul’s existence. There is no change of species from human being to angel or to anything else. The particular judgment occurs immediately after each individual’s death. The general judgment takes place at the end of all time and history.

So the scenario of final events is: (a) first, death; (b) then, immediately, the particular judgment; (c) then, either hell, or purgatory as preparation for heaven, or heaven; (d) and, at the end of time, the general judgment; (e) and the “new heavens and new earth” for those who are saved.

God created the earth, loved it into existence, and declared it good (Gen 1). He made us its custodians, and we failed. But despite our sin, God will restore the earth in the end. “The universe itself will be renewed ... ‘in the glory of heaven.... [T]ogether with the human race, the universe itself, which is so closely related to man and which attains its destiny through him, will be perfectly re-established in Christ’ ” (CCC 1042). “Sacred Scripture calls this mysterious renewal, which will transform humanity and the world, ‘new heavens and a new earth’ [2 Pet 3:13; cf. Rev 21:1]” (CCC 1043).

“We know neither the moment ... nor the way the universe will be transformed” (GS 39). But we know its consequences. The consequences of a pregnant woman’s hope for childbirth are a much greater care and love for her body. Analogously, the consequences of our hope for “new heavens and a new earth” are a greater love and care and appreciation and proper use of this earth. This universe is like a pregnant woman; she is more precious, not less, because another is to be born from her. “ ‘Far from diminishing our concern to develop this earth, the expectancy of a new earth should spur us on, for it is here that the body of a new human family grows.... That is why, although we must be careful to distinguish earthly progress clearly from the increase of the kingdom of Christ, such progress is of vital concern to the kingdom’ ” [GS 39 § 2] (CCC 1049). For “ ‘[w]hen we have spread on earth the fruits of our nature and our enterprise ..., we will find them once again, cleansed this time from the stain of sin, illuminated and transfigured’ [GS 39 § 3]” (CCC 1050).

This vision frees us at once from two opposite errors: the disdain for this world that tempts the “spiritualist” and the worship of this world that tempts the secularist. The Christian gospel cannot be identified with or reduced to either some internal, spiritual “transformation of consciousness” (Gnosticism, Buddhism, New Age Movement, “spirituality”) or some external, secular social program of this-worldly peace and justice (Modernism, Marxism, “the social gospel”). It centers neither in our souls nor in our world, but in God, who created both our souls and our world and who recreates both our souls and our world in Christ.

Dr Peter Kreeft, Catholic Christianity