



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

29 October 2023

Readings

Next Week

Mal 1:14-2:2, 8-10

Ps 130

1 Thess 2:7-9, 13

Mt 23:1-12

in a nutshell

Observe the sort of life we live. In every society people observe the actions of others. When many people ignore a particular law others conclude that it is alright for them to do the same. Children often imitate the behaviours of their parents. When we practise the law of love in our lives we benefit not only those who need our help but also those who observe our actions.

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

of special note

All Saints Day Mass at 2:15pm on 1 November.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon

Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, as a
fragrant offering to God.

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

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: muntevelyn@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

All Saints Day Mass

All Saints Day Mass will be celebrated on 1 November at 2.15pm with the whole school attending.

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. Names can be added throughout the month. Masses throughout November will be offered for the repose of their souls. Envelopes are available to make an offering.

New Mass Collection Method

After much discussion at the Parish Council this year, it has been decided to try something different. Rather than pass the basket around, collection boxes have been purchased and will be placed at the entrance of the church. One will be for donations to the parish (Thanksgiving/stewardship) and the other will be for dedicated donations to the presbytery which contributes to the Parish Priest's living costs. A basket collection will still be taken up for any Special Collections.

World Mission Sunday Appeal — Thank you

Thank you for your generous partnership with life-changing mission programs, like supporting Carolina, the Salesian Sisters and their work through The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic in Venilale, Timor-Leste. Your gift is helping Sr Carolina continue to provide life-saving treatment and access to resources on health and well-being. Your gift also supports mission programs around the world that reach out and give life to those in most need. If you have not yet had the opportunity to give, please do so at catholicmission.org.au/timor. Your action will make a real, lasting impact. Freecall: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au/timor

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. As of This weekend St Vincent de Paul will be again selling **tomato plants** at \$3 each. There are 8 varieties: Grosse Lisse, Beef Steak, Bucci, Tiny Tom, Sweet Bite, Black Russian, San Marzano Roma and Ox Heart. To order please contact Alan on 9735 5436 or e-mail asom9346@bigpond.net.au

Parish Sausage Sizzle

Sunday, November 26 after 10:30am Mass

ALL parishioners are invited to stay after Mass for a sausage sizzle afterwards. A good chance to socialise with your fellow parishioners.

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

Adoration of the Eucharist

The vast majority of Jesus' commands— to love one's enemies, to turn the other cheek, to forgive seventy times seven times, etc— have been rather consistently disregarded. However, there is one command of Jesus that has, up and down the centuries, been massively obeyed: the command "Do this in memory of Me" has been and continues to be obeyed. It is as though Christians have realised from the beginning that the spiritual life depends upon the Eucharist. (Monsignor Ronald Knox)

Confession: There is no sin which cannot be pardoned except that one which lacks repentance. (St. Issac of Syria)

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

St Mary's Prayer Group—Now 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).

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.

Stewardship Corner

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." — Matthew 22:37

Do you put other "gods" before God? Is your love of money, power, status, comfort or some personal possession greater than your love for God? Do you recognize that everything you have and that everything you are is a gift from God? Putting God first in everything helps keep us from becoming a slave to our possessions and to our pride.

Contributions can be made using the QR Code, via the website, by direct debit to: St Mary's Church BSB 083-347 account number 648531736 Ref **THK and your surname** or call the office and arrange with Janine to get envelopes or set up regular direct debit/credit card payments. **Just a reminder donations via the Tap and Go machine go towards the presbytery collection to support the parish priest.**

Advent Reflections

"With Expectant Hearts" is a new 22-day reflection resource that can be used during Advent by individuals and groups. Its main purpose is to help us to find a few minutes each day to practice what it means to sit with God and to trust God to lead us forward. Each day's reflection is inspired by a short text of scripture, and concludes with a thought or two to take away and with a prayer. There are a couple of copies to view and to purchase a copy go to <https://evangelisation-brisbane.myshopify.com/collections/adult-faith>

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!

Two neighbours are arguing about whose pet is smarter. "My dog is very smart," says the first owner. "Every morning he goes to the local store and buys me a sesame seed bagel with chive cream cheese, and then stops off at the cafe and gets me a mocha latte. But that's not all! He then comes home and turns on the television." "I know," says the second owner. "How do you know?" the first man demands. "My dog told me."

Readings Reflection

Love Commanded

Jesus came not to abolish the Old Testament law but to fulfill it (see Matthew 5:17). And in today's Gospel, He reveals that love—of God and of neighbor—is the fulfillment of the whole of the law (see Romans 13:8–10).

Devout Israelites were to keep all 613 commands found in the Bible's first five books. Jesus says today that all these, and all the teachings of the prophets, can be summarized by two verses of this law (see Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18).

He seems to summarize the two stone tablets on which God was said to have engraved the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 32:15–16). The first tablet set out three laws concerning the love of God, such as the command not to take His name in vain; the second contained seven commands regarding love of neighbor, such as those against stealing and adultery.

Love is the hinge that binds the two tablets of the law. For we can't love God, whom we can't see, if we don't love our neighbor, whom we can (see 1 John 4:20–22).

But this love we are called to is far more than simple affection or warm sentiment. We must give ourselves totally to God—loving with our whole beings, with all our heart, soul, and mind. Our love for our neighbor must express itself in concrete actions, such as those set out in today's First Reading.

We love because He first loved us (see 1 John 4:19). As we sing in today's Psalm, He has been our deliverer, our strength when we could not possibly defend ourselves against the enemies of sin and death.

We love in thanksgiving for our salvation. And in this become imitators of Jesus, as Paul tells us in today's Epistle—laying down our lives daily in ways large and small, seen and unseen; our lives offered as a continual sacrifice of praise (see John 15:12–13; Hebrews 13:15).

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

Prayer as Saint-Making

Prayer does not exist for its own sake; it exists to transform us into saints. Sanctity is both hard and simple, and for the same reason. It is hard because it is so simple; for it is the state of simplicity, or singleness, or purity of heart (Mt 5:8). (In scriptural language, “heart” means “will”, not “feelings”.) “Purity of heart is to will [that is, to love] one thing”, says Kierkegaard. That one thing is God, and what God is: goodness. So sanctity is very easy to understand: it means simply loving God with all your heart, obeying what Jesus called “the great and first commandment” (Mt 22:38). And it is hard to attain for the same reason it is easy to understand: its simplicity. What makes it hard is the “all” in “love God with all your heart.”

It is not hard to *understand* that God deserves all our love, since he is the source of all our good, beginning with our very existence. But it is hard to give him all our love.

Almost anyone can love God partially. A saint loves God totally. Anyone can love God as a god; a saint loves God as God. Sanctity is like dieting. We are far too fat (spiritually). The man whom Jesus called the greatest of all the prophets, John the Baptist, gave us the formula for sanctity: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (Jn 3:30). We are far too full of ourselves to be able to be filled with God. God can fill only “the hungry” with good things, while “the rich” he can only send away empty (Lk 1:53)—not because he withholds his love from the rich (those who are filled with themselves), but because the rich have no room for him—like the inn in Bethlehem.

What do we do when we are too fat? We diet. What do we do when we are too rich? We give our riches away. What do we do when we are too burdened to be good soldiers? We get rid of our burdens, like Gideon (Judg 7). We must pour ourselves out for the love of God.

What do these metaphors mean, literally and concretely? Brother Lawrence answers: “Our sanctification does not depend upon changing our works, but in doing that for God’s sake which we commonly do for our own. It is lamentable to see how many people mistake the means for the end, addicting themselves to certain works” (*Conversation 4*).

The only works we all have to change in order to become saints are sins. What we have to change is our heart, our desire, our love, our intentions. We must do everything for God, even picking up a straw. We must, in the words of the “morning offering” prayer, offer it up—offer everything, all our “prayers, works, joys, and sufferings”. And we must continue this “morning offering” right through till evening and till death.

God provides not only abstract instructions but also concrete examples. Our perfect example and model here is Mary. Her simplicity is so perfect that it reduces her to a single word: fiat, “let it be to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). This fiat is the word of power that God spoke to bring the universe into existence out of nothing (Gen 1). When Mary spoke it, God worked an even greater miracle: he made himself man. God longs for us to speak it a third time, so that the greatest miracle of all can happen: a saint can be made out of a sinner. This is an even greater miracle because God encountered no resistance from the nothingness out of which he made the universe or from the sinless perfection of the Blessed Virgin Mary out of which he made his incarnate humanity; but he encounters the resistance of sin in us. Nevertheless, he will not rest until he has made a perfect saint out of this resistant and recalcitrant sinner.

Becoming so simple and Mary-like is a lifelong process, of course, and for most of us probably much longer, to be completed only in Purgatory, where the sword of our spirit will be hammered into a perfect point. (That is why the pains of Purgatory are more joyful than the greatest joys on earth.)

God is not *a* god; God is God, the source of all being and all truth. This goal is not only the perfection of *sanctity*, it is also the perfection of *sanity*, of right-reality-response, of living in objective reality instead of in our subjective fantasies. For in reality, we are wholly God’s. We are creatures: our very act of existence is not our own but his gift, on permanent loan. We are nothing in ourselves because he created us out of nothing. If he had formed us out of something, then that something, that raw material, would be ours, though the form would be his. But there is nothing in us that is not his, for the “nothing” out of which he created us is simply nothing.

We are already wholly his by right, but because of sin we are not yet wholly his in fact because we do not wholly will what we are by right. We are thus not wholly what we are: we are not in fact what we are by right. Our very being is broken into these two parts, fact and right, like a broken stick. We must be healed, whole, in our very being. This is the “one thing ... needful” (Lk 10:42); this is our “categorical imperative”. We must become in fact what we are by right: we must become wholly God’s. This is why prayer is so important: it sets us firmly on that road. Prayer is essentially the practice of the presence of God, and that is the road to Heaven. There is no alternative. God is the only game in town. All other roads are dead ends. Since we must give our all to the one true God, we must not give any part to idols, to the many false gods that now bite away at our lives. Thus there is a negative side to “the first and greatest commandment”. That we must love God with all our heart means that we must *not* love any other god with any of our heart.

This does not mean that we must not love God’s creatures, God’s material creations. But we must love them as he commands, not as we command; as his gifts, not as things in themselves; in other words, as they are, not as we imagine them to be. And it certainly does not mean that we should not love his human creatures, our brothers and sisters, his children. But it means that we must love them as they are: as our equals, our brothers and sisters, not as our gods. They are not our God, and things are not our God, and we are not our own God; only God is God. We must be as clear as Muslims, who wisely remind themselves five times a day that “there is no god but God”. That *theology* must become our *morality*.