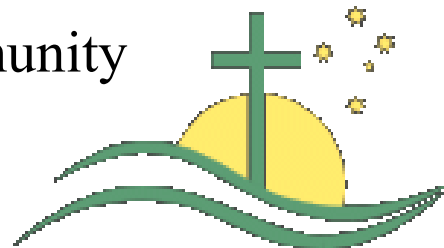




St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 4-5 February, 2023

The primacy of love and truth (by Christian Bergmann)

As someone deeply influenced by St Augustine, Ratzinger was guided most of all by love in his understanding of the human person, God and Jesus Christ. As Augustine once said, 'My weight is my love. Wherever I go I am drawn by love' (Confessions, 13.19.10). Love is the thing that defines our humanity most of all.

In his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict XVI said that 'everything has its origin in God's love, everything is shaped by it, everything is directed towards it. Love is God's greatest gift to humanity, it is his promise and our hope' (§2).

Christianity is not first and foremost a moral or ethical system. Neither is it a religion like other religions. Christianity stands or falls on its ability to reveal the God who is love, and everything else stems from this.

But Benedict was also known for being a staunch advocate of 'truth', defending the very concept from what he famously termed 'the dictatorship of relativism'—the growing tendency to think that truth is not something knowable or absolute, something each of us has in common and can reach for, but that there can exist things like 'my truth' and 'your truth'.

The concepts of love and truth don't always seem to sit together comfortably: sometimes it seems like the pursuit of truth requires us to sacrifice love, and other times, we might feel that to pursue love is to sacrifice the truth. Most of us feel this tension at times. But for Benedict, this was a false choice. Love and truth are inseparable, he said, and a society that sacrifices truth also sacrifices love.

'Only in truth does charity shine forth, only in truth can charity be authentically lived. Truth is the light that gives meaning and value to charity... it grasps its meaning as gift, acceptance, and communion. Without truth, charity degenerates into sentimentality. Love becomes an empty shell, to be filled in an arbitrary way. In a culture without truth, this is the fatal risk facing love [my emphasis]. It falls prey to contingent subjective emotions and opinions, the word 'love' is abused and distorted, to the point where it comes to mean the opposite' (*Caritas in Veritate*, §3).

The deepest craving of the human heart is to love and be loved. But if we give up on truth, we give up on something else we hold precious, something that defines our very existence: love itself.

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am & 6pm Mass

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow
<https://youtu.be/i77nOUNsQ9g>

Reconciliation
Saturday 10am—10.30am

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Luke Bulley CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Brian Gleeson CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP
Fr Luke Bulley CP

St Paul Apostle North Primary School

Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Mrs Mary Lucas

St Paul Apostle South Primary School

Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's Regional College

Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

2023 SACRAMENT PROGRAM (only for children)

Our children are now back to school and with the help of their family and teachers they will settle in soon. We have finalised dates for the Sacrament Program for the year. They are as follows:-

Reconciliation:

First Family night Tuesday 21 February at 7pm
(Followed by 3 classes at parish schools or ASRE)
Last Family night Tuesday 21 March at 7pm
Service Tuesday 28 March at 7pm (depending on the number, might have 2 sessions)

First Communion

First Family Night Tuesday 2 May at 7pm
(Followed by 4 classes at parish schools or ASRE)
Last family night Tuesday 11 July at 7pm
Masses Saturday 15 Jul and Sunday 16 July

Confirmation

First Family night Tuesday 3 October at 7pm
(Followed by 4 classes at parish Schools or ASRE)
Last Family Night Tuesday 14 November at 7pm
Session with Bishop Friday, 17 November at 11am in the Church
Masses Saturday 18 November at 2pm & 3.45pm

Registration for Sacrament of Reconciliation is open now. You may download the registration form from our website <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/endeavourhills>. Cost is \$25 per child per sacrament. If your child does not attend our parish schools, they are required to attend ASRE classes. We will provide you with those dates soon.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our Children's Liturgy on Sunday at 11am Mass will resume this Sunday.

This program is for all our children who are aged 4 to 12 years old, to help them to understand the Gospel in a simpler way. At this stage we can only run these sessions once a month as we have a small number of volunteers. To be able to run it more frequently, we need more helpers. Please let us know if you wish to be a part of this ministry. We will assist you in obtaining all the necessary documents (working with children certification and police check) Please do not process it yourself as the cost is much greater than the arrangement we currently have. Please contact the Parish office on 97003781 or by email: didik@stpaulapostle.com.au

PARISH BINGO

Our First parish Bingo in 2023 had a great turn up and all had a good time. The next one will be on **FRIDAY, 24 MARCH 2023** in the Tim O'Toole Annexe and will start at 7.30pm. Anyone 18 yrs old and older are welcome. You can come on your own or with friends. For more information please contact Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441

THANK YOU—from Grace Sudjono

Dear everyone, thank you so much for supporting me in my fundraising project last mass. I raised \$1100 and almost half were donations. This has greatly helped me to fund my trip to World Youth Day. Everyone was so kind, friendly and generous and I enjoyed all the stories from everyone else's experiences there. This has made me so much more excited for my trip. I will be praying for all of you there and will share the experience when I am back from this journey. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart!

Readings:

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Is 58: 7-10 ;
1 Cor 2: 1-5 ;
Mt 5: 13-16

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Sir 15: 15-20 ;
1 Cor 2: 6-10 ;
Mt 5:20-22. 27-28. 33-34. 37
www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Fr Brian Gleeson CP, Fr Peter Gaughan CP, Joanne Sweeney, Hernan Ugarte, Fr Peter Gaughan CP, Wilhada de los Reyes, Crystal Jayamaha, Elma, Aliyah, Alleyah, Nicole Pinto, Toni Celona, Shinead Kralj, Carlos Aquino, Jamie Cabrera, Angela Schink, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, Adelina Frante, Horace Stolke, Mercia Fernandes, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Camilla D'Rozario, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Carmen Hili, Deon Lawrence, Rohini Ferrao, Br Stan Tyler CP, Gil Cortinhal, Teresa Madeira, Franco Elloro, Mary Matilda Fonseka, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Lucas Seguel, Teresa Fazio, Capt. Pablo Barros, Rosetta Alberti, Vernon Law, Edna Alice Fonseca, Royston D'Silva, Henry Logotuli Peteru, Deon Lawrence, George Patterson **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

