



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, 28-29 October, 2023

Life in the Holy Spirit

(extracted from Melbourne Catholic Magazine)

As the synod on synodality continues, much of the media commentary is focusing on the big issues to be discussed, but some of the smaller details are also worth noticing, including the series of patristic texts that Pope Francis gave the assembly as recommended reading as the synod began.

The excerpts reflect on the Holy Spirit's role as our advocate, our guide and our source of unity and holiness in the life of the Church. Below is a little part of the excerpt of the recommended readings

Irenaeus' short text speaks about the Spirit as the source of the Church's fruitfulness. 'Wherefore, we have need of God's dew, that we might not be burned up or become unfruitful ... having received through the Spirit the image and inscription of the Father and the Son, we might make the denarius entrusted to us productive, thereby returning to the Lord the increase in denarii' (Irenaeus, *Adversus haereses*, III, 17, 3).

Basil's writings—taken from his treatise on the Holy Spirit, his epistles and his homilies—focus on the Holy Spirit as the bond of unity between the Church's diverse nations and as its animating principle.

'If the Holy Spirit encounters a tax collector who has faith, he makes him an evangelist; if he encounters a fisherman, he turns him into a theologian; if he encounters a repentant persecutor, he transforms him into an apostle for the Gentiles, a proclaimer of the faith, a vessel of choice,' Basil wrote. 'Through him, the weak become strong, the poor become rich, uneducated laymen become wiser than the wise ...

The Spirit dwells in heaven, has filled the earth, is present everywhere and is not contained anywhere. The Spirit dwells entirely in each person and entirely within God (Basil, De fide, 3).

One of the subheadings suggests that Pope Francis wanted delegates to reflect on how the Holy Spirit is the 'bond of communion' between the Church's disparate parts. In another text, Basil wrote, 'With an indissoluble bond of concord, he united the whole world, made up of different parts, in a single communion and harmony, so that even the elements placed at the greatest distance from each other seemed united by affinity' (Basil, *Hexameron*, homily II, 49–61).

This idea fits with Pope Francis' repeated emphasis on Christian unity being about communion and not uniformity.

Also included within the collection are some reflections on the personal holiness of Christians. Basil frequently quotes the words of St Paul in Ephesians 4:30—'do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption'—to make the point that we should pay attention to the way we speak and act because the Holy Spirit, the very Spirit of God, dwells inside of us.

'Thus, the Spirit is truly the place of the saints,' Basil says. 'And the saint is, in turn, a place familiar to the Spirit, because he offers himself to dwell with God and is also called his temple' (Basil, *De Spiritu Sancto*, ch. 26, §62, 22–24).

Elsewhere he talks about the Spirit as the one who 'confirms' us in the faith: 'What is confirmation if not perfection in holiness, since "confirmation" means that which is constant, unchanging, firmly established in the good? Holiness does not exist without the Spirit' (De Spiritu Sancto, ch. 16, §38, 37–42).

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm

Sunday
9am, 11am and 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow
<https://youtube.com/live/aJkQSsSifHg?feature=share>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
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 Kevin Hennessy CP
Fr Luke Bulley CP
Dcn Tuan Paul Anh-Do 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

With ‘conversations in the Spirit’ being central to the synod process, Pope Francis also drew attention to Basil’s words on ‘chatter’ and ‘idle talk’.

‘When can we judge a conversation as chatter?’ Basil asks. ‘Generally speaking, every word that does not contribute to the fulfilment of the Lord’s will is useless’ (Basil, *Regulae brevius tractae*, 23).

At one point, Basil’s words are even stronger: ‘You shouldn’t have useless conversations from which you gain nothing. Indeed, even to speak or do good, without it being for the edification of the faith, is to grieve the Holy Spirit of God’ (Basil, *Regulae morales*, 25).

Pope Francis’ inclusion of these quotations—which come from Basil’s writings on the monastic and ascetic life—shows how significant he believes the conversations in the Spirit are as a means of building up and edifying the Church during the synod.

Readings for Next Week

First Reading	<i>Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10</i>	Second Reading	<i>1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13</i>
“I am a great King,” says the Lord of hosts, “and my name is reverence among the nations. And now, O priests, this command is for you. If you will not listen, if you will not lay it to heart to give glory to my name,” says the Lord of hosts, “then I will send the curse on you and I will curse your blessings; indeed I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart. You have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi,” says the Lord of hosts, “and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, in as much as you have not kept my ways but have shown partiality in your instruction.” Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors? Psalm O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvellous for me But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore		Brothers and sisters Though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ, we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the Gospel of God. We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, the word of God, which is also at work in you believers Gospel <i>Matthew 23:1-12</i> Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ chair; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted	

Questions and Reflection on the readings

- Q. In what ways can a Christian model of leadership be difficult to practise?
- Q. How is it possible to challenge poor leaders to practise a more Christian model of leadership?

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

PIETY STALL—ALMOST READY!!

After months of preparation, including 3 weeks of permanent closure, our Piety Stall is now operational once again. This weekend there will be a partial re-opening, including sale items (on tables outside the shop). Then, on Sunday the 5th of November after the 11am Mass, we will have a grand opening and blessing of the shop.

Please make use of this sale period, it's a great opportunity. All items on sale are from previous stock. Some cards will be given out for free.

RETIRED AND SICK PASSIONISTS

This weekend, we're having a third collection for retired and sick Passionists. Many of us have a deep appreciation for the impact that senior Passionists have had in our lives, and the lives of countless others in the communities throughout the Holy Spirit Province (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Vietnam). This collection is an opportunity to support these men, who have spent their lives serving God's people throughout the Province. The entire Province is immensely grateful to this support, both financial and prayerful, for these men.

YOUNG ADULT (Year 12 and older)

Gathering for this age group will be on **SUNDAY, 5 November** at 7pm in the Annexe. This time we will be focusing on 'Exam Stress'

YOUTH GROUP (grade 5 to year 9)

We had another great gathering of nearly 30 of our young people (year's 5-9) last Friday night. One of our activities was to come up with a new name, and we eventually settled on: **4:12 Youth**. This is in reference to 1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you're young, but be an example in the way you speak and behave, and in your love, your faith, and your purity."

The next gathering will be on the 17th of November, at 7pm in the Annexe. If possible, we ask again that you would register through the trybooking link (QR Code on the poster), or at www.trybooking.com/CLCIG A big thank you, too, to the amazing work of the parents who have helped organise these gatherings. What started as an idea last year, has become a

reality thanks to their hard work and commitment to our youth.

PARISH BINGO

Our last bingo for the year will be on **FRIDAY, 10 NOVEMBER FROM 7.30pm in the Annexe**. You can come on your own or come as a group. For more information please contact Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441. Please note that this activity is strictly only for anyone older than 18 yrs old. Unfortunately, we are bound to a policy which states that anyone under this age is not permitted inside the hall during Bingo

PARISH MEN'S GROUP TRIVIA NIGHT

After a long pause, including the COVID affected period, the Men's group Trivia Night is back, **FRIDAY, 17th November at St Paul Apostle South School Hall**. Arrival time is 7pm for 7.30pm start. Cost to join the night is \$15per person. BYO drinks and nibbles. There will be a silent auction, raffles and great prizes. **All payment is on a CASH BASIS** as there will be no card payment facility available. You may come on your own or in a group. Contacts for booking and additional information are Peter 0418 345 576 or Dick 0438 701 284. All are welcome

ADORATION GROUP—UPDATED INFORMATION

It's with great pleasure to say we are up and running in our adoration chapel and would invite you to call in during the day and say a prayer and visit our Lord in the blessed sacrament. We have permanent Adorers who take up an hour a week but can also accommodate you if you wish to call in for 15 minutes and worship. Anyone wishing to do, please contact John Hendriks on 0418308051 for further information.

GARDENING

Spring is in the air and our Church garden is growing beautifully. However, some parts are growing faster than others. We are planning to do some gardening, to trim and tidy up parts of the garden. This will be on **SATURDAY the 11th of November from 8.30am** for about 2 hrs. All are welcome to help. Just come along and remember to bring your gardening tools.

Readings:

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Exodus 22:20-26 ;
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10 ;
Matthew 22:34-40

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Malachi 1:14 – 2:2. 8-10 ;
1 Thessalonians 2:7-9. 13 ;
Matthew 23:1-12

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

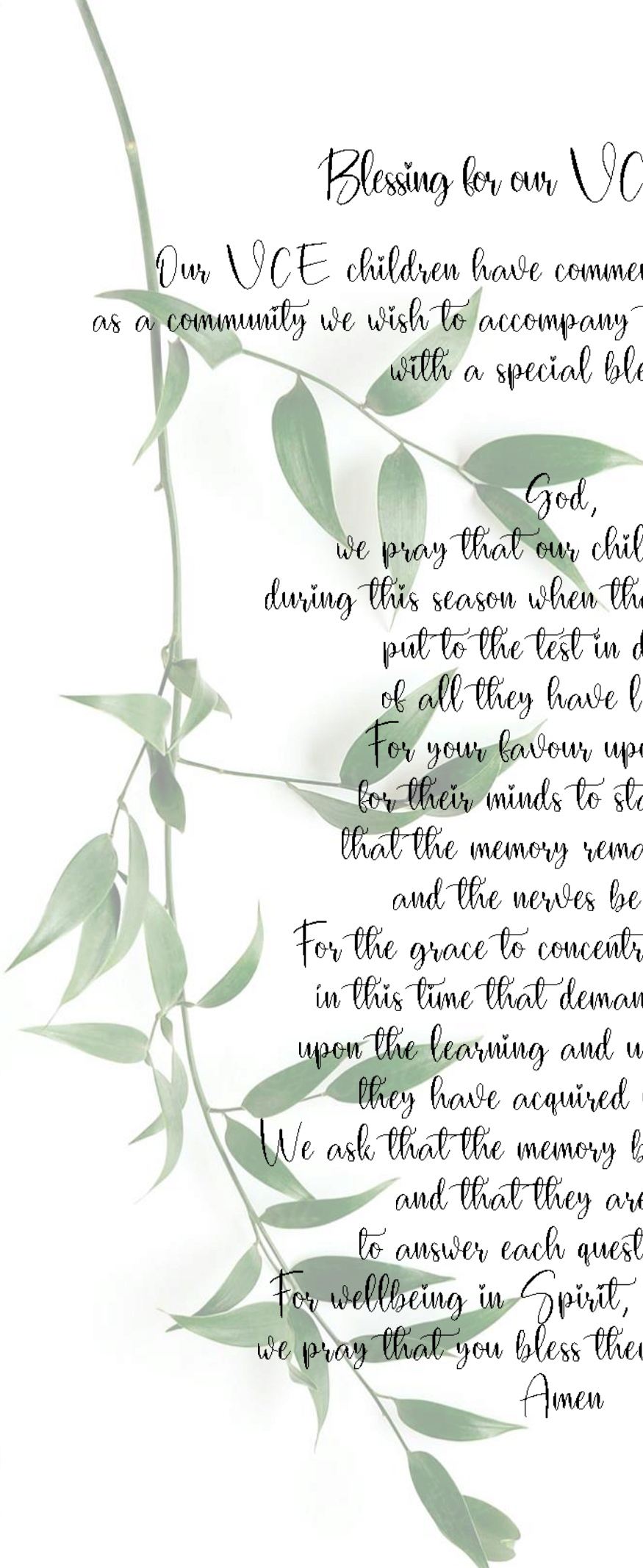
Those who are sick

Mercia, Joaquina Braz, Norah Ekanayake, Grace Sprigg, Lara Moyle, Michael D' Silva, Lina Jom, Giorgia Vella, Lucia Lay, Marie Kronomberg, Bernardo Cabrera, Anne Ghatt, June Enright, Leang Diep, Sonia Singh, Roger Gray, Anthona Henderson, Nimal Pandithakoralage, Cecil Harper, Nicole Pinto, Toni Celona, Shinead Kralj, Carlos Aquino, Jamie Cabrera, Angela Schink, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, 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

Francisco Bernardes, Ivan Velupillai, Monica Chai (Loh), Domenico Folino, Horace Stolke, Sr. Robyn Reynolds OLSH, Lino Mainolfi, Fr Rob Egar, Fr Brian Gleeson, Trevor Fernandez, Salvador Cortez, Adoration Cortez, Bishop Ricardo Macaraeg, Fernando Concepcion, Aurelia Conception, Honorato Conception, Gloria Conception, Jose Angelito Conception, Dely Conception, Ponciano Cabrera, Teddy Cabrera, Lauren Guillot **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace



Blessing for our VCE students

Our VCE children have commenced their final exams,
as a community we wish to accompany them and offer our support
with a special blessing.

God,
we pray that our children enjoy
during this season when they are literally
put to the test in demand
of all they have learned.
For your favour upon them,
for their minds to stay alert,
that the memory remains sharp
and the nerves be calm.
For the grace to concentrate and excel
in this time that demand is placed
upon the learning and understanding
they have acquired we pray.
We ask that the memory be kept excellent
and that they are able
to answer each question well.
For wellbeing in Spirit, mind and body
we pray that you bless them with, O Lord
Amen