

Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH—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, 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.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and

that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Ps 118:49-50

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

'THE LITTLE ONES'

You may recall from last week's passage from the Gospel of Mark that Jesus placed a child among them. The child exemplifies others who believe in Jesus and are open and receptive to learning more. In today's passage, among a series of instructions, we hear of 'these little ones who believe in me.' The instruction is a continuation of the teaching to the failing disciples about how to receive Jesus.

John, who is one of the leadership group of the Twelve, addresses Jesus as 'teacher' and asks a question that reveals his own misunderstanding. Having seen someone casting out demons in Jesus' name, he says 'we tried to stop him, because *he was not following us.*' Jesus responds to refocus them to him. Their proclamation of the good news is not about gaining followers of the Twelve but inviting followers of Jesus. In this context the further instruction of not putting stumbling blocks in front of 'the little ones who believe' makes more sense.

The language that follows seems strange to us, yet the negatives are graphically pointing to the real goal of entering the fullness of life in the kingdom of God. This is the reward for all who might offer even a cup of water to one in need. As we reflect on the readings today, take time to think who 'the little ones who believe' are among us. How do we see our role in encouraging others to join us as disciples and servants of Jesus, and acting in his name?

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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ST MARY'S PARISH, DANDENONG—160 FOSTER STREET, DANDENONG

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TEL: 9791-4611/OFFICE HOURS 9AM-3PM MONDAY-FRIDAY/EMAIL: dandenong@cam.org.au

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

29 SEPTEMBER 2024

OPEN TO THE SPIRIT'S WORKINGS! The Spirit of God is present and active in the world. Wherever we see good we know that God's Spirit is at work. The Spirit works in surprising ways. It is sometimes through the least important member of a community that the Spirit speaks. May bigotry and prejudice never blind us to the workings of God in our Church and in our world.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Dan 3:31, 29, 30, 43, 42

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: 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, (striking the breast) 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.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

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.

COLLECT

P. O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Num 11:25-29

A reading from the book of Numbers.

Are you jealous on my account? Who decrees that all people may prophesy?

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look,' he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 18:8, 10, 12-14. R. v. 9

R. The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**



2. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. **R.**
3. So in them your servant finds instruction; / great reward is in their keeping. / But who can detect all his errors? / From hidden faults acquit me. **R.**
4. From presumption restrain your servant / and let it not rule me. / Then shall I be blameless, / clean from grave sin. **R.**

SECOND READING

James 5:1-6

A reading from the letter of St James.

Your wealth is rotting.

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 17:17

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Sebastian Arockia
SEMINARIAN: Bro Nicolas Calandra
PARISH SECRETARY: Franca Van Boxtel
FINANCE OFFICER: Deslene de Niese
PARISH CENTRE MANAGER:
Mr. Miguel Matamala

If you urgently need a priest please call 9791 4611, if Father does not answer, please leave a message and he will call you back.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Morning: 9.15am
Saturday Evening: 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 9.15am
Friday (9.45am –12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction at 12.30pm)

ANOINTING MASS

Last Friday of every month 9.15 am

DAILY ROSARY

After morning Mass Mon-Sat
(Friday will be before Mass)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after 9.15am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm
before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

MARRIAGE

Please book the Church at the same time as you book your venue. As marriage preparation is an essential condition of marriage, you must book your **preparation course** at least **4 months** prior to the wedding. Further details can be obtained from Fr. Sebastian

HOUSE BLESSING

If any Parishioner would like their house to be blessed, please contact Franca or at the Parish office on 9791-4611 to make a booking with either Fr Sebastian

COMMUNION AND ANOINTING OF SICK

Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing.

Any parishioners who take Communion to the sick, could you please put your name and the person you are taking Communion to, into the **Communion to the Sick** book. This book is kept in the sacristy.

St. Mary's Primary School Phone: 9791 7650
New St, Dandenong.
Principal: Terry Gardiner
St. John's Regional College Phone 9791 3366
Caroline St, Dandenong.
Principal: Timothy Hogan
St. Mary's Community Centre **9792 4884**
Bookings: Miguel Matamala 0402 155 192

BINGO AT ST MARY'S

*St. Mary's Bingo is on Tuesdays at 12noon & Saturdays at 6.30pm in
St Mary's Community Centre,
New St, Dandenong*

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

As so often in the Gospel, Jesus takes the way we are tempted to think and flips it on its head: 'Anyone who is not against us is for us.' Pope Francis suggests that Jesus invites us 'not to hinder those who do good, because they contribute to the fulfilment of God's plan.' This includes the Church, the Pope points out, noting that 'we need to be vigilant about closure in the Church' and falling prey to the devil's temptation 'to divide and exclude people.'

The Pope reminds us that unless we are 'humble and open communities' there is a risk that the Church or groups within it can easily 'give the impression of being the "top of the class" and keep others at a distance.' He warns against cliques that form around certain priests, closed-circle pastoral groups, and so on, which 'runs the risk of turning Christian communities into places of separation and not of communion.'

'The Holy Spirit does not want closure,' the Pope affirms. 'He wants openness, welcoming communities where there is a place for everyone.' After all, Jesus exhorted us to rein in our own attitudes rather than worrying about the attributes of others. As the Pope notes, 'the risk is to be inflexible towards others and indulgent towards ourselves.' Therefore, he suggests that 'instead of judging everything and everyone, let us be attentive to ourselves!'

Tommy Canning's art is inspired by the great masters such as Michaelangelo, Raphael and Caravaggio. He draws on their legacy to create a bridge between the old and the new. Taking to heart the words of Pope John Paul II: "It is up to you, men and women who have given your lives to art, to declare with all the wealth of your ingenuity that in Christ the world is redeemed..." (Letter to Artists, 1999).

Topic: A Passion for Sacred Art
Speaker: Tommy Canning
Date: Monday 14th October
Time: 6.30pm dinner available for purchase, 7.30pm for the talk
Venue: Notting Hill Hotel (Steakhouse Room),
260-262 Ferntree Gully Rd, Notting Hill, VIC
Cost: Free
Tickets: GodandBeer.com.au

**THE DISCALCED CARMELITES PRESENTS -
HOLINESS FOR ALL**



The Discalced Carmelite Secular Order, Melbourne are presenting an Expo on St Therese of Lisieux at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne on Tuesday 1 October at 12.15pm with prayers and reflections followed by Mass at 1.00pm to celebrate the Centenary of Therese's Canonisation. The Expo will be open till 31 October and then reopen in 2025 for a month leading up to the actual Centenary on 17 May 2025

**Spiritual Retreats at Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre,
East Melbourne**

The Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre will begin a series of reflection nights and retreats commencing with a Reflection Day focussing on the central theme of the Year of Jubilee 2025 : ***Hearing the Audacious Call to be Pilgrims of Hope*** facilitated by Mark Walsh. The day will include times of contemplation using scripture and times of pray-

er . www.mmhc.org.au/spiritual-retreat/

Day : Monday, 28th October, 2024

Time: 9.30am to 3.15pm.

Venue : Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert street, East Melbourne

Price \$120 (Morning tea provided, BYO Lunch)

MARCH FOR THE BABIES -

Come and show your support for the unborn. Join the March for the Babies on Saturday, 12th October, 2024 at 12.30pm in the Treasury Gardens, Cnr Spring & Wellington Pde. Wear blue or pink. Catch the train to Parliament Station and walk down to the Treasury Gardens

'The Missionary Sisters of St Peter Claver will hold their Annual Mission Fair on Saturday 12 October 9.00 am – 2.30 pm at 154 Cotham Road, Kew. This year the proceeds will be for the Benedictine brothers in Daresalaam, Tanzania to assist them in their work among the poor' Enquiries Phone: 9817 3715.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Thursday of the month. **THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER** after morning mass followed with **Adoration** concluding with Benediction at 8pm. We will need at least 3 volunteers to cover the day and evening hours. A sign up sheet is in the church foyer if you would like to reserve your spot.



**1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH—FATIMA DEVOTIONS
FIFTH OF THE FIVE SATURDAYS
5TH OCTOBER 2024**

8.00am Rosary
9.15am **Mass** (Followed by procession)

VATICAN II LECTURE SERIES Join us for ongoing Formation in preparation for Jubilee 2025, honouring Vatican II vision and outcomes on the 60th Anniversary. Saturday 5 October. Session 5 from 11am to 12.30pm & Session 6 from 1.15pm to 3.00pm. Topic: Embracing Solidarity: "Journeying Toward Becoming A More Synodal Parish". BYO lunch. Presenter: Br Tony Clark fm. Diocesan Pastoral Life and Mission Team Leader. Where: Resurrection Church, 402 Corrigan Road, Keysborough. Little Chapel. Gold coin collection

**ROSTER WEEKEND 5-6 OCTOBER
READERS**

6:00pm: Susan & Shiyan
8:30am: Belen & Teresa
10:30am: Clara & Michelle
5:30pm: Angela & Michelle Tordillo
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
6:00pm: Bibiana, Ruth & Margaret
8:30am: Ulalia, Wigbertha & Marilyn
10:30am: Anna, Stefania & Suzie
5:30pm: Neville, Sharmini & Wilma

**St. Mary's Parish is
committed to the
safety, wellbeing and
dignity of all
children, young
people and
vulnerable adult**

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR
PRAYERS**

Recently Deceased: Maria Langvizer

Anniversaries: Antonio Miranda,
Colita Abella, Jozef Farbotko

Sick: Rosa Maria Santos, Long Phan,
Ush Henry Bangkal, Leti Luki, Kathleen
Nelson, Anthony Andrew, Jim Lynch,
Bernardo, Ray Gilligan, Frank Pezzaro, Janet
Augustine, Bridget Phyland, Desmond Hopper,
Chris Grubb, Solofuti, Samantha
Vasanthi, Kevin, Jim, Maria Perez, Alan
John Borninkhof, Angela Anthony, Ray Simons,
Frank Camara, Rita Breen, Katrina,
Tasileta Lolesio, Andrew Jackson, Imelda
Quatre-bornes, Charlie Mastrogiovanni,
Frank Holohan, Sandra Wills, Reuben Jacobs,
Maddie, Herve, Asis Zullah
(The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed)in the Marian.
(IF THERE ARE ANY NAMES THAT NEED TO COME OFF THE SICK LIST PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE)

**REGULAR GROUP MEETING
ST MARY'S PARISH**

LEGION OF MARY:

Saturday afternoons 4.30pm-5.30pm in the Fellowship Room followed by Rosary before 6pm Mass

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP :

Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the church

AL-ANON : Tuesday evenings at 8pm in the Fellowship Room. For more information call 1300 252 666

VINCENTIAN RETREAT CENTRE:

Fridays Mass with healing prayer 7pm

ST EPHREM CHALDEAN CHURCH:

Sundays Mass (Arabic) 12.30pm

ST MARY'S FRIENDSHIP CLUB:

3rd Wednesday of month lunch meet at Dandenong RSL.12pm

MENS GROUP

1st Thursday of month (Marian Room) 6pm

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP

1st Sunday of month (Parish Centre) 6:30pm

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Thanksgiving: \$1765.50

Presbytery \$391.00 **Loose:** \$1674.00

Support our Parish

If you would like to make direct payments to our bank accounts, the details are:

St Mary's General Account:
(Thanksgiving & Donations)
NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 483196852

For contributions to support our priests and the Archdiocese
Presbytery Account:
NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 460761193