

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

5 November 2023

Readings

Next Week

Wis 6:12-16

Ps 62:2-8

1 Thess 4:13-18

Mt 25:1-13

in a nutshell

You have only one teacher. St Paul was a great leader. Like a mother, he nourished and watched over his people. He tried not to be a burden on them. He sought to preach God's message and not his own. He helped the people, whom he called brothers and sisters, to look to Christ as their only Master and Teacher. Today we pray for religious leaders as they strive to express in their own lives the qualities of leadership embodied in Paul.

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

We are collecting for the Christmas Hampers Raffle.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

O Lord, my heart is not proud
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great
nor marvels beyond me. (R.)

Truly I have set my soul
in silence and peace.
A weaned child on its mother's breast,
even so is my soul. (R.)

O Israel, hope in the Lord
both now and for ever. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father, your Father in heaven; you
have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Just as the living Father sent me and I have life
because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me
shall have life because of me, says 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: mountevelyn@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

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.

Mass Collections

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.

Christmas Raffles

Once again this year, we will hold a raffle for Christmas Hampers. If you would like to contribute to the hampers, there is a box in the narthex to place your donations. The proceeds will go to help the parish. Thank you for your donations!

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

Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. It is not the same thing to have known the Lord Jesus as not to have known him. (Pope Benedict XVI)

The minister to whom confession is made is the delegate of Christ, who is the Judge of the living and the dead. (St. Thomas Aquinas)

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

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).

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

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." - Matthew 23:12

The world celebrates people in the spotlight and those who have the most of everything. We think celebrity, money and possessions is the key to happiness. Yet, our world is filled with more loneliness, anxiety and depression than ever before. The key to a happy life is relationship. Relationship with God and each other. Trust is the foundation of any good relationship and humility is the seed of trust.

Advent Reflections

"With Expectant Hearts" is a new 22-day reflection resource that can be used during Advent by individuals and groups. There are a couple of copies to view and to purchase a copy go to <https://evangelisation-brisbane.myshopify.com/collections/adult-faith>

Right to Life Conference—November 11

This conference is a good opportunity for people to become informed about life issues in Australia and how we can create a more pro-life society. See www.righttolife.com.au for bookings for the Conference. Dinner can be booked separately online or phone our office – (03) 9385 0100 **Book now as bookings close Monday 6 November.**

Night of the Witnesses

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) warmly invites you to Night of the Witnesses on 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!

The billionaire owner of a computer software company dies at the ripe old age of 90 and goes to heaven where Saint Peter gives him a nice, modern four-bedroom house with a pretty garden and a tennis court. Pleased with his lot, the man quickly settles into the afterlife. One day he is out walking when he bumps into a man with a white beard wearing a fine tailored suit. "That's a really nice suit," says the rich man. "Where did you get it?" "Actually," says the bearded man, "I was given 50 of these, plus two mansions, a yacht, a golf course and four Rolls-Royces." "Wow, were you a pope or a doctor healing the terminally ill?" asks the rich man. "No, actually I was the captain of the Titanic." The rich man is puzzled. He finds Saint Peter and asks, "How come the captain of a sunken ship with all those lives lost gets all that while me, the inventor of a software company that has helped millions of people gets a pokey little house?" he asks. With a wry smile Saint Peter says, "The Titanic only crashed once."

Readings Reflection

[Calling the Fathers](#)

Though they were Moses' successors, the Pharisees and scribes exalted themselves, making their mastery of the law a badge of social privilege. Worse, they had lorded the law over the people (see Matthew 20:25). Like the priests Malachi condemns in today's First Reading, they caused many to falter and be closed off from God.

In a word, Israel's leaders failed to be good spiritual fathers of God's people. Moses was a humble father figure, preaching the law but also practicing it—interceding and begging God's mercy and forgiveness of the people's sins (see Exodus 32:9–14; Psalm 90).

And Jesus reminds us today that all fatherhood—in the family or in the people of God—comes from the Father in heaven (see Ephesians 3:15).

He doesn't mean we're to literally call no man "father." He Himself referred to Israel's founding fathers (see John 7:22); the Apostles taught about natural fatherhood (see Hebrews 12:7–11), and described themselves as spiritual fathers (see 1 Corinthians 4:14–16).

The fatherhood of the Apostles and their successors, the Church's priests and bishops, is a spiritual paternity given to raise us as God's children. Our fathers give us new life in Baptism and feed us the spiritual milk of the Gospel and the Eucharist (see 1 Peter 2:2–3). That's why Paul, in today's Epistle, can also compare himself to a nursing mother.

God's fatherhood likewise transcends all human notions of fatherhood and motherhood. Perhaps that's why the Psalm chosen for today includes one of the rare biblical images of God's maternal care (see Isaiah 66:13).

His only Son has shown us the Father (see John 14:9) coming to gather His children as a hen gathers her young (see Matthew 23:37). We're all brothers and sisters, our Lord tells us today. And all of us—even our spiritual fathers—are to trust in Him, humbly, like children on our mothers' laps.

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

The Secret of Sanctity

The Secret of Sanctity

Here is the whole secret of sanctity; the method is available to everyone and deserves particular notice from those who ask: "What can I do?" For many good souls are hungry to do great things for God. They complain that they have no opportunities for heroic virtue, no chance at the apostolate. They would be martyrs; but when a meal is late, or a bus is crowded, when the theater is filled, or the dance postponed, or the bacon overdone, they are upset for a whole day. They miss their opportunities for loving God in the little things He asks of them.

Our Lord said: "He who is trustworthy over a little sum is trustworthy over a greater." (Luke 16:10) The Divine Beloved speaks to the soul in a whisper, but because the soul is waiting for a trumpet, it loses His Command. All of us would like to make our own crosses tailor-made trials. But not many of us welcome the crosses God sends. Yet it is in doing perfectly the little chores He gives that Saints find holiness. The big, world-shattering things many of us imagine we would like to do for God might, in the end, feed only our egotism.

[On the other hand, to accept the crosses of our state of life because they come from an all-loving God is to have taken the most important step in the reformation of the world, namely, the reformation of the self. Sanctity can be built out of patient endurance of the incessant grumbling of a husband—the almost intolerable nagging of a wife—the boss's habit of smoking a pipe while he dictates—the noise the children make with their soup—the unexpected illness—the failure to find a husband—the inability to get rich. All these can become occasions of merit and be made into prayers if they are borne patiently for love of One Who bears so patiently with us, despite our shortcomings, our failures, and our sins.

It is not hard to put up with others' foibles when one realizes how much God has to put up with from us. There is a legend that one day Abraham was visited in the desert by an Arab, who set up loud complaints of the food, the lodging, the bed, and the wine which his generous host had offered him. Finally, Abraham became exasperated and was about to put him out. God appeared to Abraham at that moment and said: "Abraham, I have stood this man for forty years; can't you put up with him for one day?"]

Accept the Duty of the Moment

To accept the duty of this moment for God is to touch Eternity, to escape from time. This habit of embracing the Now and glorifying God through its demands is an act of the loving will. We do not need an intellectual knowledge of God's plan in order to accept it. When St. Paul was converted he asked merely: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" We can be warmed by a fire without knowing the chemistry of combustion, and we can be cured by a medicine without knowing its prescription. The Divine Will, pouring into the soul of a simple cripple resigned to suffering, will give him a far greater understanding of theology than a professor will get from a lifetime of theoretical curiosity about religion which he does not practice. The good and the bad thief on the cross had the same crisis of fear and suffering—one of them complained and lost his chance for Heaven that day; the other spiritualized the brief moment of suffering. Some souls win peace and sanctity from the same trials which make others rebels and nervous wrecks.

God cannot seize our wills or force us to use our trials advantageously, but neither can the Devil. We are absolute dictators in deciding whether we wish to offer our will to God. And if we turn it over to Him without reservation, He will do great things in us. As a chisel in the hands of Michelangelo can produce a better statue than a chisel in the hands of a child, so the human will becomes more effective when it has become a liege of God than if we try to rule alone. Our wills operating under our own power may be busy about many things, but in the end they come to nothing. Under Divine Power, the nothingness of our wills becomes effective beyond our fondest dreams.

The phrase which sanctifies any moment is "Thy Will be done." It was that fiat of our Saviour in Gethsemane which initiated our Redemption; it was the fiat of Our Lady which opened the way to the Incarnation. The word cuts all the guy ropes that attach us to the familiar, narrow things we know; it unfurls all our sails to the possibilities of the moment, and it carries one along to whatever port God wills. To say and mean "Thy Will be done" is to put an end to all complaining; for whatever the moment brings to us now bears the imprint of the Divine Will.

Evil Can Benefit Us

It will seem strange to the worldling, but even our enemies—even those who cheat, malign us—can become occasions for advancement toward union with God. All contradictions can be turned to good by those who have put their trust in God. Seeing the trial as issuing from the Divine Hand, one never has to wonder how to meet it, nor question why it came, nor seek defense against it. Each trial is an occasion for faith and an opportunity for virtue. Having put oneself in the deeper dimension of Divine Love, one knows as a child in a loving family knows, that even what is not understood is done kindly and for the best. There finally comes a period of union with God when everything seems unreal except Divine Love. The soul in the midst of trials and aches becomes like an airplane flying—it follows the beam of God's Will through the fog and mist.

We would all like to make our own crosses; but since Our Lord did not make His Own, neither do we make ours. We can take whatever He gives us, and we can make the supernatural best of it. The typist at her desk working on routine letters, the street cleaner with his broom, the farmer tilling the field with his horses, the doctor bending over a patient, the lawyer trying his case, the student with his books, the sick in their isolation and pain, the teacher drilling her pupils, the mother dressing the children—every such task, every such duty can be ennobled and spiritualized if it is done in God's Name.

Ven. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, *Life is Worth Living*
www.catholicexchange.com (Sam Guzman)