



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, 4-5 November, 2023

As we remember our departed loved ones

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/szhYWms3pDM?feature=share>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

This past week, we entered the month of November by celebrating All Saints Day on Wednesday, followed by All Souls Day on Thursday. November has long been a wonderful opportunity to remember and pray for those who have died, and ask them to pray for us.

One concept that we grapple with during this time is that of “purgatory.” Throughout history, there have been many misconceptions about what this means. The first, and perhaps most important one, is that purgatory is some kind of “place.” The word purgatory comes from a Latin word which literally means, “to be cleansed.” Thus, purgatory is not a place, but rather an experience.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his Encyclical *Spe Salve*, wrote “At the moment of judgement, we experience and we absorb the overwhelming power of Jesus’ love over all the evil in the world and in ourselves. The pain of love becomes our salvation and our joy...”

This is simply to say that we receive God’s love in its entirety. In its fullness. All that is not of God is washed away within us, and we experience communion as never before. What has been understood as an awful experience in “heaven’s waiting room,” thus becomes a beautiful and transcendent encounter with God’s love.

Many of us already know this “pain of love” that Pope Benedict speaks of, which is often an indication of love’s depth. That we cannot know love without risking the pain of its absence—the death of a loved one; separation, whether physical or emotional; the rupturing

of relationships. It is sometimes painful to experience change. It is sometimes painful to grow, and experience conversion, as it necessitates a certain “leaving behind.”

A second misconception is that of “time in purgatory.” That we can somehow pray for a “shortened sentence.” Pope Benedict went on to say that, “The transforming ‘moment’ of this encounter [with Jesus] eludes earthly time-reckoning—it is the heart’s time, it is the time of ‘passage’ to communion with God.”

Many of us know this experience of the “heart’s time.” Moments of grace that seem to stand still. Moments in prayer or contemplation where time has no meaning. Experiences throughout our lives that are measured not by a clock, but rather by an awareness of connection deep within. Likewise, this is how we understand this experience of purgatory, of God’s love.

All this to say that purgatory is not the scary “place” that is often assumed. Rather, it is an experience of God’s love. In praying for our deceased loved ones throughout November, we bring to mind this experience of God’s love. Not to frighten or guilt us. Rather, to remind us of our faith in the resurrection, and our trust that God’s love, grace, and mercy will always welcome us home.

Fr Luke Bulley CP

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

Readings for Next Week

First Reading

Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.

To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought

Psalm

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18**

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may

not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words

Gospel

Matthew 25: 1-13

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples:
"The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour

Questions and Reflection on the readings

Q. What everyday opportunity do you have to follow Jesus' style of leadership?

Q. How do you respond to someone you feel is not 'practising what they preach'?

PIETY STALL—REOPENING

As we announced last weekend, this Sunday after 11am Mass we will conduct a simple blessing for our refurbished Piety Stall. Thank you for being so patient to wait for the re-opening. A lot of work has been put into the face lift. We hope that the refreshed piety stall can be the source of all your needs for religious items. Feel free to browse, Dominique, Vianney, Mary, John and Rose will be more than happy to assist you

ADVENT REFLECTION BOOK

Advent is just 3 weeks away. If you wish to prepare yourself in advance, we have a reflection booklet for Advent available in the piety stall. Priced at \$7 each (this only covers the cost of obtaining the booklet) There are a limited number of booklets available.



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

RETIRED AND SICK PASSIONISTS FUND

Last weekend we held a special annual collection to support the retired and sick Passionists. A total of \$1306.70 was raised from this special collection. The Passionists Community thank you for your ever generous support

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) 4:12 Youth

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

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Our grade 6 children (and older) have been busy learning about Sacrament of Confirmation which they are about to receive. Please keep them in our prayer.

If you are registered in this program, please note that the last family night is on **TUESDAY, 14 November at 7pm** in the Church. Candidates and one or both parents (or guardian) must attend this session.

Also remember that all candidates must attend the session with Bishop Tony Ireland on **FRIDAY, 17 November at 2pm** in the Church. This session will finish within 1 hour. Sacrament of Confirmation Mass in on **SATURDAY, 18 November at 2pm**.

CANDLES—USED DURING MASS

As you may have noticed, we have changed the candles in the Church quite frequently, as they were getting too short for the candle holder. As a result we are left with many used candles, however, as they have been a part of our Mass we are unable to put them in the rubbish.

We believe these candles will be very useful in people's homes and can be used when you have family prayers or other family religious gatherings. If you wish to have one or two, or three or more, please come to the parish office during office hours Monday-Friday 9am to 3pm

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:

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Wisdom 6:12-16;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;
Matthew 25: 1-13

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Muljati Halim, Mercia, Joaquina Braz, Norah Ekanayake, Grace Sprigg, Lara Moyle, Michael D' Silva, Lina Jom, Giorgia Vella, Lucia Lay, 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, Marie Kronomberg, Joao B. Ximenes, Theresa Sousa, Alfonso Moniz, Izolda Abrantes, Sancho Moniz **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

2023 Roster

MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS

	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Alvita Dias	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Lakni Weerasekera Diane Heaton
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Diane Allegany Anne Astin	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Grace Sudjono	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Alvita Dias Virendra Jayetileke	Jennifer Tanti Diane Allegany	Melissa Krajacic Charlene Nheu

MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST

	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe	Glenn Todd Antoniette Gargano Florence Madeira	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Esteban Morales Aloma Pereira	Sharon Normington Jean Jansz Naomi Falo	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Peter Miller Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell	Anabela Costa Sai Dilinger Binitha Mathew	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Mary Moore Rohan Wickramasinghe	Vianney Clark Stephen Herbert Lauren Rafferty	Swineetha Disanayake Dominique Maclou Neha Cherayath
5th Sunday	Riona Alveyn Carmeline Don Paul Peter Miller	Sig Romano Esteban Morales	Binitha Mathew Glenn Todd Sharon Normington	Ayomi Fernandez Peng Chee Jenny Catania