



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, 1-2 July, 2023

Reflection

Our attachment to the things of this life can be a bit like that scaly dragon skin. We build up around ourselves an ugly armour of sin – pride, fear, envy, anger – that we hope will protect us from being hurt, but in truth only cuts us off from one another. Even the love of things that are good in themselves, whether it is food or work or money, or even friends and family, if that love is not properly ordered, can become something harmful and destructive. What does it mean for love to be “properly ordered”? It means loving more those things that are more worthy of love. The first of these, of course, is God, who is pure love, the fountain of love, a love that is stronger than death. So when Christ, in today’s Gospel, claims that it is he who must be loved more than anything else, he is making a bold claim indeed: we must love Christ as God. Only by making Christ the focus of our lives will those lives be well ordered.

But the reward promised us is remarkable too. If we love Christ more than anything, making of our whole lives a sacrifice in imitation of his own sacrifice on the cross, then we ourselves will become the presence of Christ to our fellow human beings: “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me.” Just as bold as Christ’s claim to be worthy of the love that belongs only to God is our claim that, by sharing in Christ’s mission, in a certain way we share in his very divinity: “and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me”. We must be realistic about what this invitation means. As Eustace (*a character in C.S. Lewis’ Narnia books, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*) says, “it hurts like Billy-oh”. To let go of everything that separates us from God might well feel like losing our very lives. But our life without Christ is not our real life, it is something fake. As St Paul says in our second reading, “you must consider yourselves to be dead

to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus”.

To be “dead to sin” requires great courage. Firstly, we need the courage to look hard at our lives and ask ourselves what are the ways in which we have covered ourselves in a hard and scaly skin of sin. What have I allowed to cut me off from true companionship with my brothers and sisters? Is it pride in my own status or achievements? Is it fear, or anger, that stops me from being truly vulnerable? The next stage is to allow Jesus to really get his claws into us. This means becoming vulnerable to the power of his call, and daring to let him rip off that scaly armour. Today is the day to let go of anger, to laugh at our foolish pride, to be happy for, instead of envious of, people who seem better off than ourselves, to be open and generous with all those we meet.

Then, when we have dared to let in the warmth of divine love, we will need yet more courage, the courage to bear witness to our own transformation – even though as yet it has only just begun. Offering our testimony to Christ’s love for all the world, whether aloud or in the silence of deeds, we will bring Christ’s rewards to everyone we meet.

(article taken from *Living Word book*)

This week is NAIDOC WEEK (2-7 July, 2023)



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/bakWZdHBSQ>

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 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

INTERRUPTION TO MASSES

During this past week and over the next two weeks, the The Passionists of Holy Spirit Province (Australia, PNG, NZ and Vietnam) is holding their Provincial Chapter, this generally occurs every 4 years. In this meeting their new leader will be elected. This meeting will be held in Sydney. During this period all of our priests will be travelling back and forth between Melbourne and Sydney. They are doing their utmost to limit the number of interruptions to our Mass timetable. However, over the period, there is no option but to have Communion Service on some weekdays. There will be no interruption to weekend Masses.

Below are the dates when a Communion Service will be held instead of regular Mass (please note there is no change in timing)

10th (Monday) to 14 July (Friday) Communion Service

We will keep everyone attending the meeting in our prayers.

YOUTH MEETING (for Year 5-9)

Thank you to parents whom have enthusiastically attended their first meeting for this age group and are excited to commence activities for the children. The first gathering will be on **FRI-DAY, 11th AUGUST at 7pm in the Annexe**. If you are interested in joining this group please contact the parish office on 9700 3781

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT is August 4-6 (Friday night to Sunday afternoon). at Pallotti College for those aged 18+. It will be run by Tom Warren (from our Passionist Youth Retreat Team in Brisbane) and Fr Luke. This is an open invitation to young people in our parish, as well as friends, or anyone else who would like to come. Registration forms will be available at the gathering space. We are limited to 20 people, so please register soon (details to the right). Cost is \$150 per person. This will be a great opportunity to get to know other young people in our wider parish community, as well as deepen faith in a fun and open way. There will also be the possibility of being part of an emerging Team of young people facilitating school retreats around Victoria towards the end of the year. Register by scanning the QR Code, or clicking [this link](#).



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Just a small reminder that the children's liturgy does not run dur-



ing the school holiday period. It resumes on the 9th of July at 11am Mass. During the break we will have an illustration available at the entrances. Please pick one up as you walk in if you wish to have a copy.

As you may have noticed, the number of children in this program has increased, which is wonderful news, however, to enable us to pay enough attention to each child, we kindly ask for more volunteers to assist those who are now leading the program. We only ask you to help within your capacity, no more than what you are readily able to do. Please contact the parish office on 97003781 if you are interested in helping out.

2023 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

This program is for all school children in years 6-8 who have received their Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Communion. If your child is in this category and wishes to be part of the 2023 program, registration is now open. You can obtain the registration form from either the Parish Office or our website (under "documents and forms" tab) or simply click here. Donation is \$25 per child. Return the completed form to the PARISH OFFICE no later than the 23rd of SEPTEMBER (Please do not return to the school office)



PARISH BINGO

Remember to put it in your diary that our next parish bingo night is on **FRIDAY, 21 July from 7.30pm**. You may come in a group or on your own. 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**. Anyone under this age is not allowed to come in to the hall.

DANDENONG DEANERY DINNER

The next Dandenong Deanery Dinner is on **WEDNESDAY, 12th July at 5.30pm**. It will be held at **Graduate Restaurant of St John's Regional College, Caroline Street, Dandenong**. This time the guest speaker is Deacon George Piech Meat Cost is \$45 per person (incl. 3 course meal and Wine or Beer). If you interested to attend please RSVP to Paddy 0422 296 961 or email to dandenongdeanery@live.com.au. Payment is by Cash or cheque or bank transfer (please note that there is NO CARD FACILITY)

Readings:

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16
Rom 6: 3-4, 8-11;
Mt 10: 37-42

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A

Zech 9: 9-10;
Rom 8: 9, 11-13;
Mt 11: 25-30

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Zina Carlow, Denis Carlow, Sonia Singh, Roger Gray, Anthona Henderson, Nimal Pandithakoralage, Chris Williams, Cecil Harper, Fr Brian Gleeson, Wilhada de los Reyes, Nicole Pinto, Toni Celona, Shinead Kralj, Carlos Aquino, Jamie Cabrera, Angela Schink, Rajendre Rasiah, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, Horace Stolke, 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

Assunta Beltrano, Angela Leong, Stephen De Niese, Ainsley Jansz, York-Chau HO, Lionel Heaton, Rachel Fernando, Pai Joao77, Maun Raimondo77 **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

