



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, 20-21 July, 2024

THE DOGWOOD TREE

Poem

When Christ was on earth, the dogwood grew
to a towering size with a lovely hue
Its branches were strong and interwoven.
And for Christ's cross its timbers were chosen

Being distressed at the use of the wood,
Christ made a promise which still holds good:

*"Not ever again shall the dogwood grow
to be large enough for a tree, and so slender
and twisted it shall always be with
cross-shaped blossoms for all to see*

*The petals shall have bloodstains marked
brown and in the blossom's centre
a thorny crown*

*All who see it will think of me, nailed to a cross
from a dogwood tree*

*Protected and cherished this tree
shall be a reflection to all of my agony"*

(author anonymous)

Reflection on the poem

When I was a girl, my mother told me a story about the dogwood tree and Easter. The legend goes that the wood of the dogwood tree was used for the Cross to crucify Jesus. Disturbed by this, Christ made it so that the dogwood tree would never be used again for this purpose. In some cultures, the dogwood is a symbol of Jesus' Resurrection and the Spring of new life. When I was older, I learned that the dogwood tree doesn't grow in the Middle East and could never have been the wood of the Cross. That doesn't keep me from thinking of the Resurrection every time I look at the dogwoods that surround my house today. It helps to have physical

reminders of God's immense love that is inclusive of all life. The disciples needed these reminders as well.

No one knows who first told the legend of the dogwood, but I imagine it was someone who was deeply connected to both the earth around them and their faith. Seeing the crucifixion this way is a good sign that the person who wrote this poem was someone who had integrated their physical and spiritual lives. This story conveys a depth of beauty beyond the dogwood blossoms.

To see the Resurrection in the dogwood is to experience a kinship with another of God's precious creations that binds us in love. It reminds us that nature is more than pretty landscape, more than the backdrop to the human drama. The dogwood is more than a representation of God's love; it is God's love manifest. Just as humans are God's love manifest.

The dogwoods in my backyard have become living companions. I watch them through the seasons and see their changes: the glorious blooms in spring, the abundant green leaves in summer, the burgundy foliage in autumn, and the thin lacy branches in winter. I watch the dogwoods give habitat to the birds and squirrels, shade to the deer, and healthy air to all who breathe in her midst. They are a source of life at every level.

Similarly in my spiritual life, they have accompanied me in times of grieving, rebirth, playfulness, and discernment. I have looked to them for guidance, spiritual insight, and companionship in times of waiting. This relationship, quite different from my human companions, helps me expand my heart's imagination and experience of God. With the dogwoods, I have learned to be still and listen with my whole body.

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Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow

<https://youtube.com/live/hJKepJcrUgl?feature=share>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Priests:
Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community
Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Sony Kannanaikal 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
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading

2 Kings 4:42-44

A reading from the second book of Kings

A man came bringing food from the first fruits to Elisha, the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So Elisha repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" The servant set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

Psalm

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord
and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,
and tell of your power

The eyes of all look to you
and you give them their food in due to season
You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living things

The Lord is just in all his ways
and kind in all his doings
The Lord is near to all who call on him
to all who call on him on truth

Second Reading

Ephesians 4:1-6

A reading from the second Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

I, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great Prophet has risen among us;
God has looked favourably on his people
Alleluia!

Gospel

John 6:1-15

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they[c] sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

For reflection

1/ Have you ever been faced with what seems to be an "impossible situation?"

2/ The gift of God, superabundant though it be, is not any less precious, none of it should be wasted

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

WELCOME NEW PRINCIPAL OF ST PAUL APOSTLE NORTH SCHOOL

The retirement of Mary Lucas was announced at the end of last term. We have now received a letter from the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, confirming the appointment of a new principal (below a copy of the letter) We, as the community of St Paul Apostle welcome Cathy as she begins her role as our principal

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am pleased to announce that our Principal Appointment process is complete and that Mrs Cathy Mason has been appointed as the new Principal of St Paul the Apostle North, Endeavour Hills.

Cathy will begin her appointment from 28th January 2025.

Cathy is an experienced Principal and system leader. She is currently the Acting Principal of St Joseph's School, Malvern. During the term we will invite Cathy to meet with the SPAN community.

I hope you will join with Fr Brendan Connell and I, in congratulating Cathy on her appointment. This is a wonderful new chapter in the life of St Paul the Apostle North school and parish. We offer Cathy, God's blessings in her work and for all she will bring to the Endeavour Hills community next year.

We sincerely thank Mrs Monique Fallace, your Acting Principal, for her leadership, work and commitment over Terms 3 and 4 in 2024.

Kind regards

Ms Debra Egan

Regional General Manager
Southern Region

2024 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

If you wish to have your child to be part of this year's sacrament of Confirmation program, you are required to send the completed registration form by the 4th of October, 2024 (you can obtain the registration form from our website or from the Parish office Tuesday-Friday 9am to 2pm. Your child must be in Grade 6 and have already received their Sacrament of Reconciliation & First Communion.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

The Safety Commissioner runs online courses/webinars for Parents and Carers. Join one of their free webinars this month. Here's what's coming up:

An introduction to online safety and emerging technologies

An overview of the opportunities and risks posed by emerging

technologies including artificial intelligence, commonly referred to as AI, as well as generative AI (GAI). Enhance your family's digital literacy, learn about the potential harms and how to protect your children online.

It's suitable for parents and carers of children in primary and secondary school.

Term 3 dates (Australian Eastern Standard Time)

Wednesday, 24 July, 2.30pm

Thursday, 5 September, 12.30pm

To book click here:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/8077245949908148062>

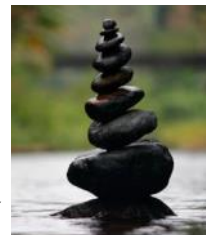
CHILDREN'S LITURGY

This group will resume this Sunday. It welcomes all primary school children and younger to our Children's Liturgy program at 11am Mass each week. Please note that the 11am Mass is being LIVE-STREAMED every week. We ask that children under 4 or with special needs be accompanied by a parent or older sibling. Our leaders will be easily identifiable, if your child has any allergies, a serious medical condition or special needs, please alert the leader on the day. Due to possible allergic responses we ask that you refrain from bringing any food into the Children's Liturgy space. When the children are returning to their seats after the session please ensure they are aware of where you are seated. We have provided labels for you to write your child's name if you wish. If you have any questions or feedback please feel free to chat to one of our Children's Liturgy volunteers or someone on the parish team

COME AWAY DAYS

A ministry of the Passionist community who offer a space which is an oasis of peace and quiet, away from the busy world. in the surrounds of beautiful gardens, open space and trees. Their first session is on **WEDNESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER**. The day begins with a cuppa at 9.30am and end at 2pm. This retreat runs at Holy Cross Retreat 207 Serpells Road Templestowe, VIC.

For further information about Come Away Days contact Phone - 9846 6014 or email hcc@passionists.com



Readings:

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Ephesians 2:13-18

Mark 6:30-34

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

2 Kings 4:42-44

Ephesians 4:1-6

John 6:1-15

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Hendra Santosa, Raymond Cabral, Rui Manuel Campos, Annette Tanner, Ruby Reid, Kay Dal Lago, Maureen Dawson, Michael Arcaro, Danny Sugunasekera, Roger Gray, Stephanie Kinson, Anton Jansz, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Ronella Tyrell, Meti **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Dewi Anggraeni, Ivan Rudin, Genoeffa 'Jennifer' Palamara, Angelo Marateo, Margaret Ferrao, Antonio Manuel Leitao, Wijesiri Fernando, K. Bhaskerrao, Fred Steinwall, Giuseppina Bartuccelli, Martin Camillo Peter Tucci, Joseph Allegany **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

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This intimate relationship with these beautiful trees extends beyond a private, personal one.

I notice that when I am in tune with the trees, I am in greater alignment with my vocation to work for justice, peace, and care for creation.

I feel greater compassion, empathy, and solidarity with people and places around the world that are suffering. I am more committed to the advocacy needed to build God's kingdom here and now.

It helps to know that humans and trees share physical commonalities. We are both primarily made up of water. We both are species that require connection to other species for survival. We are mutually dependent on oxygen and carbon dioxide. The pattern of human lungs is very similar to the roots of trees, which are essential for car-

rying life-sustaining nutrients throughout the body. These similarities can help us recognise and feel a deeper connection and love for the world around us.

During Easter, especially, when we read story after story in scripture of Jesus appearing to his disciples who are learning to listen with their whole bodies that Jesus is with them, I am glad to sit by my dogwoods and feel the presence of the Lord in my life. Like the dogwood, I change with the seasons, but God's love, also like the dogwood, is always present.

Each Easter season may you know inner and outer connection to your world and God's love in it. I hope the next time you see a dogwood that you too will remember the Resurrection.

(written by Amy Echeverria in Columban Magazine)

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2024

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe	Vianney Clark 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	Florence Madeira Sai Dilingir 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 Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Riona Alveyn Carmeline Don Paul Peter Miller	Sig Romano Esteban Morales Nila Fernando	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Sharon Normington	Ayomi Fernandez Peng Chee Jenny Catania

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2024

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Alvita Dias	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio 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 Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Janina Gorski Grace Sudjono	Jennifer Tanti Diane Allegany	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu