

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

21 January 2024

Readings

Next Week

Deut 18:15-20
Ps 94: 1-2, 6-9
1 Cor 7:32-35
Mk 1:21-28

in a nutshell

The Time Has Come. These are the first recorded words of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. In a variety of contexts we have probably used them ourselves when we felt that an important decision could be delayed no longer. At some point in our life, perhaps even today, the decision in question will be whether to follow Jesus wholeheartedly or in a superficial way.

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

Congratulations to Alan Somers for his two awards for community service!

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
In his presence are majesty and splendour,
strength and honour in his holy place.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near:
believe the Good News!
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

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: moutevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese
visit:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Regular Gardening/Working Bee—1st & 3rd Friday
Thank you to the volunteers who turn up to assist
with the maintenance of the grounds around the
church. 4pm onwards

Parish Meetings: Tuesday, 13 February

Finance Committee 7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding 7:30pm
Parish Council 8:00pm

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH



Parish Notices

Congratulations Alan Somers

On the 9th of December, Alan was a recipient at the Casey Volunteer and Community Awards Ceremony for his service to the community, in particular for his work with the Yarra Ranges National Seniors Group. On January 26 Alan will be presented with the Mayors Lifetime Achievement Award at the Yarra Ranges Community Awards Ceremony for his many hours of volunteer work with a number of groups including the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Adoration: The deepest meaning of Christian discipleship is not to work for Jesus but to be with Jesus. (Erasmus Leiva-Merikakis)

Confession: Nothing gives such pleasure to God as the conversion and salvation of men, for whom his every word and every revelation exist. (St. Gregory Nazianzen)

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

Stewardship Corner

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."- Mark 1:17

Jesus' call to "follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule, but that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

Parish Sacramental Program 2024 Enrolments

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.

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).

Order of Malta Lourdes Day Mass

For some years now, the Order of Malta has organised an annual Lourdes Day Mass to provide an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm particularly for those who would not otherwise have the possibility of visiting Lourdes. The Mass will take place again on Saturday, 10th February at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli as the principal celebrant. For further information, please contact: Sauro Antonelli AM on 0411 250 288.

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

NOTE: Morning tea after Tuesday 9:00am Mass in resumes 6 February .

Need to dispose of a vehicle?

Disposal of a car from a deceased estate, or when a family member has had to relinquish their licence or go into residential care, can be a challenging process. Getting a roadworthy, taking photos to advertise on the internet, cleaning and polishing, taking calls (if they come), even finding a garage until a prospective buyer turns up (if indeed they do!).

If you need to dispose of a vehicle from a deceased estate or which is no longer required, could you consider gifting it to the "Lifeboat Foundation", a registered charity with tax deductible status, which for ten years has been providing pastoral and practical support to nearly 150 victims / survivors across Australia of church-related sexual abuse.

Many of these suffer Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), have limited or no employment, and a donated vehicle could vastly improve their quality of life and / or generate funds to assist personal, medical and accommodation needs.

If you would like to explore the possibility of gifting a potentially suitable vehicle to "Lifeboat", contact Fr. Kevin Dillon (frkdillon@outlook.com.au or 0421 777 360) or Adam Kaali (0411 486 605 or adam-kaali@hotmail.com).

Something to Bring a Smile!

Every weekend Grandpa Fred babysat his three grandchildren. All boys, they were keen on war games. If Grandpa resisted or suggested another game, the boys would moan and groan. His daughter came to pick up the kids early one Saturday and saw one of her sons point his finger at Grandpa and yell, "Bang!" Grandpa slumped to the floor and stayed there motionless. The daughter rushed over to see if he was alright. Grandpa opened one eye and whispered, "Shhh, I always do this. It's the only chance I get to rest."

Readings Reflection

[Following Him](#)

The calling of the brothers in today's Gospel evokes Elisha's commissioning by the prophet Elijah (see 1 Kings 19:19–21).

As Elijah comes upon Elisha working on his family's farm, so Jesus sees the brothers working by the seaside. And as Elisha left his mother and father to follow Elijah, so the brothers leave their father to come after Jesus.

Jesus' promise—to make them "fishers of men"—evokes Israel's deepest hopes. The prophet Jeremiah announced a new exodus in which God would send "many fishermen" to restore the Israelites from exile, as once He brought them out of slavery in Egypt (see Jeremiah 16:14–16).

By Jesus' Cross and Resurrection, this new exodus has begun (see Luke 9:31). And the apostles are the first of a new people of God, the Church—a new family, based not on blood ties, but on belief in Jesus and a desire to do the Father's will (see John 1:12–13; Matthew 12:46–50).

From now on, even our most important worldly concerns—family relations, occupations, and possessions—must be judged in light of the Gospel, Paul says in today's Epistle.

The first word of Jesus' Gospel—repent—means we must totally change our way of thinking and living, turning from evil, doing all for the love of God.

And we should be consoled by Nineveh's repentance in today's First Reading. Even the wicked Nineveh could repent at Jonah's preaching. And in Jesus we have "something greater than Jonah" (Matthew 12:41). We have God come as our savior, to show sinners the way, as we sing in today's Psalm. This should give us hope—that loved ones who remain far from God will find compassion if they turn to Him.

But we, too, must continue along the path of repentance—striving daily to pattern our lives after His.

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

Cardinal Sarah Interview: "being good" is not enough

Q: From the first pages of Your Eminence's book, it is evident that He has always gratefully perceived the Catholic faith as a privilege, a great gift from God, and, last but not least, as a commitment. It were the European priests, e.g. the Holy Ghost Fathers, who brought the light of Faith to Africa, and also to Your Eminence's home village, Ourous. However, in the book we also find Your Eminence's sad ascertainment that Europe, or the Western world, has ceased living up to the principles of Faith it had so fruitfully and effectively preached. Why are so many Western Catholics today unwilling to lead a saintly life, why do they sometimes deliberately refuse trying to be holy? Why do they reject their precious, multigenerational heritage of faith with such ease, without any regret?

A: Mainly for two reasons. The first is that holiness is considered as prerogative of a few, of some who are perfect. When Jesus called the first apostle, Peter, who was the one who betrayed him at the danger of death... he was anything but perfect. Saint John Paul II throughout his papacy has tried to make us understand that holiness is to be found in daily life for everyone: as long as we want it and as long as we are committed to truly follow Christ. In essence, holiness is not a call for those who change the world or make it better. Holiness is a call for those who love God and who allow God to enter into their hearts and live charity that is, God's love, every day of their life. The second reason, on the contrary, is the consideration that drives the secularized world to consider holiness as a superstition. Excluding God from our life pushes us to exclude any possibility that God saves us from our sins. At the root, there is always the claim of doing it alone, of being self-sufficient and also what positivism and science have taught us. And this even leads to the belief of being able to create life from itself through technology. Blessed Paul VI has already affirmed this in *"Populorum Progressio"* that "there is no true humanism but that which is open to the Absolute and in recognizing a vocation that offers the true idea of human life".

Q: We can currently observe the spreading of "the heresy of good-man-ism". There are so many people today saying: "It does not really matter what I do, as long as I am a good man". What is such attitude symptomatic of? Is it not the first step towards claiming one's own sinlessness, as emptying confessionals seem to suggest? If we do not recognize our need to repent, can we truly benefit from the fruits of the Jubilee of Mercy called by the Holy Father?

A: Unfortunately, what you say is part of a contemporary ideology that is among the most dangerous – that is, "just being good". This presupposes that any truthful content is trampled and refuted. This leads us to consider everything as "good", falsifying in this way even all that is truly part of the life of man. An important contemporary philosopher, Fabrice Hadjadj, has coined a brilliant formula, speaking on the "heresies of charity" of modern man, who confuses charity with the simple desire for good (at best) or almsgiving (in the worst case). But charity is the love of God: therefore, "we are" charity, and we give witness of charity towards others because God loved us first. In the same way, it is also with mercy, superficially understood by many as a clean slate over their sins. But, there is no forgiveness if there is no repentance. Jesus did not say to the adulteress, "Well, go and continue to do what you are doing since I forgive you. No! Because she threw herself at his feet and begs forgiveness, he says: "Go and sin on more". Only if we understand this can we fully enjoy the fruits that the Jubilee of Mercy, offers us. The Holy Father has said many times: it is true that Jesus always goes before us and waits for us with open arms. But it is up to us to also move towards Him! Jesus died on the cross, with arms outstretched towards all: He died begging the Father's forgiveness for us. Who can do this but only God Himself? How can we not recognize him?

Q: Venerable Fulton J. Sheen used to say: "It does not require much time to make us saints; it requires only much love". According to Your Eminence, where to start from if one would like to attempt holiness?

A: The starting point is only the love of God. There is no other solution. We can love our neighbor as God has loved us, just because God has loved us first. So, when we speak of love, we are not referring to an abstract and passing sentimentalism, but of a lasting and eternal love. Love is a term so abused and disfigured in contemporary society that we should all have at least a little bit of discretion in pronouncing the word. Today we are confronted with a type of compassionate technicality, according to which in the name of love we come to the point of killing each other - through euthanasia or abortion – so as to free the other from his suffering! Do you realize what an abominable point we are approaching? We use the words love, sentiment, affection - to justify what is an act of death! Instead, as Benedict XVI wrote in the Encyclical "Deus Caritas Est": "Love is "divine" because it comes from God and unites us to God; through this unifying process it makes us a "we" which transcends our divisions and makes us one, until in the end God is "all in all" (1 Cor 15:28)". But love of God and love of neighbor are inseparable: the Church herself is the fruit of a love story. Love is demanding! To truly love is to love even unto death - even death on a cross. Modern man is discouraged by the journey that awaits him because he does not understand the reason why he lives: he needs high goals, yearns for high goals because his goal is holiness. A mountaineer aims for the peak of the mountain because he knows that there he will find peace and refreshment whereas, if he were to listen to the voices of those who discourage him, he would fall into the rift. The fact is that nowadays it seems easier not to commit to greater vocations: we live in a pulverized society, in a culture where personal desires become rights. Man must understand that holiness is a path to follow every day, offering to God the value of the things that we do: in the family, at work, in social and community life. This is what the great saints of the Church teach us. And nothing could be more beautiful.

From an [interview](#) with the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship cardinal Robert Sarah by Izabella Parowicz