



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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10th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, 8-9 June, 2024

A letter to Clergy and Laity of the Archdiocese of Melbourne

Dear friends in Christ,
My greetings to you, in Christ Jesus, Prince of Peace.

You may be aware that I was overseas for the better part of the past two weeks, though I had been silent on where I was heading prior to leaving. Now that I am home, I would like to let you know that I have been in the Holy Lands of Israel, the Palestinian Territories and Lebanon on a pilgrimage of solidarity, first with Rabbi Yaakov Glasman AM, Senior Rabbi of the St Kilda Shule (in Israel) and then Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay OLM, Maronite Bishop of Australia (in Lebanon). There was a need to keep quiet about this before going, as there were security issues to attend to, and public knowledge of travel between the two countries would likely have prevented entry into either country.

The pilgrimage allowed for significant opportunities in prayer, engagement and learning through that part of the world where, in the past, Christ walked and ministered, and where, today, the great Abrahamic religions and historical cultures live side-by-side, in very complex, and presently tragic ways.

It was particularly powerful for me to stand with my friend, Rabbi Yaakov, at the Western Wall of the Temple in Jerusalem, and to pray together Psalm 150 and Isaiah 2.1-5. Likewise, it was a moment of profound blessing to be in prayer with Bishop Antoine before the great Lebanese holy men and women, especially St Charbel and St Rafqa.

I had the honour of meeting with both the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa OFM, and the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, Cardinal al-Rahi OMM. These were both spir-

itual encounters and moments of insight. These men of God, and the Churches they lead, deserve our prayer and support.

You cannot go to the Holy Lands today without facing into the complex and tragic realities that are currently playing out. For example, it was (obviously) impossible to travel into Gaza. It also proved too difficult to spend any significant time in the West Bank. Nonetheless, opportunities did emerge to engage with people who live in these wounded locations, as well as the suffering of Israel and the beleaguered of Lebanon.

A chance meeting in Jerusalem with two religious sisters who had only just come from the Holy Family Parish compound in Gaza City, having been living there through the first six months of the war, was humbling and revealing. The difficulty of living in the compound was harrowing to hear, yet the level of hope that they continue to hold was telling. Similarly, speaking with a victim of the devastating explosion in the Port of Beirut of 2020 opened up the difficulty of coming to the truth of what occurred, so as to find justice for those effected. (I carried home with me a simple wooden cross made from the debris of the explosion, given to our local Church by the Archbishop of Beirut.) Amid what might seem a complete breakdown in society, based on ancient hatreds, there are hidden jewels of goodness and rightness, and signs of reconciliation. In Jerusalem, we met with a group of senior clinicians and medical administrators who have established a program of palliative care—the only common endeavour in Israel—jointly led by a mixed group of Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders. This program, the Rozana Project, is available to any person—no matter their religious or cultural background—in Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territories. It seeks to build peace through healthcare by building bridges between people. In Lebanon, the local Caritas agency has developed programs of education and jobs training

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/48_rX94_YW4?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/48_rX94_YW4?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

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading Ezekiel 17:22-24

A reading from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it

Psalms

It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to sing praises to your name, O Most High
to declare your steadfast love in the morning
and your faithfulness by night

The righteous flourish like the palm tree,
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon
They are planted in the house of the Lord
they flourish in the courts of our God

In old age they still produce fruit
they are always green and full of sap
showing that the Lord is upright
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

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

Brothers and sisters:

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower
all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 4:26-34

Such a large crowd gathered around Jesus that he got into a boat and began to teach them using many parables. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

Jesus also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples

Reflection

What things in life did you assume were "certain" before this new crisis?
What do you currently feel impatient with God about?
In what ways does the gospel bring about the kingdom of God in surprising ways?

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne's Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct ('the code') helps to create a positive, respectful and safe environment by setting expectations in relation to the appropriate behaviour of all Church personnel in their interactions with children and young people. This code reflects our acceptance that each child or young person 'has a unique worth created in the image and likeness of God' and deserves protection (Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, 2016). All Church personnel are required to act in a manner that safeguards children and young people from abuse and harm at all times. All Church personnel have a responsibility to understand the important role they play individually and collectively to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. If any person believes a child or young person is at immediate risk of child abuse or harm, telephone 000. For more details you can use this link ['Safeguarding children and young people'](#)

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

THANK YOU

Our heartfelt gratitude to all parishioners for your most generous gift for Fr Luke through the special collection held last weekend. He is now resided in Donvale and has commenced his new appointment, primarily working with Youth

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM—LAST FAMILY

NIGHT is on **TUESDAY, 11 June at 7pm** in the Church Sign in starts at 6.45pm. Attendance at this family night is compulsory for all children who are in the program

The children in this program will be receiving their Sacrament of First Communion on 22 June, 2024.

May we as community, keep them all in our prayer, as they continue their journey of faith.

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

4:12 YOUTH (our Parish Youth for grd 5 to yr 9)

Their last gathering was a fantastic movie night with pizza and popcorn. If you are interested in joining the group, please come along on the second Friday of each month. The next event will be held on **FRIDAY, 14th June at 7pm** in the Tim O'Toole Annexe. A variety of activities is arranged for each gathering. Please contact Trish Brown on 0412 357 350 if you wish to attend for planning purposes

YOUNG ADULTS (age 18 to 25 years old)

This age Youth group will be gathering on **SUNDAY, 16 June in the annexe**. If you wish to join in please contact parish office on 97003781

SPECIAL COLLECTION for Dcn TP's ordination gift

As announced a few weeks ago, Deacon Tuan Paul (TP) will be ordained on Sunday, 16th June at The Parish of St Paul of the Cross in Glen Osmond, Adelaide. He will then travel back to Melbourne and celebrate his Thanksgiving Mass in our parish on Sunday, 23rd June at 11am Mass, mass will be followed by a gathering at the South School Hall (all are welcome to join) If you plan to join us in giving him a gift, we are planning to hold a special collection next weekend at all Masses (15th-16th June) for this purpose.

The Parish Team is Looking for a New Member

Position: Safeguarding Officer and Visitation Coordinator

Purpose of the Position:

The key purpose of this role is to work collaboratively with the Parish Team to promote the safety of children and young people and to coordinate visitations within the Parish.

Responsibilities and duties will include:

- Promote the importance of and foster an understanding of child safety.
- Facilitate the communication of information in relation to child safety within the Parish.
- Respond to requests received for visitation and/or communion.
- Coordinate pastoral visitation to homes within the Parish.

The position will initially be for 7 hours per week but can be spread over 2 days.

While there will be an opportunity to do some of the work off site, the bulk of the work will be done from the Parish office. We envisage this new person to be integrated into the existing Parish Team.

Although there are no specific qualifications for the role, a basic understanding of computers and solid communication skills would be beneficial.

Please send a brief letter of application with a resume to Fr Brendan Connell CP at St Paul Apostle Church 5 William Hovell Drive Endeavour Hills 3802. Alternatively you can drop the application into the office or email it to office@stpaulapostle.com.au.

Applications close on Friday June 28th at 5pm.

Readings:

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

Genesis 3: 8-15

2 Corinthians 4: 13-5: 1

Mark 3: 20-35

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

Ezekiel 17:22-24

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

Mark 4:26-34

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Ruby Reid, Kay Dal Lago, Maureen Dawson, Michael Arcaro, Margaret Ferrao, Danny Sugunasekera, Roger Gray, Stephanie Kinson, Anton Jansz, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Ronella Tyrell, Meti Pereira-Van Eijk, Agnes Fernandez, Shirley C. Esteban, Joaquina Braz, Norah Ekanayake, Grace Sprigg, Lara Moyle, Jamie Cabrera **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Nicolina Laratta, Ingram Mirando, Gayle Short, Rudolf Pahor, Dorothy D'Silva, Marcel Bonhomme, Josiane Rughoo, Lindsay Rughoo, Christina McDonald Gatt, Johanna Stakelum **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

that aids anyone in need in a society beset by economic crisis and political impasse.

There are many other stories to be told of these past few days, and I will look to write a more significant piece on my experience in the Holy Lands of Israel, the Palestinian Territories and Lebanon. At this immediate moment, I simply wish to bring an initial impression to you of this pilgrimage of solidarity. But I do wish to offer one final impression now. My time away on pilgrimage was a blessing. In all the tragic complexity of what is occurring politically, and the wounds that are festering consequently, there are nonetheless signs of hope, actions of goodness and people of welcome and hospitality—of us, and of each other.

It can be so easy to reduce what is currently unfolding in these lands to sound bites on social media, usually tinged by ideology and political manipulation. The hostages must be released; a ceasefire must be found—these are the first things needed. But then, there is a need for peacebuilding and truth-telling. Among the people I met on the pilgrim road, there are active agents for finding pathways to dialogue, reconciliation and the bridging of divides.

As I celebrated Mass in a small chapel in Galilee on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, I prayed in gratitude for the many blessings of good will and justice that we are graced to live with, and work for, here in this country, and I prayed in petition that we avoid turning

away from truthfulness and moral uprightness. Might I ask therefore, in your own Christian charity, that you keep all who are suffering, displaced, and persecuted in the lands where Jesus walked close in your prayers and considered in your understanding. Each person we met expressed their belief in a hope-filled future.

May the strength of the Holy Spirit bring comfort, courage and determination for conversion of hearts and transformation of societies to these dark situations; may the Prince of Peace be the guiding light before all. May the call of our Blessed Mother, true Lady of Israel, of Palestine and of Lebanon, ring out:

‘He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly ... in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, of his mercy to Abraham and his descendants for ever’ (Lk 1.52, 54–55).

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

*Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,
Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne*

This letter is also available on

[A letter to Clergy and Laity of the Archdiocese... | Melbourne Catholic](#)

CHILDREN’S LITURGY (*Reminder*)

Just a reminder that this group does not run during school holiday, they will resume on 21 April at 11am Sunday Mass. This group welcome 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

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 Dlinger 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