



St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

www.stpatscathedral.weebly.com

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Sunday 2nd October 2016

Reflection: John Thurnhill sm

The teaching of Jesus in today's gospel, in response to the plea of the apostles, has an important lesson for all Christians. It would be unfortunate if the comparisons he uses - very strange to our ears - got in the way, as we listen to him. Black and white affirmations and vivid images were taken for granted by the cultural tradition in which Jesus shared. Perhaps he was near a mulberry tree as he spoke. That a mulberry bush, a fair sized tree with an extensive root system familiar to his audience, should suddenly be re-established in the sea, was clearly an impossibility in the world of ordinary experience. But the point Jesus is making is that those who have 'faith' will know things that are impossible, except to God.

The notion of faith with which we are most familiar - knowing, through the authority of God, truths that would otherwise be beyond our grasp - is sound as far as it goes, but incomplete when compared with what the scriptures tell us about God's gift of faith. The 'faith' that Jesus constantly referred to in the gospels was an openness to the coming of God in the miraculous signs he worked. God has been revealed, as the Scriptures constantly remind us, in the 'great things' God has done. The eternal Son was sent by the Father to bring about the final achievement of all. He 'must suffer' and 'rise again' he tells his companions as they press forward to Jerusalem; he looks forward to his 'hour', John's gospel tells us. Though the mission of Jesus meets with resistance, and his followers are told they must expect the same, 'faith' will be their strength - the openness that recognizes - owns, finds new life in - what God has done for the world in the Saviour's Paschal Mystery.

Now the link with the other comparison recalled by Luke in this passage becomes clear. This comparison leaves us uncomfortable, because it refers to the relationship between master and slave that was taken for granted in the world that produced the gospels. Jesus is not approving this system, but he draws a comparison with it to bring out the nature of the relationship with the Lord that the disciple who lives by faith should have. Like the apostles, we are all sent out - given a share in the Saviour's own mission and what God achieves through him. We are reminded, however, that we are no more than God's instruments - whatever has lasting worth for the final kingdom is all God's work. This applies to us all; but it has an obvious importance for those who are called to serve within the Christian community. In the reading from the letter to Timothy, those who have such roles are told, therefore, to 'rely on the power of God' and 'the help of the Holy Spirit'.

The final words of Habakkuk, 'the upright man will live by his faithfulness', had great influence in Christian thought. Paul linked his fundamental principle, 'we are justified by faith', with this text - in his dispute with those who wanted to impose on all the observance of the old Law. Clearly, Paul's principle expresses the mind of Jesus - faith is God's gift, through which we own the new life brought to the world by the Saviour.

Recent Deaths: Brian Frawley, Angela Lazzo

Anniversaries: Margaret Austin, Jack Callander, Bryan Cleeman, Raymond Harman, Mark Hennessey, Mary Jones, Apolonia Kaciczak, Alice Malone, Teresa O'Loughlan, Albert Rose, Eddie Schreenan,

Next week's readings: *Sunday 9th October 2016* *28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)*
Kings 5:14-17 Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2 2 Timothy 2:8-13 Luke 17:11-19

Invitation from St Patrick's Liturgy Committee

As part of the introduction of the new Mass setting - *Mass of Renewal* - to the Cathedral Parish, there will be two Sunday afternoon practices to which all members of the parish, singers and musicians are invited. These practices will be held in **St Patrick's Small Hall** on **Sunday 2nd October and Sunday 16th October at 2.00 pm in the Cathedral.**

Catholic Women's League

Meeting Wednesday October 5th Michael Taffe - Diocesan Archivist, will be giving a talk in the Cathedral on the history of the Stained Glass Windows commencing at 1.30 pm. Interested parishioners are very welcome to attend and to join us for afternoon tea in the smaller hall following the talk. CWL members please bring a plate and we will have a brief meeting after this. Enquiries Gertie Mangan 5334 1670 or Sheila Wilton 5342 9678.

Beyond the Year of Mercy

A retreat afternoon, which is open to all adults, is to be held at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, on Sunday, October 30th from 1.30pm concluding with 5.00pm Mass. The afternoon will be led by Sr Veronica Lawson, a Sister of Mercy from Ballarat, biblical scholar and author of "*The Blessing of Mercy.*" Register through the Cathedral Office ballarat@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 5331 2933.

Novena

A 9 day Novena will be held at St Patrick's Cathedral from Friday, 30 September to Friday, 7 October, Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary for Protection of our Clergy and Religious, Persecuted Christians and World Peace. All Parishioners are invited to join in this Novena because "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His Mercy, and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering." St Louis de Montfort. Details on Cathedral Notice Boards

Public Square Rosary

Come and join us in honouring Mary by praying the Rosary and asking our Blessed Mother's intercession to pray for Australia and the world. Saturday October 15th at 11.00am at the rotunda in Sturt St between Dawson & Doveton Streets, Contact Roslyn 5332 2342

Refugee Concert – Boundless Plains

Fr Andrew Presents Boundless Plains – The Spoken Word

Andrew Hayes is the Catholic parish priest of St Mary's Ararat. Andrew's most recent fundraiser was a concert of his own music which raised funds to build a new mosque in Ararat. This series of fundraisers, for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, based in Footscray, will be a recital of Andrew's favourite poetry, featuring the works of Banjo Paterson among others. The recital promises to be high octane, to be poetry as you may not have heard it before. The concert will finish with the sublimely talented Joyce Clery. If you've not seen Joyce in concert you've missed something astonishing. Preshow drinks and nibbles will feature the award winning wines of Best's of Great Western. Donations at the Door \$10 and beyond. Primary Children Free Andrew does ask that you let him know you're coming. Locals can add their names to a list in the church foyers.

Others can email frandrewboundlessplains@gmail.com

Hamilton	Tuesday October 25 @ 7pm	St Mary's Church
Warrnambool	Sunday October 30 @ 4.30pm	St Joseph's Church
Wendouree	Thursday November 3 @ 7pm	OLHC Church
Ararat	Sunday Nov 6 2016 @ 4.30pm	St Mary's Church Ararat

The Gender Revolution

Parousia Media and the Australian Family Association invite you to hear Dr Gabriele Kuby, German author of 12 books including, "The Global Sexual Revolution: The Destruction of Freedom in the Name of Freedom". Dr Kuby will speak on her understanding of the gender revolution we are currently facing, including gay sex education built into the Safe Schools Program - Sunday, October 2, 2016 at St Patrick's Cathedral small hall, Dawson Street, Ballarat at 8.00pm. Free entry but donations would be greatly appreciated. Light supper will be provided. For more information contact Peter Denton, ph. 5334 7805.

St Patrick's College 2018 Year 7 Information Evening

When: Wednesday October 26, 2016 **Where:** College Chapel 1431 Sturt Street, Ballarat

Time: Commences at 7.30pm All families are invited to attend the 2018 Year 7 Information evening to hear from the Headmaster, Mr John Crowley and Director of Junior School, Mr John Richards on the fantastic educational experiences awaiting your son at St Patrick's College. The evening will be followed by a College Tour as well as Supper and Question time with Teaching staff.

Please register for this event at the following link for your

attendance: www.trybooking.com/MZJN

This is a very informative evening and will benefit all families seeking a Catholic education for their son.

For further enquiries please contact the Registrar, Caitlin Bennett at cbennett@stpats.vic.edu.au

