

# ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Fr Paul Mercovich

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SUNDAY (A)

## January 15th 2017

THE YEAR OF MERCY

### BULLETIN NOTICES

Please forward any notices for the bulletin to Kim Collins (Laffin)

By **THURSDAY 5pm**

Phone: 54912441 or 0410402027

[kimlaff@bigpond.com](mailto:kimlaff@bigpond.com)

### NEXT WEEKS MASS TIMES

#### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

SUNDAY, 8.30 A.M. –  
CHARLTON

SATURDAY, 7.00 P.M. –  
WEDDERBURN\*

SUNDAY, 10.30 A.M. –  
ST. ARNAUD

SUNDAY, 8.30 A.M. –  
DONALD

\*Lay led liturgy

### NEXT WEEKENDS MASS ROSTER

**SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:** Michael Bourke\*√  
Anne Calnin \*√ Bertnadette Zagame \* Nursing Home•

**READERS:** Kim Thompson

**PRAYERS OF FAITHFUL:** Jeff McLoughlan

**PROCESSION OF GIFTS:** Marie and Brendan Byrne

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Maddison and Elliot Fitzpatrick

**FLOWERS:** Francie Stahl

**HOME VISITING:** Mary Anne Sait

**COUNTERS:** This week: Bill and Maree Fitzpatrick

Next week: Michael and Kath Bourke

**CHURCH CLEANING:** M Fradd, D Mulquiny, T Sait

Weekday Masses: Tuesday 5.30 p.m. Wednesday 10.30 a.m.  
Thursday 9.30 a.m.

### OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS:

#### RECENT DEATHS:

- DOREEN ANDERSON

#### ANNIVERSARIES:

- HAYLEY THOMPSON
- SHEILA BARRY
- MICHAEL FITZPATRICK
- LUCY FITZPATRICK
- HAL SODING
- JOHN SAIT
- FR GEORGE SAIT

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

- Bailey Delaney
- Vin Sait
- Fr John Keane
- Ian Bruns
- Jack Ross

**Doreen Anderson's Funeral will be held at St Joseph's Church on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 10.30am. RIP Doreen.**

### ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL REUNION

At a meeting held last Tuesday it was decided to hold a School reunion on Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> & Sun. 22<sup>nd</sup> October (Charlton Show weekend). We will be celebrating 120 years of Catholic Education in Charlton. All are invited to attend our next meeting at 7pm on Weds 1<sup>st</sup> February. On the Sunday Mass and breakfast ... inspection of the school display and a Luncheon or BBQ. Anne is Secretary and Val Bourke is Chairperson.

**Wanted: School photos - class, sports etc. We will scan the photos and return the original to you – please see Anne Kenny.**

**Columba calendars are now on sale at \$9.00. Please see Val Bourke.**

**PARISH APPOINTMENTS:**

Fr Peter Sherman will move from Wendouree Parish to become the Parish Priest of St. Alipius Parish Ballarat East.

Fr. James Kerr will move from the Cathedral Parish Ballarat to be associate Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Mildura

**Feast Days: Tuesday St. Anthony Friday Sts Fabian and Sebastian Saturday St. Agnes**

**“Compromise where you [rightly] can. Where you can’t, don’t. Even if everyone is telling you that something wrong is something right. Even if the whole world is telling you to move, it is your duty to plant yourself like a tree, look them in the eye, and say, ‘No, you move.’”**

**Our post-truth society is afraid to look truth in His face. Excerpt by Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP January 11, 2017**

Recently the *Oxford English Dictionary* announced its Word of the Year 2016 was ‘post-truth’. It defined ‘post-truth’ as “relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.” Use of the term ‘objective facts’ here is telling, as it implies that the OED has accepted that some facts are not objective or that there might be such things as ‘subjective facts’; the OED used to have a different word for this: ‘opinion’.

The idea that we are in a post-truth, totally opinionated, political world is now being used for ideological purposes by various interests, as Gerard Henderson pointed out recently in *The Australian*. The post-modernists have, of course, been pressing that thought on our cultural world for a generation and more.

At the height of that debate the philosopher, John Austin, began a conference paper on the nature of truth by quoting Pontius Pilate: Quid est veritas – What is truth? (Jn 18:38). Austin noted that Pilate was ahead of his time, for now we know that “truth itself is an abstract noun, a camel, that is, of a logical construction, which cannot pass through the eye of the needle even of a grammarian”.

What Pilate might have understood, if he had waited around for Jesus’s answer, was that the Truth was right in front of him: the God-man standing before him was ‘the Way, the Truth, and the Life’ (Jn 14:6). But instead Pilate turned away, handing Jesus over to his persecutors, perhaps because he feared what he’d hear if he stayed and listened.

And many people today are just like that, either sceptical about the very idea of truth or resistant to its demands. So Jesus came as Light to the world but some preferred the darkness. Though light comes as a friend it can feel like an intruder. Light disturbs us, makes us blink; and so, instead of joining Christ in praying “Father, consecrate them in the truth” (Jn 17:17), our age joins Pilate in wondering, “Truth? What’s that?”

Of course truth, if you’ve ever looked for it, can be elusive, hard to find and hold onto with any certainty, and even harder to communicate to others. Some things in life are just complicated and there are many different considerations, many points of view. At other times we are disinclined to do the heavy brain work truth requires; our age lacks confidence in its ability to identify and articulate the truth and encourages a certain laziness with respect to speculative and moral thinking.

Some would say ours is a culture of lies: financial lies we call advertising, tax-evasion and credit beyond our means; political lies we call pragmatism and self-promotion and ‘all for the sake of the party’; personal lies we call freedom, fashion and self-fulfilment. Lies like happiness through infidelity in our relationships, through aborting our babies, through abandoning our unemployed, sick or elderly people, through war with our enemies, through rejecting the indigenous and the refugee, through self-indulgence and neglect of a thousand different kinds.

What drew the likes of St Dominic, St Thomas Aquinas, St Albert the Great, St Catherine of Siena and so many others to the Dominican thing – and others to the Franciscans or other orders, or simply to the universities and the new learning as lay students – was their conviction that truth liberates us. From falsehood, superstition, fear. From the mirages created by various interests. From the illusions we create for ourselves.

Christ was like that: “If you persevere in living my word, you will truly be my disciples; you will know the truth and the truth will set you free,” He said (Jn 8:31-2). Notice, He didn’t say: “Hey, you guys, invent your own reality, do your own thing. I’m-ok-you’re-ok, it’s all cool. It doesn’t really matter what you think or do.” No, Jesus is straight with us. “For this was I born and for this I came into the world: to bear witness to the truth” (Jn 18:37). God cares and takes a great gamble with us. He gives us heads and hearts, reason and freedom, awesome gifts we can apply to self-mastery or self-destruction, heaven or hell. But He does not leave us groping in the dark, not knowing what on earth to think or which way to go. No, He gives us minds and hearts, facts and values, vision and reality, principles and purpose, inspiration and direction. He gives us the gift of the Church as teacher and encourager. We don’t have to invent truth for ourselves: there is, thank God, truth out there for the taking, for us to seek and find, to question and receive, to embrace and communicate, to apply like Mary consistently and constantly. A life lived in faithfulness and truth: this is the life, the only life, which will truly inspire and faithfully fulfil us. I pray for such a life for each one of you. <https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/our-post-truth-society-is-afraid-to-look-truth-in-his-face-says-archbishop-anthony-fisher-op/>