

LITURGY OF THE WORD 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

23rd April 2017

FIRST READING from the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me, "Terror from every side! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, "Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!" But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.'

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

Lord, in your great love, answer me.

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me.

This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures.

Lord, in your great love, answer me

SECOND READING from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 15:26. 27

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Questions for Adolescents

Q. Why do you think 'Do not be afraid' is so frequently repeated in the Bible?

Q. Why might this passage be titled in some versions of the Bible as 'Bold Confession'?

Q. In what ways can this message to the disciples be interpreted in a modern context?

Q. What are some of the obstacles that make it hard to proclaim what you believe 'from the house-tops'?

Questions for Adults

Q. What message is meant to be conveyed by the imagery about the sparrows?

Q. What does it mean in today's world to 'declare oneself' for Jesus?

Q. How might a message to 'fear God' be misunderstood and misused?

Q. Who is someone you admire because they are not afraid to live their faith?

ST MARY'S PARISH SWAN HILL BULLETIN

Priest: Fr. Matthew Thomas PP

Parish Secretary: Glenda Klabbers

Parish Council Chair: Michelle Haeusler

Parish Safeguarding Officers:

Karen & Damien Kelly

St Mary's School Principal: Greg Lane

St Mary MacKillop Principal: Michelle Haeusler

Parish Office: Tuesday 10.00am - 2.00pm

Friday 10.00am -2.00pm



12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

24th June 2017

Presbytery: 62 Splatt Street Swan Hill 3585

Phone: 50324144

Email: swanhill@ballarat.catholic.org.au

The Parish of Swan Hill comprises of the faith Communities of:
St Marys Swan Hill,
St Joseph's Lake Boga

Mass Next Weekend:

Saturday 6.30 pm Vigil Swan Hill
Sunday 10.30 am Swan Hill

Mass this Week:

Wed: 10.00 am
Thursday: 10.00 am
Friday: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
12.00 noon

Anniversaries: We remember: Margaret Driscoll, Luigi Mase, Thea Bryan, Mary Wour, Bill Kelly, Rosa Mobilio, John Hogan, Patrick Lonergan, Maurice Kelly, Bernard and John Willocks.

Prayers for the Sick: Erin Coburn, Jude Lewis, Ronald Duryea, Brian Mulcahy, Brooke Kennedy, Jarrod Crimmins,

If you would like a sick person prayed for, please ask for their permission. After one month names will be deleted from the list unless otherwise advised.

CUPPA AFTER MASS NEXT SUNDAY

Youth and young adults: Pope Francis' Online Survey closes 2 July!

Please encourage young adults you know to do this survey (Pope Francis wants to hear from everyone whether they are actively connected to church or not). This online survey is seeking opinions and perspectives of young people (16-29) as part of a national consultation process that will inform the world-wide Synod on Youth that Pope Francis is convening in October 2018. The survey closes on **2 July 2017**.

Access the survey on the Ballarat Diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

For more information: youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au or 5337 7125.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN JULY:

3rd July: Monday Divine Mercy Devotion 1.45 pm

4th July: Tuesday CWL 1.30 pm

4th July: Fr Matthew on Holidays

8th July: Saturday Rosary in the Park, 10.00 am

10th July: Over 60's 1.30pm

14th July: Fr Matthew returns

16th July: Italian Festa

22/23rd July: Stewardship Renewal Program

23rd July: Lake Boga Mass 8.30am

30th July: Lake Boga Mass 8.30am

Parish Stewardship Program This year we are renewing our Stewardship Program given that it has been 3 years since the Parish renewed its Planned Giving Program.

The Program will be pre-empted by two weekends dedicated to the updating of our Parish Census.

The weekends dedicated to the Stewardship Program will be: **July 22nd/23rd; July 29th /30th and August 5th/6th and August 12th/13th.**

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers

A wide range of subject areas are offered: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Youth Ministry, man more. Registration for the July study cycle closes on 10 July - or you can start in September or later in the year. Details on the diocesan website

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (link is on front page), or contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

ST MARY'S MINISTRIES for 2nd July 2017

Ministers of the Word:

Vigil: John & Kaye Farrell

10.30am: Ken Smith, Kath Hogan.

Ministers of Communion:

Vigil: Margaret Derham, Teresa McRae, Dick & Rene Devereux.

10.30 am: Dorothy Bishop, Raelene O'Halloran, Damien Kelly, Brenda Ford, Graeme Learmonth, Jim Meehan.

Presentation of Gifts:

Vigil: Josh & Glenda Klabbers

10.30am : Margaret Learmonth, Helen Tuntar

Music Ministry:

Vigil: Joe Taverna

10.30am: Ken Smith, Brenda Grace

Counters: Jocelyn Ingram, Yvonne Richardson.

STATE OF THE NATION

Presbytery Account: (1st Basket)	\$ 845.35
(Support of Priests & Bishop)	
Parish Account: (2nd Basket)	\$ 725.20
(Support of the Parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 0.00
Credit Card	\$ 0.00
Direct Debit	\$ 0.00
Loose Plate	\$ 93.35
	\$ 818.55

Thank-You!

READINGS NEXT WEEK 2nd July Year A

1st Reading : 2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16

2nd Reading: Romans 6:3-4. 8-11

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship – applications now open

The St Vincent Pallotti Scholarship Trust offer scholarships to enable lay people to further their understanding and skills in leadership/ministry or a specialised activity, such as promoting faith enhancement, social justice and pastoral care. Applications close 17 July 2017. Details and application:

<http://www.pallottine.org.au/scholarships/st-vincent-pallotti-scholarship-for-lay-ministry.html>

Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)

ACYF is in Sydney December 7-9, 2017. A joyful 3 day immersion in faith with 15,000 other young Australians. Young people (yr 9-30yo) are encouraged to go. Information is on the diocesan website Youth and Young Adult pages: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or contact Amanda on 5337 7125 or youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Family Matters - Strengthening Respectful Relationships Forum

All are welcome to attend this Forum with Fr Frank Brennan SJ as the guest speaker which will be held in Ballarat on June 24, Warrnambool July 22, and Mildura August 26. These free events are being hosted by the Social Justice Commission of the Diocese of Ballarat together with many workshops provided by Centacare. Please register your attendance at one of the venues listed: <http://2017familymatters.weebly.com/> Details about workshops will be released soon. Alternatively, contact Danielle Peters or Tony Haintz - social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Reflection

by Michael Tate

Our Gospel reads: ' ...not one [sparrow] falls to the ground without your Father knowing.'

But that is a bad translation. The Greek simply says 'not one [sparrow] will fall to the ground without your Father.' Full stop! Our Heavenly Father accompanies a dying sparrow as it dies! That is the measure of the Creator's love for all creatures. God wants to – does – enter into the moment of death, our moment of death.

Now, that would be consoling if I were facing what Jesus was foreseeing for his disciples in the first century.

One of the first Christian groups to hear this Gospel was that set around the Tigris River running through Baghdad in modern day Iraq. Now they face terrible persecution from fanatical Muslims. We can barely imagine hearing today's Gospel amongst the remnant, left in Baghdad today. How does 'Do not be afraid' really sound to them?

So, we could pause for a moment to pray for those for whom today's Gospel is a challenge beyond our imagining.

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Catholic Truth Society (London)

The Catholic Truth Society (London) is a unique Catholic Charity that has been publishing non-stop since 1868. With its mission to communicate the truths of the Catholic faith, the CTS is one of the oldest and most inspiring Catholic organisations existing today. The CTS publish books and resources that Catholics need to help them gain a deeper understanding of their faith and to share it with others. We respond to the challenges facing believers and non-believers today with materials that are attractive, truthful, engaging and affordable. For more information go to the website www.ctsbooks.org



What are some things that people are afraid of?

How does God help us to overcome our fears?

