

ROSTERS

We thank you for the wonderful works you do!



LITURGY for 22/23 February

6pm Welcomers: Conheady Family Gifts: J Fernandez Family Readers: G&P Nevill

Ministers: T Treffry, C White, D White, D Bartlett, P Bolte, M Bonner

9am Welcomers: East Timorese Gifts: G El-Hage Family Readers: L McKenzie, S Soares

Ministers: L&T Kenny, A Sanderson

CHURCH CLEANING:

Week commencing

16 February Group 5: J McCarthy, J Carroll

23 February Group 6: A Moloney, H Chisholm, J Squires

COUNTING TEAMS:

16 February Team 3: Terry & Pat King, Maureen & Ron Gillin

23 February Team 4: Margaret Dunne, Dion Bartlett

COMMUNION TO LYNDOKH: 23 February: Margaret Dunne, Peter Flynn



Reflection on the Gospel-6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 5: 17-37)

-Veronica Lawson RSM

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a faithful Jew who observed the Law handed down within Israel from generation to generation. Today's gospel is from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus, the faithful Jewish teacher, addresses his Jewish disciples and the Jewish crowds who gather to hear his words.

The mission of Jesus is to fulfill the law ("I have come to..."), not to do away with it, and fulfilling the law is a question of "righteousness". The Greek term for righteousness, *dikaiosunē*, translates both the Hebrew *sedeqah* meaning "right relationship" and *mishpat* meaning "justice". The righteousness of the official teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees, their manner of relating to others and their notions of justice, are judged to be quite inadequate for those who are part of God's reign, the kin-dom "of heaven" in Matthew's terminology. The righteousness of Jesus' followers is to "exceed" such minimalist interpretations and expressions of the Law.

Jesus, authentic teacher and interpreter of the Law, offers six examples of the righteousness that "fulfills" the Law. Four of these examples are included in today's reading. What was heard "of old" is contrasted with what Jesus wants to say to his hearers. In the first instance, they all know that the Law forbids murder. They may not have considered the connection between unrestrained anger or murderous thoughts and murder itself. In a series of cascading sentences, Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness. He reminds his audience that true worship demands a forgiving heart expressed in action. He includes a fairly pragmatic reason for settling out of court: you may actually find yourself in prison. There may be an implicit criticism here of the increasingly punitive legal system of the time, a reminder to us of the futility of incarceration for minor crimes.

The second example puts "lustful looking" on a par with adultery. In an age of easy access to internet pornography, this example has a particular resonance: any form of sexual depravity is destructive of right relationship. The third example on divorce is complicated by the exceptive clause, "except in the case of *porneia*". *Porneia* referred to any illicit sexual activity. Here it probably means marriages within degrees of kinship prohibited by Jews but not prohibited by Gentiles. The question seems to have arisen as to whether couples in such unions could stay together on becoming Christian. While Jesus presents the ideal (no divorce), we have to put this teaching into a broader context. Writing to the people of Corinth on this subject, Paul allows for exceptions, since "God has called us to peace". The fourth example is about swearing on oath. Righteousness calls for honesty and transparency in every day dealings. If the words we use are congruent with the intentions of our heart, we should not have to invoke God as a witness to the veracity of our claims.

Our Lady Help of Christians East Warrnambool is a Child Safe Parish



Our Lady Help of Christians Parish
East Warrnambool - Allansford
'A Star in the East'



PARISH BULLETIN

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time —16th February 2020

P.P.: Fr Lawrence O'Toole - Phone 5561 1533

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OLHC Primary School: Eugene Dalton - Phone 5562 5559

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Emmanuel College: Peter Morgan - Phone 5560 0888

St. Carthage's Church—Grauers Rd, Allansford

Child Safety Officer—Dion Bartlett 0458 778 935

*"I AM THE WAY,
THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"*
JN 14, 18.

"PEACE TO ALL WHO ENTER HERE"

Recent Deaths: Father Jim O'Loughlin, Kevin Brown, Hayley White, Martinho De Araujo Borges

Anniversaries: Sisters Roberta Blyton & Brigid Ryan, Brian Kearney, Peter Crowe, Brian Gorman, Peter Tobin

Mass Times	Monday	7.30am at St Pius
	Tuesday	10.00am (April Farfar RIP)
	Wednesday	9.30am
	Thursday	9.30am
	Friday	9.30am (Saint Peter Damian)
	Saturday	10.00am at St Pius

THE LORD'S DAY	Saturday	6.00pm
	Sunday	9.00am

*Green is the colour of
hope and growth*

The Word of God: This Week: Sir 15: 15-20/ 1 Cor 2: 6-10/ Mt 5: 17-37
Next Week: Lv 19: 1-2.17-18/ 1 Cor 3: 16-23/ Mt 5: 38-48

Sacraments: Baptisms and Marriages by Appointment

Please phone 5561 1533

Reconciliation—Friday 10am; Saturday 10.20am at St Pius



Reconciliation Family Prayer Time



Parent Child Dear Jesus, you are the Saviour of the world. Help us to make the world a better place.

Parent Child You are by our side in good times and in bad. Protect us from harm and keep us safe.

Parent Child You are the light of the world. Guide us to be a Good Samaritan and do what is right.

Parent Child We pray in the unity and love of the Holy Spirit.
AMEN

*"Life in a Whole new Light and
Clothed with Power from on High"
Today we welcome with great joy
Edwina Wright, Ollie Mahony and
Edith & Ava Wilde
who are being baptised into the
family of God, who is Father, Son
and Holy Spirit.*



*May God guide your
footsteps, may He light
your way.
May you clearly see His
leading every day.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Keep for Daily Prayer)



HAPPY ARE THEY WHO FOLLOW THE LAW OF THE LORD!

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. **R.**

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. **R.**

Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Word of Truth and Life

To the humble and the lowly you reveal the kingdoms mystery.

HYMNS:

- Entrance 80 Sing a New Song
- Gifts 16 Glory and Praise
- Communion 6 Lord to Whom Shall We Go?
- CWB 748 Micah's Theme
- Recessional 130 They'll Know We Are Christians

Mystery Of Faith

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



As we move into the second stage of the Plenary Council Journey, we continue to seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. We are invited to

reflect on Scripture, Church teaching and our contemporary situation in order to discern the answer to this question: **How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is a joyful, hope-filled and servant community?** The fruits of what is discerned during this time will help shape the agenda of the first session of Plenary Council in October 2020.

This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a yearning for the Church to be a sign of God's kingdom for all people in Australia—to be able to see the Catholic Church in action, and to recognise Jesus. There was an expression of faith-filled **hope** in the capacity of the Catholic community **to celebrate** together, **to show** what it is to be a follower of Christ **and to be loved unconditionally** by God. There was a call to **contemplate** the Gospel call to be a **servant Church** for the good of all people in Australia—particularly for refugees and asylum-seekers and other people who are vulnerable or at risk. Many responses expressed a hunger for **strong witness** of faith, especially by priests, young people and female leaders in parish and school ministries.

“The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.” (Mark Twain)

May the **urgency** of God's mission unsettle us
the **compassion** of God motivate us
the **justice** of God inspire us
the **love** of God expand us
the **healing** of God encourage us
and may the **Providence** of God be our trust,
now and always.

(Audrey Brown 2020) (from Act Love Walk: Praying in the Josephite Spirit, 2014: 27)

“Often you can see **power lines** running alongside the street. Unless current is flowing through them, there is no **light**. The **power line** is you and I! The current is God! **We** have the power to allow the current to **flow through** us and thus to **generate** the **light** of the world: **JESUS**—or to refuse to be used and, thus, allow the darkness to spread.”

(Saint Mother Teresa)



PARISH LIFE—LIFE TO THE FULL

OLHC Community acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of this land—the Gunditjmara People and other tribes. We deeply respect the Aboriginal Community upon whose land our parish resides.

WELCOME TO OLHC & ST. CARTHAGE In imitation of Jesus Christ, we welcome all people to worship and celebrate God's all-inclusive love with us. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your life, we thank you for choosing to be here with us today.

Our Parish Vision *“Bringing People together in an atmosphere that is welcoming, nurturing and challenges all to share in the Mystery of God's Love.”*

Spend everyday with the saints. *“Our perfection does not consist of doing extraordinary things but to do the ordinary well.”* (St Gabriel Possenti—27 Feb)

Holy Hour at OLHC Monday 10am

Worth Watching “Songs of Praise” Sundays 11.30am on ABC1.

View ABC1 Compass 11am Sundays.

“Australia's most liveable city and district is Warrnambool”

New Rosters are available.

Plenary Council Preparation OLHC will host a discernment 7pm Thursday 27th February on the Church being a joyful, hope-filled and servant community.

“Without Christ life is as the twilight with dark night ahead; With Christ life is the dawn of morning with the light and warmth of full day ahead.” (Philip Schaff)

Allansford Parishioners Present and Past are invited to the 130th Anniversary of the Opening of the Church of St Carthage with Mass at 10.30am on March 29th. Please invite “Old Friends”.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place for Year 2 and Year 6 children on March 18th and 19th. **A Cloud of Witness** The Story of Christianity. The first 1000 years of the Christian Faith. Thursdays, 7.30-9pm at the Presbyterian Church, Spence St.

“Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle” (Ian Maclaren)

Ash Wednesday is 26th February. Masses 10am & 7pm.

Visit the Mary MacKillop Museum Chapel and Gift Shop, 362 Albert St, East Melbourne. Monday—Friday 10am-4pm.

Envelopes and Receipts for Financial Giving to our Parish are available. (If you can now help please collect an invitation)

Lent Reflections on the Sunday Gospels of Lent **“Grace”** are being organised by Dion Bartlett on **Wednesday** commencing 26th February at 7.30pm and by Sister Marie Mansbridge on **Friday** 28th at 10am. Both will be in the Meeting Room. Please put your name on the list in the Foyer.

Organ Concert by Thomas Heywood at St Joseph's 28th February 6pm-7pm, \$30, C\$25, U18 free.

Online Graduate Certificate in Religious Education (Primary) from Campion College, Sydney. Contact Christine Vella 02 9896 9303.

We bless and celebrate Noah Joseph, son of George and Michelle, in preparation for his Baptism in St Thomas' New York.

“Those who are filled with love are filled with God” (St Augustine)

Pope's Prayer Intentions for February

Listen to the Migrants' Cries

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.



If you wish to give to our **Parish Finances** via bank transfer:
BSB: 06 3533 Acc. No: 0090 3353
Ref: Planned Giving
All donations are **greatly appreciated**.

Christianity is not 'an idea in the air'. It is the feet on the ground going God's way: being God's servant.

Marriage Tip: True love between spouses, which images Christ's love for the Church, inspires husbands and wives to continually seek each other out for advice, affection, and affirmation. Encourage your spouse today and remind him/her that you are there no matter what!