



MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy

Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 18th July and Sunday 19th July, 2020

FIRST READING Wisdom 12:13,16-19

You will grant repentance after sin.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly; Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 144(145)

R/. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

R/. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God.

R/. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

But you, God of mercy and compassion,

slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

R/. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 11:25

V/. Alleluia!

R/. Alleluia!

V/. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

R/. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30

Let them both grow till the harvest.

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed

in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



We commend to the Lord's mercy **Raymond Smith** who died recently. We remember **Mary Sinnott**, **Nancy O'Grady** and **Joan Williams** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in God's peace.

OUR CHURCHES ARE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Infant Jesus Church, Koroit

- **12pm–1pm Adoration**
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat

St Patrick's Church, Port Fairy

- **5pm–6pm Adoration**
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat



Sacramental confession and holy communion are available on request — at church at these advertised times, or at home at a negotiated time.

A RETURN TO PUBLIC MASSES

Preparations are underway to return to our Sunday Eucharist but the experience will be somewhat different. We are

required to limit the number of people at Mass. There is the cleaning of the whole church between Masses. We have to observe the one person per four square metre rule. Names and phone numbers of attendees must be recorded (for contact tracing).

Some time in the next few weeks — and there will be plenty of notice! — parishioners will be invited to call the Parish Office to register for Mass. We will ensure equity and a 'fair go' enables as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist.

A NEW 'MINISTRY DISTRICT'

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has confirmed that when Fr Michael Linehan retires at the end of this year, he will not be replaced. Instead, the parishes of Warrnambool West and Dennington will be linked to the neighbouring parishes of Warrnambool, Koroit and Port Fairy, which together will constitute a new ministry district: a larger parish consisting of the various faith communities. This new ministry district will be served by two priests. More details to follow.

PLANNED GIVING

Anyone wishing to continue with their planned giving or Presbytery contribution can pay by direct deposit into the corresponding account. **Please put as your reference your full name and your envelope number.**

St Patrick's Parish - Planned Giving

BSB: 633 000 Account: 163 466 790

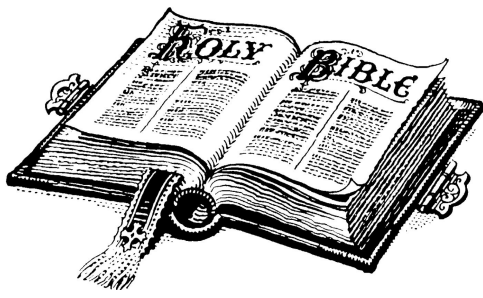
Infant Jesus Parish - Planned Giving

BSB: 633 000 Account: 163 466 881

Presbytery Contributions

BSB: 633 000 Account: 163 466 899

Alternatively, you are welcome to drop in and see Louise at the Port Fairy parish office, 10am - 12pm, Monday & Thursday.



Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel

by Fr Francis Fernandez

THE WEED OF FALSE DOCTRINE

In today's Gospel our Lord teaches us the parable of the wheat and the darnel. The world is like a field where God is continually sowing the seed of his grace; this divine seed takes root in the soul and produces fruits of holiness. Jesus offers us his grace with such wonderful love! For him each of us is unique, and in order to redeem us He did not hesitate to assume our human nature. He prepared us like good soil and bestowed upon us his saving doctrine. *But while everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off.*

The weed in question – darnel – is a plant that is often found growing in cereal crops in the Middle East. It resembles wheat so closely that even to the farmer's practised eye it is impossible to tell the two plants apart until the stalks begin to mature, at which stage the darnel can be recognized by its slender ear and emaciated grain; it is toxic to humans, and if mixed with flour will ruin bread. Sowing darnel among the wheat was a common form of revenge in the Lord's time. Periodic plagues of darnel were very much feared by farmers, because it could cause them to lose their entire harvest.

The Fathers of the Church (eg: St John Chrysostom, *Homilies on St Matthew*, 47; St Augustine, *Catena Aurea*) have understood the darnel to be a metaphor for false doctrine which is not easy to distinguish from the truth, above all at the

beginning, because it is typical of the devil to mix falsehood with truth and if error is allowed to flourish it always has catastrophic effects on the people of God.

This parable has lost none of its relevance nowadays: we can see that many Christians have fallen asleep and have allowed the enemy to sow bad seed with total impunity. There is practically no truth of the Catholic Faith which hasn't been called into question. We have to be very careful, both with ourselves and with anybody we are responsible for, in the area of popular media, which can be a real source of false doctrine. We must make a special effort to look after our on-going formation in the doctrinal area.

If we are to be faithful to all the requirements of the Christian vocation we have to be watchful and not let ourselves be caught off guard, because once false doctrine manages to take root in the soul it quickly gives rise to sterility and to estrangement from God. We need to be watchful too in the area of our affections, and not fool ourselves with excuses about how at our time of life 'things don't affect us'; and we should be careful also about the effect of such false ideas on those whom God has entrusted to our care.

The spread of error can only be countered by an even greater abundance of good doctrine: we have to overcome evil with good, living out our Catholic convictions in daily life. It is not enough to bemoan the evils of our time. As St Augustine reminds us: *"Bad times, hard times, this is what people keep saying; but let us live well, and times shall be good. We are the times: Such as we are, such are the times."* We are called to seek holiness in the middle of the world, in the fulfilment of ordinary duties; and this requires us to be actively present in the whole range of human experience.

A PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May those of us with no risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and paying their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have cancelled our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May those of us losing our margin money in the tumult of the economy remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who self-isolate at home remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country, let us choose faith, hope, and love.

And, during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to channel God's loving embrace to our neighbours. Amen.



CATHOLIC MEN'S GATHERING

The Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference National Catholic Men's Gathering for 2020 is now being offered as an online event for registered participants on Saturday 15th August. The aim of the program is to inspire and encourage all Catholic men with a vision for personal discipleship, service and mission in the family, parish, diocese and the world. This modified program will be delivered in four pre-recorded sessions of approximately 1 hour in length. Each session will offer input from a variety of speakers and musicians, along with a response and questions for group discussion or individual reflection. The program offers flexibility so that you may participate individually or gather with others from your parish/diocese or men's ministry group. This is a free event. For the event program and registration go to www.catholicmensgathering.com.au

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Our Child Safe Policies can be read at our church entrances and on our websites. Our safe-guarding officer is Peter Sanderson.

NEXT SUNDAY: 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading. *1 Kings 3:5,7-12.* Solomon chooses the gift of wisdom.

Second Reading. *Rom 8:28-30.* Those he called, he justified.

Gospel. *Mt 13:44-52.* He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

CANONICAL ADMINISTRATOR: Fr John Fitzgerald, john.fitzgerald@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 5562 2231. Warrnambool office hours: 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr John Corrigan, john.corrigan@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 0422 342 499. For urgent matters, please don't hesitate to call any time.

PARISH SECRETARY: Louise Dryburgh, portfairy@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Phone: 0408 681 223. Port Fairy office hours: 9am to 12pm, Monday and Thursday.

Parish postal address: PO Box 8, PORT FAIRY VIC 3284.