

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Migrant and Refugee Sunday

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: *Ezekiel 18:25-28*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING:

Philippians 2:1-5

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests

instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



WELCOME

Parish of Cororooke

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Parish Sec: Gracesyn Perrett 52331464
Moderator: Maureen Finn 0428329231
Supervising Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
School Principal: Leanne Eastman
Child Safety Officer: Leanne Eastman
St Brendan's: 9.30am Sunday/ 5pm 4th Sunday

ALTAR & SACRISTY DUTIES:

St Brendan's:

20th – 27th Sept: M O'Shea & K McKay

St. Joseph's:

October: Sherman

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Sept 28th-5th Oct

Sr Kathleen Finnigan, Mike Ebling, Louis Hickman, Mary Kervin, Bill Maslen, Herbie Golden, Barbara Richens,

SICK: *Nathan De Lorenzo, Helen Hunt, Leah Spokes, Tarlea Roache, Geraldine Finn, Patricia Hickman, June Turner, Ross Soares, Goldie Elsum*

It's St Mary's 10th Anniversary and you're invited!

To mark the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, Australia's first Saint, the Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of Saint Mary of the Cross. The Sisters have created commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil in of honour Mary throughout September and October

<https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary>

Congratulations to Mick and Eileen McGuane on their 55th Wedding Anniversary.

A wonderful effort by the Red Violets as part of "Colac's Big Night In", supporting local eateries and bringing much needed entertainment in these unusual times.

Prayer for Migrant and Refugee Sunday.

Almighty and merciful God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own, look with mercy on those who today are fleeing from danger, homeless and hungry.

Bless those who work to bring them relief.

Inspire generosity and compassion in the hearts of all of us. Guide us and every nation of the world towards that day, when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace; Through Jesus Christ, our Brother and our Lord. Amen.

Understanding Scripture **Two sons**

In this brief parable Jesus employs the image of a father and two sons; it is a familial and personal image and thus different from other images we have so far encountered, such as king and servant (18:23-33 - Sunday 24) or landowner and hired labourers (20:1-15 - Sunday 25). As Jesus makes clear in his explanation, the son who refuses the father's command but then changes his mind represents the 'tax collectors and prostitutes' (21:31); the other son who says 'yes' but disobeys represents the chief priests and elders. Note the implication of the parable's use of the father-son image: the chief priests and elders are brothers to the tax collectors and prostitutes! Just making them members of the same family was insulting! Tax collectors and prostitutes were public sinners and were despised by the religious leaders for two reasons. First, their conduct was sinful: tax collectors were widely suspected of cheating people, and prostitutes violated moral and ritual laws. Second, both were viewed as collaborators with the hated Roman occupiers: taxes were collected for the Romans, and prostitutes largely serviced Roman soldiers. Yet these sinners have the same father as the religious leaders.

Moreover, the parable isn't impersonal or entirely contrived. Early in the gospel, as John the Baptist was preaching and baptising, 'the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him . . . and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan'; among them 'many Pharisees and Sadducees [were] coming for baptism' (3:5-7). Thus, these religious leaders said 'yes' to John's call for repentance; but in their rejection of Jesus their actions said 'no.' In rejecting the teaching of both John and Jesus they have rejected the 'way of righteousness' (21:32). To enter the kingdom they must change their minds about John, about Jesus, and even about tax collectors and prostitutes.

A Pastoral Response to Mental Illness and a Promotion of Wellbeing

Introduction

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) offers parishes the opportunity to increase capacity for the faith community to reach out to those individuals who are experiencing or developing a mental health condition and support them to seek professional help. With 1 in 5 people in any given year in Australia experiencing a mental health problem the MHFA program will be relevant to the majority of the population within the diocese. Further to this as a direct result of the current pandemic a significant number of people within parish communities will be under increased mental pressure. MHFA course offers a structured response which will:

- support each participant to learn to recognise common mental health problems
- equip participants to provide initial help to someone experiencing a mental health problem using a practical, evidence-based Action Plan, and
- enable people to respond to a person in a crisis situation (be that suicidal behaviour or self-harm)

How attending MHFA can provide improved quality of life for people with a mental health issue MHFA tells the stories of people with lived experiences of mental health problems. MHFA courses are based on the expert consensus, of people with lived experience of mental health problems and mental health professionals. By the sharing of such story's course participants are able to better recognise and reach out to those who are most effected by mental illness within the local faith community including their family circle and friendship networks and social groups. MHFA courses teach how to provide initial help to a person who is developing a mental health problem, experiencing a worsening of an existing mental health problem or in a mental health crisis. The first aid is given until appropriate professional help is received.

Why is the activity needed?

As stated above, each year 1 in 5 Australians will experience a mental illness (each year) which has significantly increased during this period of COVID 19 and will extend beyond. Many people are not knowledgeable or confident to offer the necessary assistance to someone who is displaying signs reflective of a mental health issue. MHFA teaches people the skills to help in a practical and safe way.

It has been well documented (Beyond Blue, Black Dog Institute, Federal and State websites) that there is currently within the community a significant increase in people experiencing mental health issues. Through MHFA parish communities will be better equipped to offer first aid support to people who may be experiences the effects of depression, anxiety, self-medication, and/or suicidal thoughts.

Evaluation studies have also been conducted by independent organisations show that:

- MHFA training is associated with improved knowledge of mental illnesses and their treatments and improved knowledge of appropriate first aid strategies
- Participants have an increased confidence in providing support to individuals with mental illness
- such benefits are effective and maintained over time
- improves mental health in those who attend the training
- decreases stigmatising attitudes and increases in the amount and type of support provided to others

Impact

As a result of parish members becoming equipped to recognised signs and reach out to those displaying signs of mental problems such abilities will contributed to:

- A well-informed community regarding mental health where people may feel better cared for and cared about
- Resilience building within the current and post COVID community with individuals being better equipped to support a mental health crises situation until professionals are sought after or arrive
- Individuals who have developed a mental health problem as a result of the COVID 19 (or such conditions are intensified due to COVID 19 pressures) will feel less isolated, better understood and supported through the interaction of graduates from the MHFA course

Vision

That parishes within the archdiocese of Melbourne are recognised for:

- their pastoral understanding towards people with a mental illness
- the maintaining of active networks of support
- the liturgical celebration of Mental Health Week

