

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sandy Watkins: 0409 492 508 Fr Marcello Colasante: 0416 194 825
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Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – 19th February 2023 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

RECENT DEATHS: Paul Clarke

ANNIVERSARIES: Bill Alexander, John Liston, Martin Molloy, Lionel Buncl, Olive Allen, Graeme Tucker, Michael George, Andrew Pretty, Frank Duke, Laurel Stewart, Paddy Duke, Bill George, Sylvia Stewart, Sr Anne Forbes RSM, Alan Baulch, Warren Giri & Merle Smith.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Graeme Dawson, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Bernie Duffy and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Angela Gerrard

Feb 26th: Bernadette Franc

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Genevieve Johnston

Feb 26th: Charlie Franc

Assembly Leader

Today: Sue & Jim Mahony

March 5th: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

Today: Clarrie Johnston

Music

Today: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

Feb 19th & 26th: Colleen Briody & Genevieve Johnston

Church Grounds

Feb 19th & 26th: Gerard Briody & Clarrie Johnston

Newsletter

February: Bernadette Franc 0427 678 830

MASS TIMES NEXT WEEK

February 26th MASS 8.30 am

Today is Project Compassion Sunday:

Bishop Paul Bird CSSR has launched Project Compassion today during Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. Project Compassion materials available today.

Ash Wednesday Mass will be celebrated on Tues evening.

SHROVE TUESDAY – Pancake Day Tues 21st

February at 10.30 am at St Andrew's Uniting Church.

All welcome for a cuppa, pancakes and a chat. \$5

The Mass of the Oils will take place on Monday, April 3rd, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral at 6.30 pm. Supper to follow in the hall.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you. Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom. You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters. Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Caritas agencies respond to catastrophic earthquake in Turkey and war-torn Syria

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey (officially known as Türkiye) and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour. Our partner Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies on the ground are coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit www.caritas.org.au/do-nate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to the Middle East by donating to our Middle East Emergency Appeal.

Exploring the Word

The readings for the 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time focus on holiness and loving our neighbour. The first reading tells us not to bear grudges and gives us the Golden Rule. The second reading reminds us that all of us are God's temples. And in the gospel, Jesus tells us that we must love everyone, even our enemies.

A prayer from this week's Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Praying with Pope Francis for February:

For parishes: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ,
grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5:38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples; ‘You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

‘You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 FEBRUARY 2023

INCLUSIVE LOVE

How should we deal with the hurts that we receive? Should we respond by retaliating? Is there any future in the way of peace and forgiveness? These questions are as pressing today as they were in the ancient world. The people of Israel based their behaviour on the nature of the living God. As God is holy, so Israel was to express its holiness by forbearance and forgiveness among its members. Members of the people of Israel were called to love one another and forego the duty of vengeance when it came to other covenant members.

Jesus took this even further and extended it beyond Israel into our relationship with all people. Now even enemies are to be treated as brothers and sisters. Jesus knew that it is by forgiving that we can share in the nature of the living God and so become complete. It is by our preparedness to forgive that we share in the even-handed perfection of God whose love is poured out for all, deserving or not.

Perhaps Paul was mindful of Jesus' words that a house divided against itself cannot stand (cf. Mark 3:25) when he reminded the Corinthians that they were the Temple of God. Since each member shared in the gift of the Spirit there was no place for division or competition. Paul, Apollos and Cephas were united in their ministry as servants of the Gospel. If they were united, why was the community divided? It was now time to turn the other cheek and live in unity and peace.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Lev 19:1-2, 17-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus

You must love your neighbour as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: ‘Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: “Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.”

“You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”’

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM

Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13. R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. / As a father has compassion on his sons, / the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 3:16-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to
the Corinthians

*All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and
Christ belongs to God.*

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

■ **The word of the Lord.**