

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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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 – August 13th, 2023
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

RECENT DEATHS: Anne Joseph (sister of Fr John Pothiyittel in India), Fr Frank Smith (Redemptorist), formerly of Exodus, Wendouree.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Margaret Ahearn, Mavis Vinnecombe, Bob Crocker, & Charlie Lock.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Pat Byrne, Margaret MacDonald, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Bernie Duffy, Tony Collins, Eileen McManus, Ena Fricot, Frank Meehan and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Sue Mahony
Aug 20th: John Jess

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Sue Mahony
Aug 20th: Carita Clancy

Assembly Leaders

Aug 20th: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

Aug 20th: Therese Jess

Music

Today: Sue Mahony
Aug 20th: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

Aug 20th & 27th: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

Church Grounds:

Aug 20th & 27th: Charlie Franc & Pater Milenkovic

Newsletter:

August: Bernadette Franc 0427 678 830

MASS TIMES

Aug 20th: 10.00 a m LLA

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS:

Tues August 15th: The Feast of the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary

ROSTER: new rosters are available at the back of the Church.

The Funeral Mass for Fr Frank Smith CSsR will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 480A Gillies Street, Wendouree at 10:30 am on Friday August 25.

PILGRIMAGE:

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY MACKILLOP

The pilgrimage will begin in East Melbourne on October 17 and conclude at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney on October 28. Along the way pilgrims will visit historic sites and towns including Portland, Penola, Robe and the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney. Register at <https://www.marymackillop-place.org.au/retreats-spirituality/australian-national-pilgrimage/>

Pope's intention for August – For World Youth

Day: We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives. Lord, hear us.

WHY DO CATHOLICS HOLD OUR LADY IN SUCH HIGH ESTEEM?

Of all the saints, prophets and holy people who have gone before us in faith, Catholics honour Mary in a special way because of her unique role in the story of Christianity. As the mother of Jesus, she was the first to bear the Good News of salvation to the world. Mary's life is the most perfect example we have of a life lived under the grace of the Holy Spirit. Her feminine presence opens us to essential dimensions of the Gospel and draws us closer to the heart of Christ.

MARY IS ALWAYS HERE FOR US

Mother of God remember me....

Moher of God you have remembered me.

World Youth Day Prayer

God, merciful Father, in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have revealed your love and poured it out upon us in the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. We entrust to you today the destiny of the world and of every man and woman. We entrust to you in a special way young people of every language, people and nation: guide and protect them as they walk the complex paths of the world today and give them the grace to reap abundant fruits from their experience of the Lisbon World Youth Day. Amen.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

13 AUGUST 2023

THE LORD WITH US IN OUR STRUGGLES

Elijah comes to Mt Horeb because his life is at risk, and he is terrified and discouraged. Having lost hope, he fled into the wilderness to die, and yet it is here that he rediscovers his mission and vocation as prophet. In the turmoil that surrounds him he recognises the Lord's voice, and the promise of a new beginning, not in earthquakes or fire, but in a gentle breeze.

When Jesus' walks on the water towards the disciples his presence was first greeted with terror as their boat struggled with heavy seas and winds. His encouraging words calm their fears and lead Peter to take up his invitation to come to him across the water. His newly found courage is short-lived, but he has sufficient faith to call on Jesus to save him. Immediately, Jesus reaches out and brings him into the boat and calms the storm that threatened to engulf them all. In the life of faith there are moments when events and circumstances threaten to overpower us. In these moments we too need to hear the words: 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.'

The next three weeks' readings from Paul's letter to the Romans reveal how he wrestled with a theological storm caused by Gentile acceptance of Jesus as their saviour while many people in Israel had rejected him. How could it be that a people who had received so many blessings had missed such an opportunity? Paul comes to appreciate how God's saving plan comes to fulfillment in ways we do not expect.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

I Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!