

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C

4 September 2016 #41.16

“To be on earth the Heart of God”

Parish Administration:

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MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am, 6:00pm
Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:30am

LITURGIES

Liturgy of the Word with Communion: Tues 9:30am
Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sun 11:30 am
Reconciliation: Sat 11:00 – 11:30 am or by
appointment with the priests

School of Religion: – 9.15am-10.00am
Sundays Parish Centre (School Term Only)
For children not attending a Catholic School



Hearing Loop: - We have a hearing loop in the body of the church. Adjust your hearing aids according to audiologist's advice.

From the Pastor's Desk.....

An angel is walking down the main street of a country village and is carrying in one hand a bucket of water and in the other a flaming torch. All the people in the village come out of their homes to witness this strange spectacle. One of the people musters up courage to ask the angel what he is doing. The angel answers, "With this touch I will set ablaze the mansions of heaven. And with this bucket of water I will extinguish the fires of hell. Then will we see who really loves God."

The above story illustrates what has so often been the motivation of religious practice: fear of punishment and promise of reward. This type of religion can only be classed as primitive and self-serving. The gospel of love, as preached and lived by Jesus, offers a different paradigm. Love does not seek anything for itself. Rather, it is an outpouring of self. An immeasurable giving that is costly. In Jesus' case, the cost of his love is a total giving of himself to the point of death.

To be a disciple of Jesus is likewise costly. In today's gospel Jesus outlines three criteria for discipleship: the priority of following Jesus over family ties [and friendships], the willingness to take up one's cross, and the relinquishment of possessions. On the surface these demands seem harsh; even a negation of life.

Our only way to understand this "cost of discipleship" is to grasp its paradoxical nature. When we make Jesus the centre of our lives our relationships deepen and become more real, rather than lead to isolation and alienation (which is the result of turning away from God). When we take up our cross we open ourselves to transformation and new life, rather than leading to annihilation, the extinguishment of existence (for our God is a creative, not a destroying God.) Finally, by having the freedom to give up everything for the sake of the Kingdom, we are in turn made rich beyond measure, for everything ultimately comes from God.

The two parables in today's gospel speak of the need to give of our all in following Jesus, for there is no such thing as a part-time Christian. Yes, the gospel is uncompromising, but it is the paradoxical way to freedom and life.



It is important that we recognize and appreciate the role of fatherhood as we celebrate Fathers Day. My prayers and blessings are with all the dads today.

**Peace & blessings,
Gerard**

Authentic Discipleship

The fleeting nature of life as characterised in the psalm forces us to look at the meaning of life. When the day dawns for us to return to dust, what will we have gained from life? The realisation of our finiteness and the transitory nature of life should help us to set our priorities right and should give us the courage to remain faithful to them.

Discipleship demands that, in the face of all the choices available to us, we keep our priorities straight. In the gospel, Jesus insists that we must be single minded. We must cling to the one thing necessary, and that one thing is authentic discipleship. In choosing Jesus, we choose other things as well. We choose new relationships with the very people to whom we have already been committed. Those who were slaves, or lower class, or employees, or providers of service are now regarded as sisters and brothers in Christ. In choosing Jesus, we also choose the cross. We choose to live in a way that calls us to travel the high road: to forgive offences committed against us; to live simply so that others can simply live; to take responsibility for the moral character of society.

Jesus lived a life of radical generosity and self-surrender and yet never fell into the kind of self-pity that emanates from the sense of having missed out on something. He was never disappointed or bitter that he had given his life over. Nor indeed did he, like Hamlet, turn his renunciation into an existential tragedy, that of the lonely, alienated hero who is outwardly intriguing but not generative. Jesus remained always free, warm, forgiving, non-judgmental, and generative. Moreover, throughout this entire life of self-sacrifice, he always radiated a joy that shocked his contemporaries.

Authentic Christian discipleship carries the hazard of self-sacrifice becoming the bitterness of self-pity when we feel that we have missed out on something.

Resources used; Reflection, by Dianne Bergant CSS at LiturgyHelp & Searching for the Right Fuel, by Ronald Rolheiser OMI

SANCTUARY RENOVATIONS will commence on Monday 12th September. Weekday Morning Masses will be celebrated in the Parish Centre. All weekend Masses will be celebrated in the Church. It is expected that the Sanctuary will be completed by mid-October.

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES seeking the transfer of all people being held in the Nauru and Manus Regional Processing centres to have their claims determined will be available for parishioners to sign if they wish after Masses this weekend. More information in the church foyer.

LIBRARY NEWS: This week we shall continue to display our collection of titles about St Teresa of Calcutta who is being canonised this weekend.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

We are reading

“The Prison”
By Ann Walmsley



Sunday 18 Sept - 3:00 pm - Parish Library.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 6 September - 7:30pm

Parish Centre

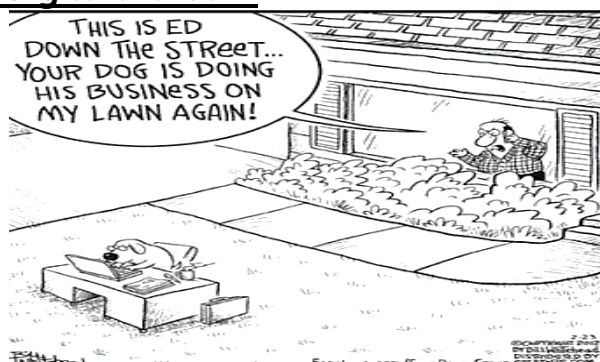
All welcome.

New members needed.



Last weekend's leaving collection was \$1941.25 - thank you for your support and generosity.

On A Lighter Note:



JUBILEE OF MERCY

For his part, Jesus speaks several times of the importance of faith over and above the observance of the law. It is in this sense that we must understand his words when, reclining at table with Matthew and other tax collectors and sinners, he says to the Pharisees raising objections to him, "Go and learn the meaning of 'I desire mercy not sacrifice'. I have come not to call the righteous, but sinners" (Mt 9:13). #20
Misericordiae Vultus – Pope Francis

Key Quotes from *Laudato Si'*

Pope Francis' Encyclical on Ecology & Climate

The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but we have not as yet developed a universal awareness needed to achieve this. Here, I would echo that courageous challenge: "As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning....Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life". #207

Archdiocesan Retreat – 'Be Still'

Facilitator: Sister Lynette Young rsj
Date: Friday 7th – Sunday 9th Oct
Chaplain: Fr Kevin Barry-Cotter
Enquires: sandy.cassidy@cq.org.au or
Ph. 6163 4300.

Sr. Lyn has experience in spiritual direction, retreat facilitation, has been a secondary school teacher and is currently running the Josephite Heritage Centre in Tasmania.

CGHS (Merici) Class of 1976 40 Year Reunion Saturday 22 October 2016

We're having a get together to catch up and remember our school days. Anyone who left in 1974 (SC) or 1976 (HSC), or anyone who may have left but who would have graduated in our age year is invited. For more details, please email cghs7176@gmail.com or write to us at
PO Box 251 Dickson ACT 2602.

Child Protection Sunday
11 September 2016

Stronger Communities, Safer Children

Child protection week commences Sunday 4th September. Let us play our part by providing support, protection and opportunities to help keep our children safe.

Guinness & God – 6 September

*"Let Us Sing As We Go": Why Music And
Theology Need Each Other*

Presenter: Dr Maeve Heaney, a musician and theologian at ACU Brisbane

Come along for live music and dinner from 6.30pm, talk from 7:30pm, followed by a Q&A at King O'Malley's Irish Pub in Civic.

G&G is a free event for all young adults (18+). For more info email youth@cg.org.au or call 6163 4300.

THE JOURNEY THROUGH ADOLESCENCE:

Program for parents of Adolescents will be offered by CatholicCare

Commencing: Wednesday 7 September

Time: 6-9pm at 57

Place: Hicks Street, Red Hill.

The course is run over 3 weeks and the fee of \$80 includes course materials and supper.

This course is suitable for parents of children in primary school years 5&6 and secondary school years 7-12. Bookings are essential please contact 1800 068 698 free call.

HOME Queanbeyan and the OzHelp Foundation Fundraising Lunch.

Come as you are, with a friend or get a group together to enjoy lunch prepared by St Edmund's College students,

Date: September 8,

Time: 12.30 - 2pm,

Place: Queanbeyan Bicentennial Hall,
Crawford St Queanbeyan.

Walk through HOME at 11.30am.

Tickets \$60 + GST at www.eventbrite.com.au

TRIVIA NIGHT – Calvary Hospital Auxiliary

*Come along and have a fun-filled evening
while raising money to go towards a Family
Recreation Area in the grounds of the Hospital.*

When: Friday 9th September

Where: Belconnen Labor Club

Time: 7.00pm

Cost: \$15/person

Bookings: Daphne Ashley on 0407835846.

ROSTERS

11 September Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Sharon Loiterton, Margaret Conlon, Robert Greig, Anthony & Chitra Jayawardena
8:30 am	Brian Green, Fay Stephenson, Shane Murtagh, Margaret Stanford, Fay Hodgetts
10:00am	Anthony Noakes, Cathy Madsen, Jojo Mathew, Shyni Jojo, Francesca Deklin
6:00 pm	Henri Clementine, Marian Crowley, Andrew Luck Andrew Webster, Barbara Gardiner

Reading Roster

6:00pm	Mary French, Tom Halloran
8:30 am	Mariana Rollgejser, Sigrid Kropp
10:00am	CHILDREN'S MASS
6:00 pm	Judith Deklin, Brian Mahony

Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Michael Horan, Chitra Jayawardena
8:30 am	Violet Duve
10:00am	Cass Pepper, Jason Pepper
6:00 pm	VACANT

Other Rosters

- 5 Sept Altar Society:** Margaret Ferguson
5 Sept Church Cleaning: Meg Millband, Sabina Van Rooy
17 Sept Presbytery Cleaning: Maryanne Ferguson, Margaret Sheehan, Ann Clementine, Lynette Weaver
11 Sept Counting Roster: Margaret Sheehan, Denis Donoghue, Margaret Stanford
10 Sept Grounds: Henri Clementine, John Gill, Rob Breen, Mike Blyth

PARISH ACTIVITIES

PRAYER LIFE

- Charismatic Prayer: Thursday 7:30pm
Maida: 0423 658 326 Rosary 7:00pm
Meditation [Library] Friday 7.30-8.15 pm
Morning Prayer: Mon, Tues, Fri 9:10am
Stations of the Cross First Fri Monthly 5:30pm
Children's Mass Second Sunday monthly 10am

SOCIAL LIFE

English Conversations	Thursdays during school term 10:00am Parish Centre
Coffee Club	Second & Fourth Sunday after 10:00am Mass
Over 45's	Last Wednesday of the Month 9:30am Mass and morning tea
Pins & Needles	3 rd Thursday of the Month 7:15pm Parish Library
Book club	3 rd Sunday of the Month 3:00pm Parish Library
Women's Breakfast	4 th Tuesday of the Month 7:30am Little Chef Café Belconnen

☞ Let us pray for those who are sick.
We remember them in our Masses. ☞

Recently Deceased:

Anniversary: Sonia Mewburn, Andrew Jeffers, Patrick Whittle, Joseph Boyd, John Grannall, Michelle Brewer, Alvaro del Busto, Elizabeth Murray, Des Kiley, Sheila Whigham, John O'Neill, Leslie Collins, Joan Larkham, Jennifer Kenny, Alice Gibb, Taya Quade, Marie Happ, Sue Ferguson, Honoria Kelly, Kathleen Wiltshire, Mary Prosper, Raymond Free, Graham Ottewill, Pauline Jones, Theresa Le, Don Nicol

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let your face shine on your servant,
and teach me your laws.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL Lk 14:25-33

The earliest Christian communities were characterised by a redistribution of all wealth and possessions to ensure that the needs of every single member were met. This was the first interpretation of Jesus' teaching to give up possessions to embrace discipleship. The first example of counting the cost that Jesus relates is about a man building a house without the means to complete it suffering the fate of his neighbours making fun of him. Whilst the thought of neighbours laughing at our mistake may not be too serious to us, it was a devastating thought in the 1st Century. A social code of honour and shame dominated the world view at the time. To be shamed by your actions or by the actions of others was humiliating and lowered social status. Jesus frequently used the honour-shame code to make his point and challenge social expectations.

Resources used. Greg Sunter at LiturgyHelp