



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH
DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A.
3 SEPTEMBER 2023

Parish Priest: Fr Hien Vu

The Parish Office open hours are Tuesday - Friday 9am-4pm

Pastoral Worker: George Thommana
Parish Secretary: Margaret Stanford [Tues & Fri: 9am – 4pm]
Finance/Admin: Monique Heckmann [Tue, Wed, Thur: 9am – 4pm]
Sacraments: Contact Parish Office [Phone 03 9412 8493]
Parish Office: 2-20 Fir Street, Whittlesea 3757
Postal address: P.O. Box 221, Mernda 3754
Phone Number: 03 9412 8493
Mobile Number: 0448 101 401
Email: merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au
Website: www.christthelightparish.org.au

Nazareth Centre, Mernda (St Joseph's Primary School)

44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda 3754
Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday 4pm
Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 8am and Sunday 10:30am
Children's Liturgy EVERY Sunday 10:30am

St Mary's, Whittlesea

2-20 Fir Street Whittlesea 3757
Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday 9:15am
Confession/Reconciliation after
Tuesday & Thursday 9:15am Mass.
Weekend Mass: Sunday 10am

St Mary's, Kinglake

124 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd Kinglake 3763
Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:30am

St Joseph's, Mernda

1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754
Weekday Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:15am
Weekend Mass: Sunday 5pm

We pray for those who have **died recently**: Dot Meeny, Margaret Dimech

And for those whose **anniversaries** occur at this time: Iris Wileman

We pray for those who are **ill** in our community: Vincent Orchard, Georgina Biondi, Colin McKenzie, Paddy & Eileen Fitzgerald, K.P Abraham, Margaret Roth, Maria Ah Kiau, Margaret Muldoon, Baselisa Malusu

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Responsorial Psalm:
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Next week: Yr A 23rd Sun Ord Time

First: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Second: St Paul to Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

REFLECTION.....

Last week, we reflected on who Jesus is to us personally. This week, we hear Jesus tell his disciples that "whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

Jesus makes it clear that a response is required on our part. He invites us to reflect on what truly matters—and what this means for us personally.

What does it mean to deny ourselves, to pick up our cross, and follow the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life? When we find ourselves in a time of trial or suffering, we may feel inclined to wrestle with our circumstances, to stubbornly avoid pain, to do anything possible to make the problem go away. But this can sometimes come at a cost. Does this grasping for comfort involve moving away from the Lord, or closer to Him?

Sometimes it is only once we realise we have reached the end of ourselves that we remember to turn to God. In my life, it is precisely during moments of trial and suffering that I have experienced greater trust and faith in the Lord, which have allowed me to grow closer to Him in the process. In the words of Fr. Jacques Philippe, "Every trial, no matter what its cause and characteristics are, is a trial of faith or of hope or of love." Thus, we can, with the help of God's grace, try to respond to our more challenging circumstances with faith, hope, or love. Jesus reminds us that there will be difficulty in our lives, but we are to take heart. We are Christians, and we have every reason to live with hope.

When we look at the cross we see the one who modelled obedience to the Father in all things. We see the ultimate sacrifice. We see love. As we celebrate Father's Day this Sunday, we can reflect on another kind of love and sacrifice in our lives—that which our fathers and the father figures in our lives have made and continue to make for us. Fatherhood provides a man with endless opportunities to make sacrifices for a child; to model love, to share love, and to be love. And for this, today we thank you. **Vanessa Carnevale.**

'Weekly Quote'

The Prayer of the Frog

Anthony de Mello
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An old man would sit motionless for hours on end in church. One day a priest asked him what God talked to him about:

"God doesn't talk. He just listens," was his reply.

"Well, then what do you talk to him about?"

"I don't talk either. I just listen."



PRAYER FOR FATHER'S DAY

God our Father, we give thanks and praise for fathers, young and old.

We pray for young fathers who are newly embracing their role.

May they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for fathers around the world whose children are lost and suffering.

May they know God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but who still mentor and guide us with fatherly advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers who are no longer with us, but who continue to live in our memory, having nourished us with their love. AMEN

"RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

is a program for adults who wish to become Catholic. Our parish RCIA journey will begin in mid-October."

RCIA is for someone who:

- Is interested in becoming Catholic
- Was never baptized
- Was baptized in another Christian denomination

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn more about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. (There are separate sessions for children or youth). You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights, and your Life-Faith Story in a warm accepting setting.

For information, please contact the parish via mobile: 0448 101 401 or email: merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au

Congratulations to Christine Castillo, Donna Patricio and the members of the organizing committee, together with our multi cultural parishioners and their families and friends, for the outstanding success of the Filipino Event. **A total of \$17,260.86** was raised for our new church building fund.

Bake to raise funds for our new Church Building. - Not long now till our Cake Stall at Bunnings Mernda, on Saturday 9th September (their Spring Launch Celebration). There are flyers at the rear of each mass centre with more information. We are asking for volunteers to make these items and donate them for the stall. To make it easier, you can drop off your yummy goodies at Liz Blake's house, 5 Von Guerard Pde, Doreen on Friday 8th September, at any time, where they will be packaged and prepared for the stall the next morning. If you prefer, you can drop off your baked items, wrapped and labelled (ingredients and name of recipe) at Mernda Bunnings on the Saturday morning. Slices, if not dropped off whole, could be cut into approximately 5cm (2") squares.

Any inquires can be addressed to Liz Williams (0403 007 692) or Liz Blake (0407 832 296)

All offers of assistance will be warmly welcomed.

Come on down and check out our "Spring" stall and purchase a lovely treat for your family and friends.

Together we can make it a successful day, raise funds for the "New Church" and reach out to the broader community.



PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION COLLECTION: 2/3 SEPTEMBER 2023. You can donate with cash, envelopes or electronically: www.melbournecatholic.org.au/foundation and make your donation through Paypal. Archbishop Comensoli says "It has been a wonderful custom in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to allow the faithful to show something of their own appreciation through an annual Fathers' Day Appeal. The appeal goes to the care of retired and sick priests by providing suitable accommodation and medical assistance for them. Please pray for your priests, as they pray for you".



National Child Protection Week: 3-9 September. In 2023, the message that **'Every child in every community needs a fair go'** will be complemented with the theme **'Where we start matters'**. Where we start our lives in terms of where we live, the resources available to us, and the opportunities presented to us make a significant difference to our life outcomes. This message captures the essence of National Child Protection Week which aims to promote a safe and supported life for every child, now and into the future. More details can be found at www.napcan.org.au

God's Word 2024 Daily Reflection books are available for \$23 each. If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact the parish office: 0448 101 401 or merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY ROSTER: 9/10 September 2023

[W] Welcomer [L] Leader [R] Reader [E] Eucharist [LT] Laptop

5:30pm [W] Chris B, Randy S [L] Paul N [R] Caitlin S [E] Chris B, Lorel D [LT] Liz B

8am: [W] Ushmani F, Anthony F [L] Ajith D.S [R] Alessandro [E] Roy J [LT] Ryan J, Dan W.C

10am: [W] John F, Alice A [L] Tracey K [R] Xanda B [E] Lynne F, Alice A [LT] Barry K

10.30am: [W] Silence M, Libano D [L] Vanessa C [R] Shaun D [E] Silence M [LT] Al and Choir

Children's Liturgy: Joyce M and Karen B

NAZARETH CENTRE SET UP: 4:30pm Saturday 9 September: Carmel A, Mick A, Clare A

New CHURCH Building Account Details:



If you would like to make a Direct Deposit DONATION* to the New Church Building account.

BSB: 083 - 347

Acct No: 135 263 131

Name: New Church Building

*Any donation made to this account is NOT tax deductible as we are a Not For Profit organization



We are a Child Safe Parish. We hold the care, safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility of our community.