



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time. Year B. 31 January 2021

Parish Priest: Rev Martin Ashe
Assistant Priest: Rev Jude Johnson
Parish Secretary: Margaret Stanford [Tues & Fri: 9am – 4pm]
Pastoral Associate: Sandy Starbuck Tue, Wed, Fri [9401 6322]
Sacraments: Contact Parish Office [9412 8493]
Finance/Admin: Monique Heckmann Tue, Wed, Thur [9412 8493]
Parish Office: 48 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda 3754
Postal address: P.O. Box 221, Mernda 3754
Phone Number: 9412 8493
Email: merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au
Website: www.christthelightparish.org.au

Nazareth Centre (St Joseph's Primary School)

44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda 3754

Weekday Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:15 am

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8am and Sunday 10:30am

St Mary's, Whittlesea

2-20 Fir Street Whittlesea 3757

Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday 9:15 am

Weekend Mass: Sunday 10 am

Reconciliation 2nd & 4th Saturdays 10 am

St Mary's, Kinglake

124 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd Kinglake 3763

Weekend Mass Sunday 8:30 am

St Joseph's, Mernda

1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754

Reconciliation 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays 10 am

We pray for those who have died recently: George Atos

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Cecilia Johnson, Mary Buttigieg, Herbert (Bert) Wood

We pray for those who are ill in our community: Vanessa Sutherland, Sajad Kolahdooz, Virginia Ballo Baltazar

Entrance Antiphon:

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading:

First: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2,6-9

If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

Second Reading:

St Paul to Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Next week: Yr B 5th Sunday Ord Time

First: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Second: St Paul to Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Fr Jude Johnson, Assistant Priest.

It has been more than a week as I moved into Christ the Light Parish. Over the week Fr. Martin and I spend hours and hours talking about the life of the Parish which captures her history to people and challenges to blessings. At the same time, a lot of activities have gone on: meeting with parishioners before and after Masses, concelebrating at Whittlesea live streaming Mass for all our school staff from St Mary's Whittlesea, St Joseph's Mernda and St Paul the Apostle Doreen, RCIA class, and staff meeting and many more. This is the summary of my weekly life after the week-one at the Parish.

This Sunday Gospel tells us that Jesus visits the village of Capernaum on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The gospel gives us a glimpse of Jesus' everyday life which includes preaching at the Synagogue, healing the possessed man and performing many other healing miracles. This event is also the first public appearance of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark [like me in the parish]. Interestingly the Gospel does not describe what Jesus has taught at the Synagogue except how he taught, that is, with authority. This means that Jesus explained the Scripture with complete confidence and he answered with authority when the people questioned him. His divine authority is not to rule or control people but to set them free. Moreover, the Gospel records the impact that Jesus had made to the listeners as they were amazed because his teaching is extraordinary.

Although we were not present when Jesus proclaimed his Gospel, we can hear this same Word of God in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts. As we hear a day in Jesus' life and ministry in our Gospel today, let us take an opportunity to look at our life. In what area of life today do I most need the 'freeing' message of Jesus?



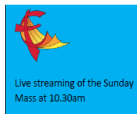
**We are a Child Safe Parish.
We hold the care, safety and
well-being of children, young people
and vulnerable adults as a central
and fundamental responsibility of
our community.**

LIVE STREAM MASS SUNDAY 10:30AM

Can be accessed at the Home Page of the parish website.

www.christthelightparish.org.au

Please note that the Mass remains on the website and is also available to watch at anytime on that day



The Parish Office is open

Tuesday—Friday

If you would like to contact the parish please call **9412 8493** and leave a voice message or email **merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au** and a team member will get back to you as soon as possible.



Weekend Mass Attendance. Due to the current Covid guidelines issued by the Victorian Government it is vital that you book a space for weekend mass via trybooking as it can affect our limited numbers who can attend Mass.

All weekend Masses up until Sunday 17 February are now open for bookings via trybooking, all links can be found on the parish website www.christthelightparish.org.au

RECONCILIATION. With the easing of restrictions, our regular times for Reconciliation, Saturdays at 10am, will begin again. The 1st, 3rd and 5th Saturdays of the month are held at St Joseph's church, Plenty Road. The 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month are held at St Mary's, Whittlesea.



Thank you message from Fr Shymon Thekkekalathungal. My dearest Christ the light Parishioners, I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for all your love, support and wonderful farewell gift. You are all generous and thoughtful! I am a lucky guy, because I could spend three years of my priesthood life with you, wonderful human beings! I can't forget all good things that you have done to me these past three years. They in one way or another way helped me to mould my priestly life in the context of Australian culture. You made me to feel at home since my first day in Mernda. I cherish all good memories with you. Once again, I thank you all sincerely from the bottom of my heart. Love you and miss you all! Fr. Shymon Thekkekalathungal.

The Parishioners of Christ the Light have contributed a total of \$1,850 which has gone into Fr Shymon's bank account.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - Please be aware!! As we know people [priests included] become victims of scams. Unfortunately Fr Martin's name is being used on scam emails purporting to be from him. We would like ensure you that Fr Martin would never send out communications requesting donations for sick or needy friends in the form of gift cards. DO NOT reply to or click on any link that might be included within these emails. We encourage you to contact the parish office on 9412 8493 and leave a message if you need to clarify whether Fr Martin has emailed you. Unfortunately there are bad people out there that see the generosity of the church community as a soft target. Thank you.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING will be held on Tuesday 9 February at 7pm.



Christ the Light Parish welcomes the **Catholic families whose children attend schools other than Catholic schools.** If you are interested in your child preparing for the Sacraments of the Church, please contact us to discuss the **preparation program for 2021.** Children who are *in Grade 3 may be registered for the Sacrament of Reconciliation* – those in *Grade 4 are ready to learn about the Sacrament of Eucharist*, and *Grade 6 children will be preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation.* Please contact Sandy Starbuck, Pastoral Associate – 9401 6324 or email sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au



Year of St Joseph. This year the Church all over the world celebrates 2021 as the Year of St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church. In his Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the

shadows. More details at: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>

The St Vincent de Paul Society is providing more than 1,000 students with back-to-school necessities. Amazon Australia has provided one thousand \$100 gift cards to the Society to distribute to families in need. They have set up a unique Vinnies 'Back to School' online shop to help guide families around Amazon.com.au's wide selection of school products to choose from, including backpacks, drink bottles and stationery. We hope this support will help ensure that more students can focus on their studies and thrive, and not fall behind as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. This is the kind of good work that Vinnies does every day. *The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 groups located in local communities across the country.* For more information, please visit the website:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/vinnies-and-amazon-australia-help-1-000-students-with-back-to-school-essentials>