



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

Twenty Ninth Sunday Ordinary Time. Year A. 18 October 2020

Parish Priest: Rev Martin Ashe
Assistant Priest: Rev Shymon Thekkekalathungal
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

Weekend Masses: Nazareth Centre:

Sat. 5:30 pm Sun. 8 am Sunday 10:30 am

Children's Liturgy each Sunday 10.30am

St Mary's

2-20 Fir Street Whittlesea 3757

Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday 9:15 am

Weekend Mass: Sunday 10 am

Children's Liturgy each Sunday 10am

St Mary's

124 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd Kinglake 3763

Weekend Mass Sunday 8:30 am

St Joseph's

1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754

Weekday Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:15 am

We pray for those who have died recently: Preet Bhogal

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Eileen Cherry, Kurian Chacko, Jose Mathew, Prasilia Fernandes

We pray for those who are ill in our community: Vivian Sguerzi, Debbie Crocker, Sajad Kolahdooz, Bernice Fitzpatrick, Maria del Carmen Abiega, Andrea Pereira

Entrance Antiphon:

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 95:1,3-5,7-10

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Second Reading: St Paul to the

Thessalonians 1:1-5

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Next week: Yr A 30th Sun Ordinary Time

First: Exodus 22:20-26

Second: St Paul to Thess 1:5-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

GOSPEL REFLECTION by Fr Shymon Thekkekalathungal.

A pastor with a sense of humour, was once asked how he divided with God the money he collected during his church services. "That's easy! I just throw the money I collected upward. That which goes upward belongs to God. That which comes down to the ground belongs to me." He said.

Jesus responds to the shrewd question by the Pharisees in the Gospel of Mathew this weekend. They deliberately attack Jesus to put him down. But Jesus's logical reply to them is so accurate and relevant to reflect on today. By saying: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's," Jesus is teaching us two things: our loyalty as citizens to our country and above all our obedience to God.

He is the only God who created us and entrusted us to look after this planet that we are part of. We, human beings are like stewards of this earth, who are accountable to our creator. Whatever we do for the sake of his creation on earth is greater in the eyes of God. In that way, our civic responsibility as a citizen is also a part of over all fidelity to the God of all creation. In one way or another way we can understand it during the present pandemic by strictly responding to government's lockdown measures of Covid-19. Even though it is very hard for us to stay at home without any social gatherings with our dear ones, we strictly follow it for the sake of all who are trying to keep us safe in the community. We can honestly say that we have done our part so genuinely. So, let us be so proud as being called a good steward of this whole universe. In this way as psalmist says in the responsorial psalm, we 'give glory and honour to our Lord' who is our creator.

Gradually, we are beginning to open up again as per the new guidelines of Covid-19. Let us cherish the joy of celebrating the Holy Eucharist together and feel the presence of Jesus who is with us all the time. Let him guide us because He is the only one God whom we believe and follow. He affirms it in the second reading this weekend; God says, "Oh Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, I'm the Lord unrivalled; there is no other God besides me." Let us go and meet him in the Eucharist, whom we have been ardently desiring to receive in the form of holy bread and wine for a long time.



**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



Parish Office Hours during Stage 4 Restrictions -

During this time of lockdown the Parish Office is closed, however 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.

UPDATE FOR PARISHES COVID-19

OUTDOOR MASSES. The Archdiocese has provided us with the new guidelines. The celebration will take place in an outdoor setting. Please see the Mass dates and times below:

Saturday 24th October, 5.30pm Mass outside Nazareth Centre (maximum 5 people)

Sunday 25th October, 8.30 Mass outside St Mary's Kinglake (maximum 10 people)

9.00am Mass outside St Mary's Whittlesea (maximum 5 people)

10.30am Mass outside Nazareth Centre (maximum 5 people)

Live Stream Mass will continue at the present time. Please see the top of the page for details.

Weekday Masses outside St Mary's church Whittlesea will be on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th October at 9:15am.

Those who wish to attend the Mass will need to **provide the Parish Office with** name, phone number, and stating your choice of mass. You can do this either by Phone – **94128493** or by email merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession is postponed until further notice.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS COMMITTEE MEETING via Zoom is on Tuesday 20 October at 7pm.

REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM, 13th OCTOBER 2020

Reaching Out and Inviting In. The Team spent some time reflecting on our desire to reach out to people especially at this time but also as we move into post-lockdown parish life. We have the Good News of Jesus to share and there are many people amongst our families, neighbours and communities who might like to re-connect with us or experience the fellowship of our parish community. If you have any suggestions about how we might be able to invite and welcome people we would like to hear from you.

Parish Email Initiative. Recently more than 800 emails were sent out with parish news, links to the parish website, and a letter from Fr Martin. More than 300 people read the email within 30 minutes of its receipt. We were heartened by the success of this initiative and it is hoped to send out this parish email every two weeks. Thanks especially to George Thommana and members of the parish communications committee for their work in bringing this initiative to fruition.

Parish Schools. The Principals of our parish schools welcomed all the children and staff back to school this week and reported that for almost all children, there has been a smooth transition back to on-site learning. This has been a difficult year for all of us, but especially for our school communities - children, families and staff. Our principals have been inspirational in their care for the members of our school communities. The Parish thanks them sincerely for all that they continue to do.

SOCIAL ZOOM: There won't be a zoom on **Friday 23 October**, due to the Grand Final Public Holiday.



SAVE THE DATE FOR ZOOM TRIVIA NIGHT: FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2020.

Stay tuned for more details next week.



The children in the Parish Sacramental Preparation Program continue to learn and development their awareness of God's Holy Spirit in the world and each other. We continue to gather via ZOOM to stay connected and encouraged at this time of lockdowns and restrictions until such a time when we as community, join with them in celebrating their Sacrament of Confirmation. Currently, they are working on a shield that reflects how they see God's Spirit in themselves and their actions, their Sponsor, and in their chosen Saint. See more examples on the Parish website: www.christthelightparish.com.org.au.



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER.

People can make a donation online at www.catholicmission.org.au or you can give to Catholic Mission using a mobile phone — you send the word **"GIVE"** to the number: 0488 854 436. This prompts an immediate reply which provides a link to a platform to make a donation. This appeal focuses on the work of the Church in Cambodia, which is reaching out to those who have been affected by disability from landmines or medical issues and giving them support to live a fulfilling life.

