

26th Sunday Ordinary Time. 26 September 2021. Year B.

Parish Priest: Fr Hien Vu **Assistant Priest:** Fr Jude Johnson

Parish Secretary: Margaret Stanford [Tues & Fri: 9am – 4pm] **Pastoral Associate:** Sandy Starbuck Tue, Wed, Fri [9401 6324]

Sacraments: Contact Parish Office [9412 8493]

Finance/Admin: Monique Heckmann Tue, Wed, Thur [9412 8493]

Parish Office: 48 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda 3754

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-KinglakeRd Kinglake 3763 Weekend Mass Sunday 8:30 am

St Joseph's, Mernda

1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754 Reconciliation $\mathbf{1}^{st}$, $\mathbf{3}^{rd}$ & $\mathbf{5}^{th}$ Saturdays 10 am

We pray for those who have <u>died</u> recently: Josephine Caruso Those whose <u>anniversaries</u> occur at this time:

We pray for those who are <u>ill</u>in our community: Charles Galea, Kathryn Rockwell, Shelle Farley, Joe Farley, Joe Farley junior, Fleurdeliz Banagodos, Nikaela Penalver, Carlos & Sulpicia Guevarra

Entrance Antiphon:

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 18:8. 10. 12-14. The precepts of the Lord give joy to

the heart.

Second Reading:

Letter of St James 5:1-6

<u>Gospel Acclamation</u>: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word, O Lord, is truth: make us holy in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Next Week: 27th Sunday Ord Time Yr B.

1st: Genesis 2:18-24 2nd: Hebrews 2:9-11 Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

Gospel Reflection by Fr Michael Tate.

Beyond the Boundaries

An easy way to deal with this Gospel: 'anyone who is not against us is for us,' would be to emphasise the transformation of the relationship of Catholics with Protestants. Too easy.

But what about our relationship with the Muslims? There is a huge gulf between Muslims and us about Jesus Christ. Muslims do not even believe that he was killed on the cross, let alone raised to life. We hold to the testimony and the faith of the Apostles.

But Catholics also believe that the Divine Wind blows where it pleases amongst all people of all religious traditions (and of none). In the early Church this was expressed by saying that the Seeds of the Word were sown by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all human beings.

We need to recognise the Seed of the Word in Islam – our shared belief in the one God, Creator of the cosmos, Lord of history, merciful and just. The task of the Church is to bring that Seed closer to the illumination of Divine Light so that it may eventually grow in belief that God is indeed One in the loving relationship of Triune life.

The world is holding its breath over the encounter of the Catholic Church and Islam. There is a history of mutual violence and contemporary barbarities which are inhumane and blasphemous. But, in the face of indifference and hostility to religion, at least in the West, it is good to acknowledge what we share in common.

We may take a moment to pray for the grace to relate to those Muslims whom we know in our own society in light of our faith that the Divine Wind has sown and is nurturing the Seed of the Word amongst them.



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.

SUNDAY 10:30am Mass will be our LIVE STREAM MASS

which can be accessed at the Home Page of the parish website.

www.christthelightparish.org.au



THE PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday- Friday 9am-4pm.

During lockdown you can still 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.

Report from the meeting of the Parish Leadership Team, 16th September 2021 Fr Hien: We welcomed Fr Hien to his first meeting of the Parish Leadership Team

Way of the Gospel - Mission Communities for the Archdiocese of Melbourne: The parish has been represented at several regional meetings as together with the whole Archdiocese we start the journey towards developing new structures and processes for proclaiming the good news of God's love within and beyond our communities.

Parishioners will be kept informed of the progress of this initiative and its implications for our own parish life.

Lockdown 6: The current lockdown continues to provide many challenges both personally and as a community. Parishioners are encouraged to avail themselves of on-line opportunities for the continuation of prayer, worship, and social engagement with each other. Information regarding these opportunities is provided on our website and in the parish newsletter. Arrangements are being put in place for the resumption of the sacramental program when the lifting of restrictions allows that to happen. We look forward to a time when we can once again gather in person for prayer, worship, and parish activities.

WEDNESDAY 9:15am MASS ON ZOOM. Meeting ID: 846 2845 2198 and Passcode: 003 104.

During lockdown our places of worship are closed. Weekend and weekday Masses will not be celebrated.

Sunday 10:30 am Mass will continue to live-stream on Our Parish Website www.christthelightparish.org.au.

Once Sunday Masses resume Trybooking Links will be available on the Parish Website.

OCTOBER TRIVIA NIGHTS.

No prizes, just for fun, with a glass of wine or a cuppa.

Every Friday in October at 7pm

via ZOOM: MEETING ID: 278 901 2630 PASSCODE: 374 347







PLEASE JOIN IN PRAYING THE ROSARY.

Members of our Parish continue to gather on **Saturday at 3pm for an hour of praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary via zoom**. **Meeting ID: 278 901 2630, Password: 374 347.** Any questions? Phone the Parish Office on 9412 8493 and a member of staff will return your call.

MIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER. The theme for this year is, Towards an Ever Wider 'We'.

Pope Francis writes: "The truth is that we are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer others, but only a single 'we', encompassing all of humanity...The Holy Spirit enables us to embrace everyone, to build communion in diversity, to unify differences without imposing a depersonalised uniformity". Catholics across the country are being urged to consider how they can pray for and offer practical support to neighbours around the world. "Indeed, the Holy Family—Mary, Joseph and Jesus—had to find safety when fleeing to Egypt". Visit the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office website https://www.acmro.catholic.org.au/





SOO PARTICIPATE IN MISSION: ONE HEART MANY VOICES. Held online for the first time, people from around the world were able to tune in and explore "the challenges of living the gospel and leading mission in Australia and globally." Catholic Mission National Director, Fr Brian Lucas said "It starts with the personal encounter at the church door, the school gate, the shopping centre. We cannot but continue to speak about what we have seen and heard as we take the gospel to the world as it is today." Human rights, the rights of people seeking protection and refugees, ensuring the church is a safe place for all and inclusive of people with disabilities were all topics of discussion. There was also a

dedicated day for youth which discussed climate change, Women in Leadership, and the Uluru Statement from the Heart. More details can be found at: http://2021.mohmv.com.au/presenters/

CHILD SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE: Members of our Parish Staff and Child Safeguarding Committee recently attended the Diamond Valley Deanery Safeguarding Meeting. There was opportunity for those attending to share their experience in their Parish's implementation of the legislated Child Safety Standards. There was a general consensus that hearing from others provides a valuable resource for the implementation process for the Parishes supported by Luisa Pisano, Safeguarding Officer – Northern Region. The next Parish Child Safeguarding Committee will be Thursday, 14th Oct 7.30pm



<u>LEADING A MISSIONARY PARISH SERIES. SIGNS OF HOPE—AN AUSTRALIAN STORY.</u> An interview with Fr Chris Ryan. Thursday 7 October, 7.30pm – 8.45pm. Zoom link will be emailed to you upon registration. <u>REGISTER NOW</u>