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|  | Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B 18 August 2024 |
| **Parish Priest: Fr Hien Vu****The Parish Office open hours are Tuesday - Friday 9am-4pm** |
| **Pastoral Worker:** George Thommana**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**](http://www.christthelightparish.org.au/) |
| Nazareth Centre, Mernda(St Joseph*’*s Primary School)44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda 3754Confession/Reconciliation: Saturday 4pm Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30pm Sunday 8am and Sunday 10:30amChildren*’*s Liturgy EVERY Sunday 10:30am | We pray for those who have **died recently**: Peter O’BrienAnd for those whose **anniversaries** occur at this time: Omans NormanWe pray for those who are **ill in our community**: K.P Abraham, Indika Fernando,Maria Ah Kiau, Gina Wherrett, Susan Stocks, Neth Mercado, John Dellamarta, Felix Pereira, Michael O’Brien |
| St Mary*’*s, Whittlesea2-20 Fir Street Whittlesea 3757Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday 9:15am Confession/Reconciliation afterTuesday & Thursday 9:15am Mass. Weekend Mass: Sunday 10am | **Entrance Antiphon: Gospel Acclamation**Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; **Alleluia, alleluia!** All who eat my flesh and look on the face of your anointed and drink my blood live in me and I in one; one day within your courts them, says the Lord. **Alleluia!**is better than a thousand elsewhere. **Gospel:****First Reading:** John 6:51-58Proverbs 9:1-6**Nextweek: 21st Sunday in Ord Time Yr B****Responsorial Psalm:** First: Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18 Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. Second: Ephesians 5:21-32Gospel: John 6:60-69**Second Reading:**Ephesians 5:15-20 |
| St Mary*’*s, Kinglake124 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd Kinglake 3763Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:30am |
| St Joseph*’*s, Mernda1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754Weekday Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:15am Weekend Mass: Sunday 5pm |
| **A reflection…**‘The Eucharist’, Pope Francis famously said, ‘is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.’ Reflecting on today’s Gospel passage, the Pope encourages us to avoid becoming ‘arbiters of grace’. Rather, he says, we should be ‘its facilitators’.As the Pope points out, Jesus gives us the Eucharist ‘with a specific purpose: that we may become one with him.’‘The Eucharist is Jesus himself who gives himself entirely to us’, the Pope reminds us, which helps us to become a living‘gift to God and to our brothers and sisters.’In one sense, we do this individually. Being nourished by the Eucharist, the Pope explains, ‘means entering into harmony with the heart of Christ, assimilating his choices, his thoughts, his behaviour.’ Each of us therefore seeks to become what we consume.But we do not do so alone. Communion is a celebration of the Body of Christ – the Church – which means we are being transformed together as the pilgrim People of God. Communion, the Pope says, ‘means entering into a dynamism of love and becoming people of peace, people of forgiveness, of reconciliation, of sharing in solidarity.’What this all means is that we should approach the Eucharist with openness to being changed, individually and collectively, into the Bread of Life for all.**© Nick Brodie** |

***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.***

**Report from the meeting of the Parish Leadership Team, 13th August 2024**

**Mass attendance in Australia:** The Team discussed a report on Mass attendance across Australia in 2021 prepared by the Nation- al Centre for Pastoral Research of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Whilst the data in 2021 were collected during the pandemic, they still show a steady decline in regular Mass attendance by those who had identified themselves as Catholic in the 2021 census. In 1996 18% of Catholics attended Mass, whilst in 2021 this had dropped to 8.2%. The Bishops have commissioned a study to understand the causes of this decline which will hopefully assist all of us in responding to the needs of God’s people in our own parish, and across our country.

**Safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults:** The parish remains committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults across all our celebrations, ministries and programs. Each of us bears a personal responsibility to uphold the parish safety policies and parish code of conduct. Later in the year all parishioners will again be

invited to re-commit themselves to maintaining the highest standards of care and safeguarding for all in our community.

**Parish school communities:** The Team acknowledges the wonderful work of education in faith, together with all the other

dimensions of educating children and young people that occur in our Catholic schools. We are blessed to have three Catholic primary schools and a campus of Marymede Catholic College within our parish. We note that enrolments in all these schools remain strong, and all are near or at full capacity. We congratulate the principals, teachers, school staff and parents on their achievements and generosity in progressing the Church’s mission in education.

**BUNNINGS CAKE STALL** As mentioned previously we have been given the opportunity to host a cake stall at Bunnings Mernda

on Saturday, 31st August (Fathers’ Day weekend).

Last year this event was so extremely successful in making money to support the building of a new church, as well as working together and socializing with other parishioners.

Popular cake stall items are: honey joys, cupcakes, choc dipped mallows, chocolate crackles, choc chip cookies, choc brownies, mars bars slice and M & M slice; recipes can be accessed on the parish website as well as there being recipe sheets at the rear of each of the mass centres - “ingredients labels” will be available for these recipes from Liz Blake.

Recipes can also be found on website [https://createbakemake.com/15-cake-stall-recipes](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcreatebakemake.com%2F15-cake-stall-recipes&data=05%7C02%7Cmerndawhittlesea%40cam.org.au%7C1979d8ad92cf430aabdc08dcbc03fda7%7C48ee20c7c8ea423c8b28f19801e34193%7C0%7C0%7C638591972547942323%7CUnkn)

Please feel free to bake your favourite recipes, but be aware that we can't have anything with fresh cream, perishable items, or those that require refrigeration and a complete list of requirements must be supplied. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Slices can be left uncut and dropped off to Liz Blake’s house for cutting and packaging on Friday, 30th August.

We’ll also require volunteers to man the stall on 31st August. Please address any enquiries to Liz Blake 0407 832 296, eachblake@bigpond.com or Liz Williams 0403 007 692, lizwill126@gmail.com or the parish office.

*Together we can make it a successful day by raising funds for the parish as well as reaching out to the broader community.*

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|  | **New CHURCH Building Account Details:**If you would like to make a DirectDeposit DONATION\* to the New Church Building account. |  | **Weekly Quote Quotations of****The Prayer of the Frog - Page 117**A sergeant was asking a group of recruits why walnut was used for the butt of a rifle.“Because it is harder than other wood,” said one man.“Wrong,” said the sergeant. “Because it is more elastic.” “Wrong again.”“Because it has a better shine.”“You boys certainly have a lot to learn. Walnut is used for the simple reason that is laid down in the Regulations!” |
|  | **BSB:** **083 - 347** |
| **Join the CTL parish WhatsApp group****for regular parish news** | **Acc No: 135 263 131** |
| **updates. QR Code also available on** | \*Any donation made to this account is |
| **the parish website** | NOT tax deductible as we are a |
| [**www.christthelightparish.org.au**](http://www.christthelightparish.org.au/) | Not For Profit organization |
|  MINISTRY ROSTER : **24/25 August 2024*****[W] Welcomer [L] Leader [R] Reader [E] Eucharist [LT] Laptop*****10am - Whittlesea: *[W]*** *John O, Lynne O* ***[L]*** *Peter C* ***[R]*** *Barry K* ***[E]*** *Tracey K* ***[LT]*** Barry K**NAZARETH CENTRE SET UP:****4:30pm Saturday Month of AUGUST: Contact Parish Office**please text parish office 0448 101 401 if you are able to assist on any of the following Saturday 24, 31 August**Nazareth Centre Ministries Roster Platform**[https://](https://www.christthelightparish.org.au/Document/rosters) [www.christthelightparish.org.au/Document/rosters](https://www.christthelightparish.org.au/Document/rosters) | **Archbishops Charitable Fund** We pray for the vital ministries of our Archdiocese of Mel- bourne. May they continue to flourish and thrive. We pray for all seminarians, all retired priests and those working in vital ministries.May the 2024 Archbishop’s Campaign enjoy the generous support of the faithful, and may those who work in our vital ministries—our seminari- ans and our priests, including those who are now retired but have served your people in the past—be filled with the light of your love, con- tinuing to faithfully do your work and serve your people right across our Archdiocese.***Envelopes will be available from the back of church or visit melbournecatholic.org/ archbishopscampaign to make a donation*** |