



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

Twenty Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time. Year A. 13 September 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: Tracey McCormack

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

We pray for those who are ill in our community: Vivien Sguerzi, Debbie Crocker, Maria Ah Kiau

Entrance Antiphon:

Give peace, O Lord to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading: Ecc 27:30-28:7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Second Reading: St Paul to Romans 14:7-9

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Next week: Yr A 25th Sun Ordinary Time

First: Isaiah 55:6-9

Second: St Paul to Phil 1:20-24, 27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Gospel Reflection:

Bassam, a Palestinian Muslim, goes around the world with his Israeli Jewish friend giving lectures on the importance of working for peaceful solutions to the conflict in the Middle East. His present way of life is such a contrast to his past. In his growing up years he was angry at the way his people were treated by the Israelis. From the age of 17 he joined other young people of his age and became a freedom fighter for the Palestinian cause. Because of his violent activity he spent 7 years in an Israeli jail.

One day while in jail he was sitting watching the movie Schindler's List, a film depicting the Holocaust and the extermination of the Jews. He looked forward to watching it, as it would renew his sense of revenge towards his enemy. Instead, however, as he watched, he found himself crying and trying to prevent his tears being seen by the other prisoners. He began to feel pity and compassion; something he had never felt before for the Jewish people. In reflecting on this, he recognized that this became a graced moment for him. His life changed following this experience.

Bassam, became friends with Rami, an Israeli Jew, whom he met at a meeting of those who take initiatives to bring peace between both sides of this bitter conflict. Now, they not only share their own personal stories of pain and the loss of loved ones because of the conflict, they also give witness to not allowing the bitterness and hatred from the past to fester in their hearts. They strive together by their words and deeds to answer hatred with love, violence with peace.

Are not the scripture readings today revealing that God is forgiveness and to be a disciple of Jesus is to know the reality of this wonderful gift. At the same time, just as we have been forgiven for our failures, it is to embrace a way of life that reveals this to those who have offended us. Along with Bassam and Rami, it is to be part of a movement that helps create a healing environment, where destructive bitterness gives way to forgiveness and the gift of peace becomes more of a reality in the world of our time.

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest.

UPDATE FOR PARISHES COVID-19

Since the government announcement made last Sunday, there are no changes.

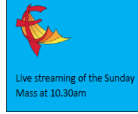
All Masses in our Parish have been temporarily suspended until further notice. We are still permitted to have our Live Stream Mass, as has been the case from the very beginning.

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 -

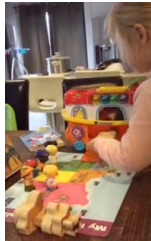
During this time of lockdown the Parish Office is closed, however if you would like to contact the parish please call **9412 8493** and leave a voice message or email merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au and a team member will get back to you as soon as possible.



We are a Child Safe Parish. We acknowledge that Child Protection Week is 6th-12th September 2020.

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

PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST: CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2020. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Child Protection Week (6-12 September). The theme for 2020, 'Putting Children First', underscores the need to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children in all aspects of our community and family life. The occasion is of great significance for the Catholic Church in Australia as it emphasises the need for a continuous commitment to effectively safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli said 'For Christians, the Lord Jesus shows us that at all times, the most vulnerable among us are those requiring our greatest care. Our priority is to ensure the safety and the protection of children at all times. More details at: www.melbournecatholic.org.au



ST MARY'S, WHITTLESEA. The Year 2 students at St. Mary's have spent this term looking at Bible Stories that show the choices people made and how God saved them from the bad choices that were happening around them. Through **Godly Play**, the students recreated God saving Noah and the creatures of the Earth from the people who had broken their promise with God and began to hurt themselves and others around them. Godly Play is a great way to connect with a Bible Story because the students can interact with the story itself and discuss the meaning behind the actions that occur. **The students have recorded an Italian Prayer called "Caro Jesu" or "Dear Jesus"**. Please click on the link. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vQCzk_mCXL_sFWISzeKZ5Iy0IzZ0C1N/view?usp=sharing

REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM, 8th SEPTEMBER 2020

Missionary Discipleship. The Team spent some time reflecting on the call of Pope Francis for all of us to become 'missionary disciples' of Jesus, and some of the implications that such a call might have for us personally and for our parish community. At the heart of the Pope's call is the invitation for us to become transformed through deepening our relationship with Jesus and building our passion for sharing the gift of faith with others, within and beyond our community. We are exploring ways in which this might be facilitated in post-lockdown parish life.

Parish life in stage 4 lockdown. Each meeting we continue to share all that is happening at this time as we respond to the needs of our community. A variety of initiatives have been well received by parishioners including our school families. Our parish website and the weekly parish newsletter provide vital avenues of communication and it is through these that parishioners are being invited to contribute to and participate in parish life. In this time of relative isolation it is important that people feel connected with each other and have avenues for seeking assistance.

SOCIAL ZOOM. Join us and share social light hearted conversation, with a glass of wine or a cuppa. It will be held every Friday night. There are 2 different times available.

5pm with Rob & Liz Williams

MEETING ID:364 087 3171 PASSWORD: TJD 7y2

7:30pm with Margaret Stanford

MEETING ID: 278 901 2630 PASSWORD: 374 347

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE –starts

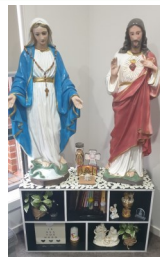
Thursday, 17th September – 2.30pm,

four weekly sessions will be offered. Join Sr Maureen for a time of guided reflection and prayer on the Gospel via zoom. **Meeting ID: 922 0425 1548**

Passcode: 362 909. Questions? Email Maureen.rsc@gmail.com.

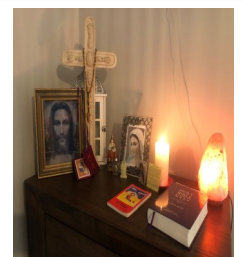
RCIA JOURNEY 2020/2021

ENQUIRY EVENING will be on WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER, at 7.30PM via ZOOM. Please contact Sandy Starbuck, Pastoral Associate, by email: sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au or by Phone 0402 984 525



SEPTEMBER AS A MONTH OF PRAYER—Week 2 "I Am Who I Am," 'Moses said to God, 'If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?' **God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.'"** Ex.3:13-14. Go to www.christthelightparish.org.au for this weeks complete guide.

Here are two examples from children in our Parish Sacrament Program using the [DIY Family Prayer Space](#) guide. View more on our Parish website to be inspired! Then snap a photo and send it through to share with our Parish Community! Sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au.



ENGAGING YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH: The Catholic Theological College is conducting a series of short zoom sessions during September and October offering an opportunity to explore your faith through a variety of topics including: Meditation and Prayer, Spirituality, Women in the Early Church, Interfaith Relations, Reading the Church Classics, Eucharist, Science and Religion. You can attend whichever interests you. \$20 per session. For more details email: rose.sultana@ctc.edu.au