



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

Twenty Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time. Year A. 20 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: Giuseppina Leone, Kitty O'Mahony
And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: John Muscat
We pray for those who are ill in our community: Vivian Sguerzi, Debbie
Crocker, Maria Ah Kiau, Sajad Kolahdooz, Bernice Fitzpatrick, Evelyn Fry,
David Buttigieg*

Entrance Antiphon:

I am the salvation of the people, says
the Lord. Should they cry to me in any
distress, I will hear them, and I will be
their Lord for ever.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:2-3

The Lord is near to all who call him.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to
the words of your Son. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Next week: Yr A 26th Sun Ordinary Time

First: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Second: St Paul to Phil 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Gospel Reflection:

There is an innocent prayer of a kid during this pandemic, which is really apt for this year to chuckle and reflect on. It is like this, "Oh Lord, please uninstall 2020 and reinstall a new year instead! because it is full of Virus!" Yes, it is absolutely true, that this year is full of corona virus. It almost engulfs the normal life of humankind so badly across the world. We haven't yet found the vaccine to alleviate this difficult situation. Many faithful cry out to God for assistance. But it seems no response coming from God as well. Lots of questions naturally evolve from inside of us against our God. Why is he so silent during the sufferings of his people?

At this juncture, the first reading of this weakened teaches us that 'God's thoughts and ways are not as ours. As he is from above, it is completely different.' Although, this word is inappropriate and seems we are departed from God, the psalm assures us that 'He is nearer to our call': His thoughts and ways are from above but he is not a distant God. He is closer to our life. It is something hopeful! Being closer to us and our dear ones He wants to teach something about our family. During this lockdown He brings everyone exclusively to our own family atmosphere to have a clear look at each other and realize the real love of God that radiate from our dear parents, children, husband, wife, partner, our brothers and sisters. Through a constant and genuine interaction with our dear ones, we regain the tremendous love that once knowingly or unknowingly we gave up due to our busy scheduled work and craving for the accumulation of material things.

This is the time to find out the different ways of God active in us. God's ways are like this, in that he brings back everyone together to cherish the memories of God's Love around us, amidst all the chaos and sufferings. In the second reading St. Paul says, "For me life is Christ". Our life is nourished and sustained by the love of Christ in us. Hence, let us be opened to it and try to find the exuberant graces that God has given to us, rather than spending too much time seeking the material things and wasting time in doubting God at this time. And also, let us learn from God who is closer to us, the manner he opens up the different ways to make us fruitful in his love.

Fr. Shymon Thekkekalathungal, Assistant Priest.

UPDATE FOR PARISHES COVID-19

Since the government announcement made on 16th September, celebration of Mass is still not able to be held in public.

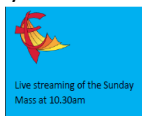
We are still permitted to have our Live Stream Mass, as has been the case from the very beginning.

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

On 20th September 2020, we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities.

We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 45 member organisations, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond.

We call to mind the 2020/21 Social Justice Statement brought out recently by the Australian Catholic bishops, To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today, and so draw your attention to a recent event hosted by CSSV, Counselling and Therapeutic Support in a Time of COVID, which provided an opportunity to become more familiar with mental health services, and how to practically reach out for or point to assistance.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION for 28

state school children continues weekly towards a time allowing us to gather publicly for their Sacrament of Reconciliation. There are more examples of the children's deepening awareness of God's love for them reflected in their Family Prayer Space. Check out our website to see the latest additions!

RCIA 2020/2021 – This week our RCIA Ministry Team together with FR Shymon met (via zoom) with two individuals who have expressed a desire to learn more about our Catholic Faith. Please pray for them as they and our Ministry Team journey forward in a new way of gathering while continuing to maintain our purpose to serve them in their quest to know our Lord Jesus Christ.



ST PAUL THE APOSTLE JUNIOR STUDENTS, Year 1 and Year 2, were given this remote learning task. Pope Francis has written a letter for every single person on this Planet, asking us to **protect the Earth—Our Common Home**. Pope Francis is asking that everyone works together to keep our environment and the earth healthy, so that everyone can share and protect our planet and its resources in a positive way. Write 3 things at home and at school you can do.

SOCIAL ZOOM. With A Fun Mini Trivia.

Join us and share social light hearted conversation and a mini multinational trivia - no prizes, just for fun, with a glass of wine or a cuppa.

Friday 25th September at

5pm via ZOOM:

MEETING ID: 278 901 2630

PASSWORD: 374 347



PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE. Jesus' words, "For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them," (Mt18:20) came to life in

Sr Maureen's first session on **Praying with Scripture**. Join us **Thursday, 24 September at**

2.30pm. ZOOM: Meeting ID: 922 0425

Passcode: 362 909 or use the link: <https://zoom.us/j/92204251548?pwd=cnJzZVcwb1o5Q05OeXlPZW5ybnU4dz09>

Sr Maureen: 0400 797 100



SEPTEMBER AS A MONTH OF PRAYER

Reflection Prayer for our Third Week: "I will be with you" draws us deeper into the message of Jesus contained in the parables of our recent Gospel readings.

Re-reading the Gospels together with this prayer guide gives opportunity to listen with the ear of our heart. For the complete guide for this week, go to:

www.christthelightparish.org.au

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER ONLINE WEEKEND. This **VIRTUAL** Weekend is a great opportunity to improve your communication in the comfort of your own home. The weekend we offer is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

Next weekend is on **9-11th October 2020**. Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au