



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

2nd Sunday Lent. Year A 8 March 2020

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| Parish Priest: | Rev Martin Ashe |
| Assistant Priest: | Rev Shymon Thekkekalathungal |
| Parish Secretary: | Margaret Stanford [Tues, Thur 9am-12:30pm & Fri: 9am – 4pm] |
| Pastoral Associate: | Sandy Starbuck Tue, Wed, Fri [9401 6322] |
| Baptisms: | Christine Hall [Mon & Tues] |
| 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

Reconciliation 2nd & 4th Saturdays 10 am

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

Reconciliation 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays 10 am

*We pray for those who have died recently: Liam Cummins, Clare Cashin
And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Alvin.E.Pinkston
We pray for those who are ill in our community: Edmond Cochrane, Michael
Masset,
We pray for those who are welcomed into our community with Christ this
weekend:*

Entrance Antiphon:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his
face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

First Reading: Gen 12:1-4

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we
place our trust in you.

Second Reading:

St Paul to Tim 1:8-10

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ! From the shining cloud the
Father's voice is heard: this is my
beloved Son, hear him. Glory and
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Next week: 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A

First: Exodus 17:3-7

Second: St Paul to Rom 5:1-2,5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Gospel Reflection:

The English Evangelical pastor, John Bunyan (1628-1688) poetically described life as a *Pilgrim's Progress*. In today's age of easy mobility we are always on the go, constantly moving but often without any deep sense of purpose. In many respects our constant business can be holding us back from being all we are meant to be. Our ambitions and desires can be so short-term, narrow and superficial. Always seeking more money, or celebrity, pleasure and success, could trap us into a narrow circle. Life-pilgrims are focussed on higher targets, so that like Martin Luther King they can say: "I have a dream!" However hard to reach that dream may be, it worth striving for, quietly, day by day. Each day we build toward the goal God sets before us.

Can we see our own, personal life a pilgrimage towards God? Just as God called Abraham, so each of us is called to go on this pilgrimage. This quiet but insistent vocation to "leave *your country and your father's house*" can be read as a call to decency and generosity, to "*leaving old ways behind*," all pride and selfishness, arrogance, hard-heartedness, anger, envy or falsehood. Then the directive to "Go to the land I shall show you" would point not in a geographical but a moral direction. The divine command could be interpreted as: "Go towards charity, respect, justice, sharing in prayer and good-will. Go in the way of Jesus... and your final destination will be in heaven."

Hearing God's guidance and taking it fully to heart, made Abraham the great pilgrim of faith. He can be honoured as the patron of meaningful living. All his days were marked by listening, with openness to divine guidance. This makes Abraham "Our Father in Faith", showing us the way towards Yahweh, the living God. His spirit can mark our lives too. Far from being useless or outdated, and efforts we make to follow the way of Jesus Christ are full of meaning. Progress along this way can bring us real peace of mind.

Word of Life. Association of Catholic Priests.



Parish Events:

This image captures our newly Elect, Anne Rouge and Sajad Kolahdooz. Together with their Godparent and Sponsors, RCIA Ministry Team and members of Parish Community, joined by Fr Shymon, after sharing in their presentation service to Archbishop Peter Comensoli. Continue to keep them in your prayers as they enter into deeper time of formation journeying towards the Easter Vigil.

UPDATE ADVICE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE ON NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.

Holy Water: will be temporarily removed from the doors of churches to reduce the possibility of transmission of the virus.

Holy Communion: * All Ministers of Holy Communion should take particular care to wash their hands before and after distribution.

* Only the Body of Christ, the host, will be distributed at Holy Communion.

* The novel coronavirus is easily spread through saliva. It is therefore recommended that the Body of Christ only be administered in the hand because of the high risk of transmission if people continue to receive on the tongue.

Rite of Peace: When exchanging the Sign of Peace, individuals should avoid shaking hands but encouraged to say "Peace be with you" and offer a smile, wave, nod or bow.

More information about hygiene can be found at:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/policiesandguidelines/wash-your-hands-regularly-poster>



Stations of the Cross will be held on the Fridays during Lent
St Mary's Whittlesea – 7pm... St Joseph's Church – 7.30pm

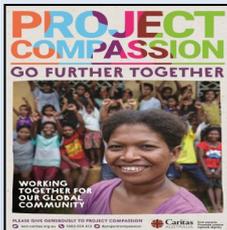


The Parish Feast Day BBQ was held on 15 February. A profit of \$569.70 was made. Even though it rained, the weather didn't dampen our spirit. We achieved this because of the very generous contributions of the committee and parishioners on the evening. Thank you to everyone involved.

PLT MEETING. Tuesday 10 March, Whittlesea at 7pm.

LITURGY MEETING. Wednesday 11 March, Parish Office at 7:30pm

PROJECT COMPASSION. Second Week of Lent.



This week through Project Compassion we learn about Phany (pronounced Parn-ee). Struggling to earn a living as a farmer in Cambodia, Phany was forced to leave her daughter behind in the village to take up construction work in the city. Thankfully, through a Caritas funded program, Phany learned new farming techniques which enabled her to get a better yield from her vegetable crops and to conserve water in her drought-stricken region. Phany's community also took part in training in health, nutrition, hygiene and disaster preparedness, arming them with better strategies to cope with environmental changes.

Watch a short film about Phany's story. **Let's Go Further, Together!**

Please support the Project Compassion: www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thxX3KmTavI>

MERENDA COMMUNITY

Nazareth Centre Set up: Saturday 14th March at 4:30pm. Ray Rosales, Rob Williams, Liz Williams, Neeta Biju

WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 14th March at St Mary's church, Fir Street, Whittlesea at 10am

Whittlesea Ministries Inc. will hold their Annual General Meeting for the election of office bearers on Thursday 12 March at 1pm. Anyone who would like to attend the meeting or join the committee are cordially invited to come along to the meeting at the Uniting Church in Forest Street.

EVENTS ELSEWHERE.

RISE HOME AWAITS. YOUTH FESTIVAL.

All young people are welcome to attend. It will be held at Emmaus College, 503 Springvale Road, Vermont South. 10am-6pm. Cost \$20 (Early Bird). Featuring Fr Rob Galea, Justine Cumbo, J. Sano. Please RSVP to Fr Shymon (Parish Office Phone 9412 8493) by Friday 13th March. Register at RiseMelbourne.com



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.