



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

Twenty Second Sunday Ordinary Time. Year A. 30 August 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: Eassy Chacko, Milagros De Jesus
And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Janet Mary O'Connor,
Joseph Ahxkiau*

We pray for those who are ill in our community: Vivien Sguerzi, Linda George

Entrance Antiphon:

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

First Reading: Jer 20:7-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 62:2-6, 8-9

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Next week: Yr A 23rd Sun Ordinary Time

First: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Second: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Gospel Reflection:

We are coming close to the beginning of Spring. We are conscious that for the last five months or so, not only have we been going through this winter time with its dark mornings and some very cold days but into the midst of that we have also been battling Covid-19 which has been affecting our lives and livelihoods. The rhythm of our life has been interrupted, family, social, working life and school life. We have felt the stress of this and yet at the same time, we have attempted to find ways and strategies to navigate our day, to embrace attitudes and behaviours, that help us to life meaningfully and with purpose.

In the gospel the lives of the disciples of Jesus have been going according to their expectations but now he shares his way of fulfilling the mission given him by his Father. This is a severe interruption for the disciples and for all that they had hoped from him. The present reality of our world is one of fragility where inequalities and injustices are experienced, all which causes great suffering. Jesus is calling his disciples to follow him to a way of life that will address this. It will not be without difficulties and suffering. He says to them, "if anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me". Jesus doesn't love suffering and the suffering of the cross for its own sake but he embraces it willingly in order to fulfil the mission given to him by the Father. He gave over his whole life in love to free human beings from the suffering that comes from sickness, hunger, injustice abuse, sin and death itself.

We, as disciples of Jesus are called to accompany him in his way. We too know the challenges of this, especially during this time of pandemic. We are carrying the burden of suffering at this time and yet it is not without meaning. For example, the restrictions that we are called to embrace are not only for our sakes but for the sake of all, both to protect people and to care for people. We do recognize that they are actions asked of us, that are about assisting others whether within our family or with other kinds of commitments we have. Yes, our lives have been drastically interrupted and have made us do things differently and maybe some even better, but also as disciples of Jesus, we pray for the strength and the grace to bear the sufferings that are part of creating a more human and compassionate and life giving environment for all.

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest.

UPDATE FOR PARISHES COVID-19

We have to abide by stage 4 restrictions again for at least another 2 weeks. **All Masses in our Parish have been temporarily suspended for 2 weeks or 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

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 30th AUGUST 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. In the **Social Justice Statement 2020-21, To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today**, The Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, as this is not the way of Jesus. Let us follow him in drawing near to those who are experiencing mental ill health and acknowledge that they are members of the Body of Christ - 'they' are part of 'us'! Download the Statement at

<https://agora.catholic.org.au/e/576423/SocialJustice-2020/nf41c/517737972?h=kyrRCRdeRSdb2WNRpEm89HirYFFIqIbV1BwXTbZqG48>.



At our recent staff meeting we discussed the importance of prayer and how we might encourage and assist our Parish Community in their prayer life. "Prayer is fundamentally about *presence* – our presence with God and God's presence with us." *Michael Whelan, SM*. In our response to God's presence we are naming **September as a Month of Prayer**. A **Guide to Prayer** will be featured on our website with **Reflection and Practice sections** to assist with nurturing your individual prayer practice. To begin September, *Mystery* will be our first focus with Reflection and Prayer guides available: www.christthelightparish.org.au. If you have any questions please contact Sandy Starbuck, Pastoral Associate.



Children from state schools within our Parish **have completed their 8 preparation class for Sacrament of Eucharist** via zoom. It was a first for our Parish Catechist Program but what success!! Each week a total of 26 children joined me on zoom for an hour of shared learning from worksheets, prayers and videos around Scripture stories on the person and actions of Jesus. Check out their Chalice Art Work on the Parish website!



This past Monday, children **who prepared for their Confirmation** earlier in the year, re-connected to review their learning. **We will connect again in September** in discussion of their chosen Saint name and share the gift of the Holy Spirit they admire in their Sponsor. Our Parish is committed to continuing to support the Candidates and their families as we move forward in hope to the celebration of the Sacrament when the covid environment is safe for us to do so.



Tuesday, 1 September will see the commencement of zoom preparation classes over 8 weeks for children who to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Please include all children across our Parish in your prayers as they and their families continue to bring the light of Christ into their homes and hearts. Sandy Starbuck, Pastoral Associate.

Religious Education at St Joseph's Catholic School, Mernda.

During this unusual time **St Joseph's community** will continue to provide opportunities for prayer. Students who are at school create prayer spaces and find time to reflect and talk to God. The same is encouraged for those students and families who are at home. Prayer is one of the fundamental ways of building our dialogical relationship with God. **Prayer** is an opportunity to spend time with God. To really understand the heart of God, you need to **pray**. In John 15:15, Jesus says He no longer calls us his servants, but calls us His friends. Talking with God develops a deeper relationship with Him. Students have also engaged in deep thinking about Religious Education concepts. In Year 5 / 6 have been exploring the concept of dignity and its impact in their lives. They have been encouraged to view this from theirs and other perspectives.



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.

St. Mary's, Whittlesea school celebrated their Feast Day; The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Because they needed to celebrate it together online, some students who were attending school came together to film an online liturgy for the St. Mary's community. This liturgy was then sent out to all the students and to the St. Mary's community on their Facebook page.

As part of the celebration of their Feast Day. The Year 6 students were asked to write a letter to Mary describing our current situation, thanking her for her works and asking her a question about her story.

Please find a link to the liturgy to watch or download: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c65sFifSpSEGTcl7k5ydDpNMhpQDVtYD/view?usp=sharing>

THE PARISH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE had a Zoom meeting on Tuesday 25 August. The Parish Safeguarding Children and Young People Committee continue to review our policy and practices in the life of the Parish using the Self-Assessment Tool. We have now reviewed 9 of 10 National Catholic Safeguarding Professional Standards.