



## CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

## Twentieth Sunday Ordinary Time. Year A. 16 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](mailto:merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au)  
**Website:** [www.christthelightparish.org.au](http://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: Fr Michael Wheeler,  
Mathew P Mathai, Rita Frendo*

*And those whose anniversaries occur at this time:*

*We pray for those who are ill in our community: Janna Stewart, Guia Go,  
Giuseppina Leone, Vivien Sguerzi, Linda George*

#### **Entrance Antiphon:**

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and  
look on the face of your anointed one;  
one day within your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 56:1,6-7

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 66

O God, let all the nations praise you!

**Second Reading:** St Paul 11:13-15,29-32

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Jesus preached the  
Good News of the Kingdom and  
healed all who were sick.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 15:21-28

**Next week: Yr A 21st Sun Ordinary Time**

First: Isaiah 22:19-23

Second: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

### **Gospel Reflection:**

What attracts us to this Canaanite woman in the Gospel is her amazing faith in Jesus. She doesn't give up pleading for her daughter to be cured by him. Even though she is aware that as a Canaanite she is held in little regard in the eyes of the Jewish people of the time, and even though initially there is an uncharacteristic reluctance by Jesus to respond to her request, nonetheless without anger or rancour she continues to plead for her daughter to be healed by him.

She is not discouraged and she can't afford to be. Indeed she is motivated by the love she has for her daughter, a love that is making her faith in Jesus even stronger and real. Her faith is more than just having a knowledge about Jesus. She has a deep trust in Jesus that there is a heart within him that is deeply compassionate and will respond to her need. In the end Jesus is moved by her trust in what he can do for her and he makes her daughter well again.

When we see the example of this woman pleading on her knees for her daughter, it is also to encourage us to pray to be likewise. We too at various times in our lives face all kinds of difficulties and trials as we do at this particular time of the COVID 19 pandemic. We too can be tempted to become discouraged or even despair in the face of what we are experiencing. It is to pray with trusting faith to the Lord who is close to us. It is in part to pray for that kind of faith that will hold us steady in the midst of uncertainty. It is to pray for the kind of faith that will enable us to persevere in living lives of integrity even when things do not turn out as we would wish them to be at the time. As disciples of Jesus we pray also for the kind of faith that will give encouragement and hope to those we encounter in the midst of daily life.

*Fr Martin Ashe*

## **UPDATE FOR PARISHES COVID-19**

We have to abide by stage 4 restrictions again for at least 6 weeks. **All Masses in our Parish have been temporarily suspended for 6 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](http://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](mailto:merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au) and a team member will get back to you as soon as possible

## **Report from the meeting of the Parish Leadership Team, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**Letter from our priests.** The Team thanked Frs Martin and Shymon for their recent letter to all parishioners. The letter was distributed via the parish website, through home delivery to those without internet access, and through the school communities. It was warmly received and provided an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our current situation in the light of faith, and to appreciate the many ways in which God is present and working in our midst.

**Connection and normality in Lockdown #2.** The Team reflected on the needs expressed by parishioners for some semblance of normality and connection with others in this difficult stage 4 lockdown. The parish continues with a number of initiatives including our live streaming Masses and the Care Call program, and with other programs such as the Sacramental program and the work of the Vinnies conferences, although adjustments have had to be made in line with current government restrictions. We are looking to develop some further initiatives that may help parishioners at this time and these will be announced in the parish newsletter in due course.

**Our parish schools.** The Team thanked and congratulated the principals and staffs of our parish schools for their outstanding dedication to the needs of the children and the school families throughout this time of pandemic. The move to home learning and remote teaching, as well as providing for the needs of children with special needs and families whose parents are essential workers, has been a huge challenge which has been met with energy, creativity and love. We have been delighted to hear of the work that the children and teachers are doing in the short reports that have been included in the parish newsletters, and we look forward to further reports.

## **Melbourne ACYF Lockdown Special**

Last year, more than 1,000 young Melburnians travelled thousands of kilometers to Perth to attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. They had a wonderful online reunion with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and Fr Rob Galea on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 5.00pm. To watch it click here: <https://youtu.be/mX-I4DC9w2g>



The **Legion of Mary** cordially invites anyone in our Parish, each evening at 8pm to join their group to **pray the Rosary via zoom**. Please contact Maria Mauer via email – [ivan.maria1@bigpond.com](mailto:ivan.maria1@bigpond.com) for the Meeting ID and Password to join. You would be most welcomed!

*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.*



## **Prayer for the People of Lebanon God of Compassion**

*You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve  
We pray for the people of Lebanon in this time of disaster  
Embrace those who died so suddenly and console those who grieve loved ones  
United in solidarity with our Lebanese sisters and brothers we pray:  
For healing and strength for those injured and suffering  
That the international community will respond with generosity  
And compassion  
And that stability and peace will be restored in Lebanon  
**We ask this in Jesus name. Amen**  
Jo Brady RSJ Caritas Australia*

**Caritas recent disaster in Beirut** Currently Caritas Australia supports two programs in Lebanon, including a Protection program supporting shelters for women and children who are survivors of gender-based violence, and a Humanitarian program supporting Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese host communities. Donations can be given through the following link; <https://www.caritas.org.au/learn/emergency-response/middle-east-emergency-appeal>  
You can also call 1800 024 413.