



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

Twenty Third Sunday Ordinary Time. Year A. 6 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: Sunila Fernando, George Oghanna
And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Iris Wileman, Constance
De Silva*

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

Entrance Antiphon:

You are just, O Lord, and your judgment is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Second Reading:

Romans 13:8-10

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us; **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Next week: Yr A 24th Sun Ordinary Time

First: Ecc 27:30-28:7

Second: St Paul to Rom 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Gospel Reflection:

The pandemic that we have been going through teaches us a lot about our personal and social lives. Mainly it teaches us 'how fragile we are without a healthy collaboration of humankind'. Your life depends on others. If one is careless about the required precautionary measures of Covid-19, it is a total destruction of humankind. So, it really matters very much to have a mutual understanding and caring of each other across the world. You have to take care of each other in order to protect our generation and vanquish coronavirus. In other words, you are the guardian of your own dear ones in the family and community.

The readings this weekend become so relevant according to this context today. In the first reading God tells Ezekiel that he is to be a Watchman for the house of Israel. He is obliged to warn Israel of moral dangers. In the gospel Jesus teaches that a true Christian, not only assists his neighbour in the temporal and spiritual needs with material help and prayer, but also with correction and counsel for an erring brother or sister who has damaged the community by his or her public sin. In the second reading, St. Paul points out that the love we should have for one another should be our only reason for admonishing the sinner.

As we reflect on these readings this weekend, let us affirm the responsibility and authority we have been entrusted through baptism by God. As a Christian, we are all God's prophets, God's representatives, God's Sentinels. We are all expected to give warning of approaching danger to our brothers and sisters with love. Because we are the guardians of the new Israel of God, the Church. We have received this authority by being the disciples of Christ that we have the power to bind and loose, to forgive and to reconcile sinners in his name. Therefore, we are the keepers of our brothers and sisters. So be merciful and responsible for others. Let us be concerned not only with the guidelines of this pandemic but inhuman behaviours to defenceless people like child abuse, elder abuse or spouse abuse, etc. Let us be vigilant not to allow inhuman behaviours again in our society. May God bless us in being guardians of each other for the sake of our beautiful life.

Fr. Shymon Thekkekalathungal, Assistant Parish Priest

UPDATE FOR PARISHES

COVID-19

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

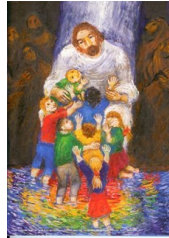


Parish Office Hours during Stage 4 Restrictions -

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.



Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to You for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender, in union with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. St Joseph, Pray for all our Fathers, Amen



“Let the children come to Me, for such is the kingdom of the heavens”, with these words Jesus instructed the Disciples to permit the children to draw near to Him. To assist our families during **MONTH OF PRAYER** - A DIY instruction guide for making a **FAMILY PRAYER SPACE** featuring what is needed, a Booklet of Prayers to get family members of all ages talking and listening to God! Including links to digital prayer resources are available through our website: www.christthelightparish.org.au. Share your FAMILY PRAYER SPACE design and we'll include it on our website. Let your Parish Community see how God's Spirit is alive and active in your family! Forward a photo to Sandy Starbuck, Pastoral Associate – sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au.

Season of Creation Pope Francis is encouraging parishes and schools to participate in a Season of Creation, commencing September 1 and ending October 4, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. Please check our website for details.



RCIA JOURNEY 2020/2021 - The RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS ENQUIRY EVENING will be on WEDNESDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER, at 7.30PM via ZOOM. If you or anyone you know may be experiencing a time of searching for God and desire to learn more about God and the ways in which the Catholic Church may provide a roadmap on their search, please invite them to contact me either by email: sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au or by phone 0402 984 525. I ask our Parish

Community to pray for those who are seeking to know “God who is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” [1 Cor1:9](http://1Cor1:9).

SOCIAL ZOOM. If you are free for 40 minutes, everyone is welcome. It will be held every Friday night, starting 11th September. 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

For those who would welcome an opportunity to gather in a 'zoom' group setting, a weekly session, Praying With Scripture, will be offered guided by Sr Maureen Delaney...more details to follow!

LETTERBOX DROP. We had hoped that we could drop off another newsletter to our Parishioners that don't have internet or email. As soon as the office is allowed to re-open, we will continue to do this.

PLT MEETING will be held on Tuesday 8th September via Zoom at 7pm.



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 **Weekly Guide to Prayer** will be featured on our website with **Reflection and Practice sections** to assist with nurturing your individual prayer practice. This weekly resource, together with Catholic Tradition Prayers and links to other digital resources are available on our Parish website www.christthelightparish.org.au. If you have any

questions please contact me. Sandy Starbuck, Pastoral Associate – sandy.starbuck@cam.org.au.

If you would like to click on this link, there is a great article on the impact of prayer during the pandemic.

<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Melbourne-News/ArtMID/453/ArticleID/24598/Study-to-look-at-how-pandemic-affects-prayer>.



We are a Child Safe Parish. We acknowledge that Child Protection Week is 7th-13th 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.