



## CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

## Eighteenth Sunday Ordinary Time. Year A. 2 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]  
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**Phone Number:** 9412 8493  
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**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: Myrna Pamplona  
And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Denise McKenney  
We pray for those who are ill in our community: Janna Stewart, Guia Go,  
Giuseppina Leone*

#### **Entrance Antiphon:**

O God, come to my assistance;  
O Lord, make haste to help me!  
You are my rescuer, my help;  
O Lord, do not delay.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 55:1-3

#### **Responsorial Psalm:**

The hand of the Lord feeds us, he  
answers all our needs.

**Second Reading:** St Paul to Rom 8:35-39

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
No one lives on bread alone, but on  
every word that comes from the  
mouth of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 14:13-21

#### **Next week: Yr A 19th Sun Ordinary Time**

First: Kings 19:9,11-13

Second: St Paul to Rom 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

#### **Gospel Reflection:**

What strikes us in the Gospel is the initial response of the disciples to the plight of the hungry crowd. They seem to be saying that they have no responsibility in responding to their hunger. They are so conscious of the little they have in the face of the enormity of the need before them. The response of Jesus is one of compassion for the people but the disciples are more concerned about their fears and inadequacies. Jesus challenges them and guides them to open their hearts and to recognise that with the little they do have, and in the midst of their fears, their generosity of heart can make an enormous difference for those who are in need.

Jesus takes the five loaves and two fish and blesses and breaks them. Then we observe that Jesus doesn't distribute the bread himself but calls on the disciples to distribute the bread to the hungry crowd. Divine generosity is being revealed through the human co-operation of the disciples. How wonderful to see that in the midst of a small amount of food, God's generous love can transform the littleness we feel to become a source of abundance for all.

In this time of pandemic, we too can sense our own inadequacies and fears in the face of increasing numbers of infections. We are all suffering as part of the one human family. In the face of the enormity of the situation, we are all suffering as part of the one human family. At the same time, we all hunger to be safe, to be protected, to be cared for, we hunger for a healing pathway to be found through this pandemic. We are invited to be open to what is happening to our brothers and sisters around us. In the midst of the little we might feel we have, Jesus is inviting us to recognise our unique worth and giftedness. He desires that his Spirit of generosity be active in us, in responding to the hunger of those who are isolated, of those who need encouragement, of those who are struggling for meaning and hope. Each of us as disciples of Jesus, share in the responsibility to satisfy the particular hungers that touch our human lives at this time.

**Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest.**

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

We have to abide by stage 3 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 SUNDAY 10:30AM MASS** Can be accessed at the Home Page of our website. **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.



***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.***

**REMOTE LEARNING.** During this time all of our Parish schools are involved with remote learning. At St Mary's, Whittlesea, the students in Year 4 this term are learning about the **Eucharist and the Sacrament of welcoming Jesus into their lives through Holy Communion.** Last week, they began with Jesus in their lives today. They were asked to recreate a meal with Jesus, like The Last Supper but add people whom they believed would be at the table in 2020. The teachers loved the additions to the table that included; important people in their lives (ranging from parents, siblings and grandparents), people who they see as an influence like Jesus (Fr Martin, Fr Shymon and their teachers) and people who are role models (sports players).



These images demonstrated the influence that Christ can have within their lives as he is present within their families, their faith and their aspirations. Over the coming weeks, the students will learn about the historical context of the Eucharist celebration through the eyes of Jesus and connect it to their own lives where Jesus is the Lamb of God and Bread of Life who sacrificed himself to be with us forever in the Light of God.

*One image from a student in Year 4 who has her family and some very special guests (Fr Martin and the Pope) sharing a meal with Jesus.*



**Thank you to the helpers** that hand delivered the letter from Fr Martin and Fr Shymon, plus the latest newsletter, to our parishioners that don't have access to email. This is a way for our whole Parish of Christ the Light to stay connected. Your generosity is very much appreciated.



St Paul reminds us in this line of Scripture that God hears our prayers and we are called to hear the need of others and to pray for them. Please call the Parish Office if you know of someone who is unwell at this time and we will include them on our Prayer List.

**LOCKDOWN #2. WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?** The novelty of Netflix binges, reading the bedside-table book pile, upskilling in Zoom and baking sourdough has worn off. Increased hours for prayer and quiet walks don't feel as welcome as they did in March and April. All this is a recipe for stress and anxiety. Faced with this situation, we each have a choice. We can respond in an unhealthy way (self-medicate), such as over-eating, working more, gossiping, over spending, low-grade substance abuse (such as 'just a glass or two' or misuse of prescription medication) as common ways we tend to respond to anxiety. None of these are healthy. Or we can choose a healthy way (self-care). Spending daily time in prayer, regularly exercising, sleeping more, eating well, connecting with friends, pursuing a non-work-related hobby, creating spaces in our diary for 'down' time and, importantly, getting professional help if we sense we are not coping. **Office for Mission Renewal, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.**



**CATHOLIC CARE SUNDAY APPEAL.** Next weekend is the Catholic Care Sunday Appeal. As our parish's social service agency, Catholic Care delivers family and relationship counselling, refugee and settlement support, education and school programs, and pastoral services. Donations from our parish community will help care for the most vulnerable families in our community. Your support and generosity will help break barriers to social inclusion and strengthen families and communities to live life to the full. You can donate online at [www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal](http://www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal) or call (03) 9287 5513.

**DURING LOCKDOWN, DRAW STRENGTH FROM JESUS.** In his latest video message, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli encourages the community to draw strength from Jesus, whose vulnerability on the cross revealed to the world the depths of His love. Let us take our fragility and bring it to the foot of the Cross, offering it up to Jesus and seeing in Him a way to live through these challenging times. More information can be found at [www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au)