

Are Most Christians Clueless About Their True Identity?

A good friend, Martha, “happened” to sit beside a self-proclaimed witch on an old bus heading towards the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico. Noticing Martha’s large cross identifying her as a member of the Lay Apostolate, the witch cynically remarked that most Christians were stupid because they were completely clueless about the potential power that existed within each of them. She pointed out all the people on the bus who were Christians. How did she know? The witch could “see” a blue light or aura around every baptized Christian. She mocked Christians who acted like weak victims but was pleased that the power of the Holy Spirit was usually wasted on them and lay dormant.

When her seat mate boasted that she fasted regularly for the destruction of Christian families, Martha was appalled. If a witch could fast motivated only by hate, surely she could fast with the help of the Holy Spirit while motivated by love. Surely she, who had taken vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience could start relying more on the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within her to intercede through prayer.

The light of Christ, His Spirit, dwells in all baptized Christians, whether we are aware of it or not. When Jesus said, “Remain in me as I remain in you”, He was stating a fact; He lives in us. Yet, most of us live our daily lives as if this were not the case.

We cannot experience anything of the spiritual life in ourselves apart from Christ. We do not acquire something personal in our experience because all the spiritual experiences of Christians have already been experienced by Christ.

Saint Paul also prayed that people would become enlightened “... that you may know”. We need our eyes opened so we may know the truth that the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts; if the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts we have the Father and the Son dwelling within. To many Christians, the Holy Spirit is unreal. They think He is as simply an influence for good, like a conscience, and that the Holy Spirit simply tries to show them how to be good.

Through the Holy Spirit... “God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us”... This love is the source of the new life in Christ, made possible because we have received “power” from the Holy Spirit...By this power of the Spirit, God’s children can bear much fruit. ... “We live by the Spirit”; the more we renounce ourselves, the more we “walk by the Spirit”.

A Catholic is not someone who merely agrees with a set of teaching, or strives to live a good life in his own strength and power. Life in the Spirit is for all because it is simply the normal Christian life. Let’s honestly choose to humbly trust that God is wiser and smarter than we are and so give the Holy Spirit permission to take charge in our lives. Let’s live a Holy Spirit led life and thus allow God’s power to heal and transform our world through us. *Be who you were created to be, and you will set the world on fire.* – St. Catherine of Siena

Melanie Jean January



Immaculate Heart ♥ of Mary Parish Thurgoona

Parish Priest: Fr John Fowles



Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith. James 2:18

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Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday from 9:30am to 12:30pm

Mass Times

Saturday: - (Vigil) 6pm

Sunday: - 9:30am & 5:30pm

Monday - 8am Mass

Tuesday - 10am, Mass of Mercy, *2nd
Tues of month Anointing of the sick*

Wednesday - 8am

Thursday- 7pm, Mass & Family Novena

Friday - 8am

Saturday - 8am, Blessed Virgin Mary Mass

Sacraments and Devotions

Adoration - Fri 8:30am to 10:30am

Precious Blood - 10am

Rosaries - Thurs 6:30pm and Sun 9am

Reconciliation - Thursday after Novena

Sat after 8am Mass & 5:30 to 5:50pm

Sun 9 to 9.20am & 5.00 to 5:20pm

Baptism and Marriage - By appointment

Legion of Mary Praesidia :

Mon 9:30am - Mystical Rose

Thur 5.30pm - Mother of Divine Grace

Wed 8:30am - Mary Immaculate

~ Parish Notices ~

First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Preparation classes will begin at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish on the 26th July 2017 at 4.30pm to 5.30pm each Wednesday until the 6th of September. If we can assist you to prepare your child, please email Parish office or contact Lyn Byrnes 60432232.

Wagga Wagga Diocese. "Centenary Week"

Saturday 29th July - Saturday 5th August

Serra Centenary Dinner Saturday 29th July, 6:30pm Wagga Commercial Club

Tickets \$60 each, includes two course dinner. Speaker: Fr Justin Darlow on the history of the Diocese. *Pre-paid tickets essential.* Payments can be made at the DPF or online to: Wagga Serra Club BSB: 066 789; A/c no: 6700398 (include surname as reference) Contact Dom Morton 0429 961 943.

Solemn Pontifical Mass for the Centenary Sunday 30th July, 10:00am St

Michael's Cathedral, Wagga Wagga, Principal Celebrant - Archbishop Prowse,

Homilist - Archbishop Carroll. Following Mass, the community is invited to

St Michael's Parish Centre for: Light refreshments and Historical display from the Diocesan Archives plus Ark of the Covenant display by Bernard McAlister.

Memorabilia available for purchase:

For further info: www.wagga.catholic.org.au

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 23 July 2017

Collect: Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

First reading Wisdom 12:13,16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly; Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second reading Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. *Alleluia!*

Gospel Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner’s servants went to him and said, “Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?” “Some enemy has done this” he answered. And the servants said, “Do you want us to go and weed it out?” But he said, “No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.”’ He put another parable before them: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.’ He told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.’ In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world. Then, leaving the crowds, he went to



the house; and his disciples came to him and said, ‘Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.’ He said in reply, ‘The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!’

Communion Antiphon: The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

Feasts of the week: *Tues*-St James, apostle, *Wed*-St Joachim and St Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *Sat*-Saint Martha

Lord hear our prayers for the:

Sick: Bob Mannering, Lyn Byrnes, Noel Glasgow, Matthew Cameron, Kieran Clifford, Theresa McCooke, *Departed:* John McDonald, Kevin Golding, Angela Gunning, *Anniversaries:* Kuriakose Mani

Readers: this week: Sat 6pm - Br Patrick Darcy Sun 9.30am –Steve McCrohan

Readers & Cleaners Roster - 29/30 July 2017

Readers: Sat: 6.00 pm - Luke Burton Sun: 9.30 am - Jorgette Hudson

Cleaning: Group 2 Mary and Jenny

Financial Report: Please make cheques payable to “Thurgoona Catholic Parish” or Direct Debit: BSB 012-708: Ac No. 3546 39223. Please include name on transfer. First Collection: \$366.85, Envelope: \$515.50+ Direct Debit: \$220.00, Loose: \$173.55

Of Wheat and Weeds: Scott Hahn - Sixteenth Sunday

But why does God permit the evil to grow alongside the good? Why does He permit some to reject the Word of His kingdom? Because God is slow to anger and abounding in kindness. Jesus assures us – evildoers and those who cause others to sin will be thrown into the fiery furnace at the end of the age. But by His patience, God is teaching us, that above all He desires repentance, and that all nations worship Him and glorify His name.

Even though we don’t know how to pray as we ought, the Spirit will intercede for us, Paul promises. But first we must turn and call upon Him, we must commit ourselves to letting the good seed of His Word bear fruit in our lives.

So we should not be deceived or lose heart when we see weeds among the wheat, truth and holiness mixed with error, injustice and sin.

For now, He makes His sun rise on the good and the bad. But the harvest draws near. Let’s work that we might be numbered among the righteous children who will shine like the sun in the kingdom of the Father.

