

The Church Cannot Teach Error,

Because She Was Founded by Jesus Christ, Who is God Himself

There are often strident demands, coming from both within and outside the Church, that she change her teachings to conform to modern notions. Given our era's preoccupation with sex, many of the demands for change involve related issues: homosexual acts, same-sex "marriage," adultery, premarital sex, contraception, and abortion.

But such demands show a misunderstanding of both the nature and power of the Church. There are many mistaken ideas today regarding the theology of the Church, even among the faithful. It is commonly thought that the Church can simply decide what we want to teach on any given topic; for example, if we want to simply change what we teach about abortion we can just do it. And modern critics assert that if we can do it, then we should do it...

The Church has no authority whatsoever to overturn the teaching on abortion, contraception, or divorce and "remarriage". We have no authority to overthrow biblical doctrines, the doctrines of Sacred Tradition, or any of our defined dogmas and doctrines. Something cannot be morally or doctrinally true one day and untrue the next.

Still others insist that the Church should read the surveys and change her teachings to conform to what the people in the pews think or want. Again, this is flawed ecclesiology... The Catholic Church exists to proclaim the teachings of her head and founder, Jesus Christ. She is His living and active presence and voice in the world.

Scripture says, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all sorts of strange teachings (Heb 13:8-9). Indeed, there are surely many "strange teachings" in our time! But Jesus and His Body the Church, which are one, cannot and do not change in the proclamation of doctrinal and moral truth...

Our affirmation of the revealed truth cannot change from "yes" to "no." We cannot negate what God has revealed; we cannot tear pages from Scripture; we cannot overturn sacred dogmas. Our "yes" to God's certain truth cannot become "no." Once again, the Church has no authority whatsoever to overturn what God has definitely taught. No one - not even a pope - can change the truths of Scripture, Sacred Tradition, or the doctrines definitely put forth for our belief by the Magisterium...

Consider the heroic witness of St. John the Baptist, St. John Fisher, and St. Thomas More, all of whom died rather than affirm or overlook divorce, "remarriage," or any illicit or adulterous union... The Church cannot simply reinvent herself to conform to current demands or preferences. She is to reflect Jesus who is truth incarnate, not the changing customs of the world. *Msgr. Charles Pope-NCR*



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

Pastoral Associate: Br Denis Devcich | **Acolyte:** Denis Golden
Phone: 02 6043 2222 | thurgoonacatholicparish@hotmail.com
Fax: 02 6043 2224 | www.thurgoonacatholicparish.com
Address: 20 Hartigan St, Thurgoona 2640 | PO Box 110, Lavington 2641
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 - Fri 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
Wed 8:30am - Mary Immaculate
Thur 5.30pm - Mother of Divine Grace

~ Parish Notices ~

Dates for First Holy Communion & Reconciliation: First Reconciliation - Sunday 9th September 2017 & First Holy Communion on Sunday 10th September 2017 at 9.30am Mass.

A Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Victor Zanin will be held at 1.30pm Monday the 28th of August. Please let us remember in our prayer's Victor's family. Victor generously gave his time and service during the building of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish complex.

Archbishop Prowse's pastoral statement on same sex marriage and the seal of confession is on the parish notice board for all to read.

*O Mary, powerful Virgin, you are the
mighty and powerful protector of the Church;
you are the marvellous help of Christians;
you are terrifying as an army in battle array;
you alone have destroyed every heresy in the whole world.
Allow me to praise you, Virgin, most holy;
give me strength against your enemies!
Tender Heart of Mary, be my safety!*

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sun 27 August 2017

Collect: O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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 Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second reading Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Communion Antiphon Cf. Ps 103 (104):13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.



Feast of the week: Mon- St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor;

Tues-The Passion of St John the Baptist, martyr

Lord hear our prayers for the: Sick: John Dwyer, Elizabeth Forbes, Bob Mannering, Kieran Clifford, Theresa McCooke, **Departed:** Victor Zanin, Noel Glasgow, Iean Cummings, Brendan Jacobs **Anniversaries:** Richard Westblade, Tony Packer, Fr Frank Clune, Bishop William Brennan

Readers: this week: Sat 6pm - Denise Murphy Sun 9.30am - Simon Horsfall

Readers & Cleaners Roster - 2/3 September 2017

Readers: Sat: 6.00 pm - Br Patrick Darcy Sun: 9.30 am - Br Denis Devich

Cleaning: Group 1 - Isabella & Dennis

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: \$433.25, Envelope: \$305.00+ Direct Debit: \$200.00, Loose: \$268.70

Oh, the Depths!": Scott Hahn - Twenty First Sunday

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!" Paul exclaims. Why? Because the heavenly Father reveals the mystery of His kingdom to Peter.

With Peter, we rejoice that Jesus is the anointed son promised to David, the one prophesied to build God's temple and reign over an everlasting kingdom.

What Jesus calls "my Church" is the kingdom promised to David's son. Isaiah foretold that the keys to David's kingdom would be given to a new master, who would rule as father to God's people. Jesus, the root and offspring of David, alone holds the kingdom's keys. In giving those keys to Peter, Jesus fulfils that prophecy, establishing Peter - and all who succeed him .

His Church, too, is the new house of God - the spiritual temple founded on the "rock" of Peter, and built up out of the living stones of individual believers.

Abraham was called "the rock" from which the children of Israel were hewn. And Peter becomes the rock from which God raises up new children of God.

World Day of Migrants and Refugees - 27th August 2017

Dear brothers and sisters!

Throughout the first years of my pontificate, I have repeatedly expressed my particular concern for the lamentable situation of many migrants and refugees fleeing from war, persecution, natural disasters and poverty...

Every stranger who knocks at our door is an opportunity for an encounter with Jesus Christ, who identifies with the welcomed and rejected strangers of every age.

Pope Francis

