

## It's Time For Political Incorrectness

It appears as if it is the only newsworthy issue to report on, are same sex marriage and transgender issues. I guess poor schools, crime, poverty, health care, worn roads and bridges and the ISIS genocide of Christians aren't that important. I never thought I would see the day that belief in marriage as only between a man and a woman and the simple fact there are only two sexes as created by God would be considered "hateful" and antiquated. But that day has arrived.

It appears that certain ideological agendas have taken over the public discourse with sexual orientation capturing the headlines and nothing is considered more damaging than to disagree with the so called "enlightened view".

After much reflection, I have concluded that we are in a "perfect storm". That is-our world and society have been thrown into a maelstrom of ideological moral transformation and it appears that education, government, and the media have bought into to it lock stock and barrel and woe to those who disagree.

A simple way of viewing the agenda is one of the culture accepting and the government granting so called "new rights" to be promoted and in some instances require the public to accept a new ethic. However, public opinion, court rulings and government regulation do not determine the truth about rights. Our rights do not come from the whims of government, personal feelings or social trends, they come from God and the Natural Law.

Political correctness is the attempt to squelch dissent, discussion and logic. If one can't debate intelligently then the attitude is to just deal with it by majority decree and eventual persecution of alternative opinions.



This has placed the Catholic and all Christians at odds with the culture and our government who attack the Catholic Church and other Christians who refuse to go along with their agenda. Traditional Church doctrine is at odds with this agenda and it seems, at times, that by being Catholic we are, by definition, "politically incorrect".

One thing is certain, we, as individuals need to wake up and recognize we are in a "perfect storm" and we need to confront it. The only way to confront political correctness is to challenge it – on the spot. We need to stand up and speak up. The question for us all is – Are we prepared to be politically incorrect and be willing to be called homophobic, transphobic, and the multitude of other "phobic's" if we disagree? Tom Collingwood • August 30

## Marriage is the one - flesh union

Marriage ...is the sacrament in which man and women, called to become 'one flesh' participate in God's own creative love. They participate in it both by the fact that, created in the image of God, they are called by reason of this image to a particulate union (communio personarum) and because this same union has from the beginning been blessed with the blessing of fruitfulness.

*Pope John Paul II's Theology of the body, December 15 1982*



## 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 - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017*

*First Holy Communion on Sunday*

*10<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 9.30am Mass.*



**Hav-A-Chat:** Just letting you know its 120 days until Christmas, but on Monday it is our girls gathering at the Thurgoona Golf Club at 12 noon. Look forward to seeing you there, feel free to bring a friend.

**Fathers Day;** Wishing all fathers a happy father's Day and thanking them for the love and care they have given us.

**God our Father, in your wisdom and love you made all things.  
Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers.  
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.  
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,  
may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Twenty Second Week in Ordinary Time, Sunday 3 Sept 2017

**Collect:** God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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 Jeremiah 20:7-9

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me: you were the stronger. I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt. Each time I speak the word, I have to howl and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!' The word of the Lord has meant for me insult, derision, all day long. I used to say, 'I will not think about him, I will not speak in his name any more.' Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones. The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

**Responsorial Psalm:** My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

### Second reading Romans 12:1-2

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

### Gospel Acclamation Cf. Eph 1:17-18

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

*Alleluia!*

### Gospel Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? 'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'



### Communion Antiphon Ps 30 (31):20

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

**Feast of the week: Friday**-The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Lord hear our prayers for the:**

**Sick:** John Dwyer, Bob Mannering, Theresa McCooke,

**Departed:** Victor Zanin, Noel Glasgow

**Readers: this week: Sat 6pm - Br Patrick Darcy Sun 9.30am - Br Denis Devich**

**Readers & Cleaners Roster - 9/10 September 2017**

**Readers: Sat: 6.00 pm - Luke Burton Sun: 9.30 am - Vera Galvin**

**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: \$341.75, Envelope: \$305.00+ Direct Debit: \$180.00, Loose: \$266.60

### For Your Life: Scott Hahn

Today's First Reading catches the prophet Jeremiah in a moment of weakness.

His intimate lamentation contains some of the strongest language of doubt found in the Bible. Following God's call, he feels abandoned. Preaching His Word has brought him only derision and reproach.

But God does not deceive - and Jeremiah knows this. He tests the just, and disciplines His children through their sufferings and trials.



What Jeremiah learns, Jesus states explicitly - To follow Him is to take up a cross, to deny yourself - your priorities, preferences, and comforts. It is to be willing to give it all up, even life itself, for the sake of His gospel. As Paul says we have to join ourselves to the Passion of Christ, to offer our bodies - our whole beings - as living sacrifices to God.

By His Cross, Jesus has shown us what Israel's sacrifices of animals were meant to teach - that we owe to God all that we have.

God's kindness is a greater good than life itself. The only thanks we can offer is our spiritual worship - to give our lives to the service of His will.

Peter doesn't yet get this. As it was for Jeremiah, the cross is a stumbling block for Peter. This too is our natural temptation - to refuse to believe that our sufferings play a necessary part in God's plan.

That's how people think, Jesus tells us today. But we are called to the renewal of our minds - to think as God thinks, to will what He wills.

In the Mass, we once again offer ourselves as perfect and pleasing sacrifices of praise. We bless Him as we live, confident that we will find our lives in losing them, that with the riches of His banquet, our souls will be satisfied.