

Exalt the Cross

Fr. Dwight Longenecker NCR

Exalt the crucifix and you will be exalted. Wear it and place it in your homes, schools and churches with true veneration. When an aggressive Evangelical challenges me for having a crucifix in church, my favorite apologetic one liners is to say, "We believe the Bible. Don't you know 1 Cor. 1:23, where Paul says, 'We preach Christ and him crucified?'" The General Instruction of the Roman Missal stipulates: There is to be a cross, with the figure of Christ crucified upon it, a cross clearly visible to the assembled people. It is desirable that such a cross should remain near the altar even outside of liturgical celebrations, so as to call to mind for the faithful the saving Passion of the Lord. Notice that the other churches and religions do not have crucifixes. The Jehovah's Witnesses say the cross is a pagan symbol and teach that Jesus was crucified on a stake. Mormons don't have crosses anywhere in their temples. They have an angel instead. Protestants have crosses, but not crucifixes. They give weird reasons for this. Some say "Catholics don't believe in the resurrection" because we have crucifixes. Others teach that the crucifix is a form of idolatry. I suspect they do not have crucifixes for two reasons. First, just because it's Catholic. Second, because there is a strain of Manicheism within much of Evangelical Protestantism. Manicheism was a heresy that was dualistic — saying physical and spiritual did not mix, and the spiritual was superior to the physical. That distrust of the physical comes from their Puritan roots and extends into a distrust of the physical expressions



of worship and faith. Their bare empty crosses are part of their denial of the sacraments and denigration of the physical in the faith. Jews, of course, hate the cross because it for them a stumbling block. Which brings me to the Muslims: The relics of the cross were discovered by the Empress Helena in the fourth century and the church of the Holy Sepulcher was built by her son Constantine to honor the cross and resurrection. That ancient church was destroyed by the Muslims in the seventh century. It was rebuilt but in the 9th and 10th century by the Crusaders, but the Muslims continued to attack it and burn it. Then in 1009 the church was again leveled by the Muslims before being rebuilt later that century. You will have seen crosses featuring the resurrected Lord with arms outstretched. A more traditional form of portraying the glorified Lord is to portray him in robes of prophet, priest and king with arms outstretched on the cross. While these icons of the Lord may have some devotional uses, they are not crucifixes and they should never be used as a substitute for the main crucifix in a church. Worldlings hate and despise the cross. Demons howl at the sign of the crucifix. They flee from the crucifix. This is why the crucifix must be central in every Catholic church, home and school. This is why, when you see no crucifix, just an empty cross or a cross with something other than the crucified Lord on it, you are right to suspect heresy, schism and a hidden hatred of Jesus Christ and his true gospel. A crucifix is one of the signs of orthodoxy. Exalt the crucifix and you will be exalted. Wear it and place it in your homes, schools and churches with true veneration.



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

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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

Tuesday: - 10am, *Mass of Mercy*

2nd Tues of month: *Anointing of the sick,*

Wednesday: - 8am

Thursday: - 7pm, Mass & Family Novena

Friday: - 8am

1st Saturday of Month only: -8am- with devotions to Bl.V.Mary

Working Bee: Sat - 9am to 11am

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 5:30 to 5:50pm before Vigil,

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

Mary's Mantle - 1st Sunday of the month after 9.30am Mass

Parish Notices

Confirmation Today: Today our young people who have been preparing for the past 8 weeks will be Confirmed during the 9.30am Mass. We continue to pray for those newly confirmed and all their families and those who have helped them along the way during their preparation.

Prayer for our Confirmands

Come Holy Spirit, come we pray!

As you bestow upon these young people, newly Confirmed,

Your seven fold gifts fill also the hearts of all present here today! Amen.



Plenary Council 2020: All our parishioners are invited to join with the other parishes of Albury for the second of our Listening and Dialogue Sessions to be held at the Mantra, Smollet St., Albury at 7pm this Tuesday, 25th.Sept.



PRAY
TOGETHER

READ QUESTION
AND REFLECT

SHARE AND
LISTEN

PRAY AND
RESPOND

25th. Sunday in Ordinary Time 23rd. September 2018

Collect: O God, who founded all the commands of Your sacred Law upon love of You and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping Your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

First Reading

Wisdom 2:12,17-20 ©

The godless say to themselves: 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. 'Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

Responsorial Psalm The Lord upholds my life. **Psalm: 53:3-6,8**

Second Reading

James 3:16-4:3 ©

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

Gospel Acclamation **2 Thessalonians 2:14**

Alleluia, alleluia! God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Alleluia!*

Gospel

Mark 9:30-37 ©

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself



last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'



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Communion Antiphon:

Psalm 118:4-5

You have laid down Your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping Your statutes.

Saints of the Week

Wed/ 26th. Sept.: **Sts. Cosmos and Damian, Martyrs**

Thurs. 27th. Sept.: **St. Vincent de Paul, Priest**

Sat. 29th. Sept.: **Sts. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels**

Lord hear our prayers for the Sick: Lyn Byrnes, Helen Quirk

For the recently departed: Maxine O'Brien, Pat Pass. Anniversaries: Graham Stocks, Johnno Lawrowicz, Bernard Tilley

Financial Report: cheques payable to Thurgoona Catholic Parish or Direct Debit: BSB 012-708 Ac No. 3546 39223 Include name on transfer First Collection: \$546.40 Second Collection(Envelope)\$388.00 Direct Debit \$385.00 Loose \$252.45

Readers this week: Sat 6pm-Damien Tocher 9.30am-Magdalene Kaur

Readers Roster: 29nd/30th September 2018

Sat: 6.00 pm –Peter Tobin 9.30 am - Simon Horsfall

Cleaning Roster: Sat. 29th. Kathleen Horsfall and Alison

Excerpts from a Reflection on Today's Gospel

Dr. Scott Hahn

In the First Reading, it's like we have our ears pressed to the wall and can hear the murderous grumblings of the elders, chief priests, and scribes-who last week Jesus predicted would torture and kill Him. The liturgy invites us to see this passage as a prophecy of the Lord's Passion. We hear His enemies complain that "the Just One" has challenged their authority, reproached them for breaking the law of Moses. And we hear chilling words that foreshadow how they will mock Him as He hangs on the Cross: "For if the Just One be the Son of God, He will .. deliver Him ..". Today's Gospel and Psalm give us the flip side of the First Reading. We hear of Jesus' sufferings from His point of view. Though His enemies surround Him, He offers Himself freely in sacrifice, trusting that God will sustain Him. The Apostles don't understand this second announcement of Christ's passion. They begin arguing over issues of succession. Again they are thinking not as God, but as human beings. Again Jesus teaches them that they must lead by imitating His example of love and self-sacrifice. They must be "servants of all," especially the weak and the helpless-symbolized by the child He embraces and places in their midst. This is a lesson for us, too. We must have the mind of Christ, who humbled Himself to come among us. We must freely offer ourselves, making everything we do a sacrifice in praise of His name. We must seek wisdom from above, desiring humility, not glory, and in all things be gentle and full of mercy.