

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful”.

As God Showed St. Catherine of Siena, Mercy Melts ‘Hidden Sin’. Jesus commands us to take on the merciful heart of God:

St. Catherine of Siena was once confronted by God about a “hidden sin” she had: the sin of judging people. She used to think that she had a gift for reading human nature and noticing other people’s faults, especially priests’ faults. But, one day, God pointed out to her that the insights she was receiving about other people’s weaknesses were not coming from him — they were coming from the devil. She came to see this was “the devil’s trap.” The devil allows us to see each other’s faults so that, instead of wanting to help, we start to judge their souls and condemn them. Catherine admitted this to God, saying, “You gave me ... medicine against a hidden sickness I had not recognized, by teaching me that I can never sit in judgment on any person.

If we face the truth about ourselves and experience our own daily struggles with sin, we are less likely to set ourselves up in judgment over others. If we truly recognize how much we need God’s mercy — then our hearts will be much more compassionate when we encounter other people’s faults. If we’ve experienced how patient and gentle God is with our weaknesses, then we are going to be more merciful toward others. That’s why St. Catherine learned that when we notice a person’s faults, we should say to ourselves, “Today it is your turn; tomorrow it will be mine, unless divine grace holds me up.”

But if we tend to respond to others’ faults with condemnation and not compassion, it may be because we ourselves have a serious moral problem. It could be because we have not truly come to terms with our own weaknesses and sins and experienced God’s mercy.

As St. Bernard of Clairvaux taught, “If you have eyes for the shortcomings of your neighbour and not for your own, no feeling of mercy will arise in you, but, rather, indignation. You will be more ready to judge than to help, to crush in the spirit of anger than to instruct in the spirit of gentleness.” St. Bernard went on to explain how only the truly humble man will have compassion for his brothers’ weaknesses. It is fellow sufferers that readily feel compassion for the sick and the hungry. ... You will never have real mercy for the failings of another until you know and realize that you have the same failings in your soul.”

(Edward Sri is professor of theology at the Augustine Institute.)

Why is the Church not a democratic organisation

Democracy operates on the principle that all power comes from the people. In the Church, however, all power comes from Christ. This is why the church has a hierarchical structure. At the same time, however, Christ gave her a collegial structure as well. The Hierarchical element in the Church consists in the fact that Christ himself is the one acts in the Church when ordained ministers, by God’s grace, do or give something that they could not do or give by themselves, in other words, when they administer the Sacraments in Christ’s place and teach with his authority. (Youcat)



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 ~

SRE - Catechist: On 7th June at 10am until 12 noon in the Marian Centre, Victoria Kirley will be training catechist in classroom management followed by (optional) Bible study 1hour 45 minutes.

Calling young Australians: Young people across Australia are being called to share their views about life, faith, and their experience of Church through an online survey to capture their opinions as part of a national consultation process that will inform an international conversation in Rome next year. The survey can be completed online: www.catholic.org.au/youthsurvey Further information refer to Church notice board.

A Case for Christ: screening at the Regent Cinema on 29/30/31 May at 7pm. Tickets available at Chalk and Chat, David Street, Cost \$15. This movie come recommended to all.

Prayer revealed at Fatima to the three children
*“My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee!
I beg pardon for all those that do not believe,
do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.”*

The Ascension of the Lord, Sunday 28 May 2017

Collect: Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope. Through our Lord, Your son, who lives and reigns with you in unity.....

First reading Acts 1:1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'



Responsorial Psalm Ps 46 (47):2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second reading Ephesians 1:17-23

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named not only in this age but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world *Alleluia!*

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



Communion Antiphon: Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia

Feast of the week: *Wed* - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary;

Thur - St Justin, Martyr; *Sat* - Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs

Lord hear our prayers for the:

Sick: Noel Glasgow, Ray Curtis, Kieran Clifford, *Departed:* Pat Coleman, George Honey, *Anniversaries:* Patricia Gordon, Jack Fowles,

Readers: this week: Sat 6pm - Lucy Findlay Sun 9.30am - Steve McCrohan

Readers & Cleaners Roster - 3/4 June 2017

Readers: Sat: 6.00 pm - Peter Tobin Sun: 9.30 am - Jorgetta Hudson

Cleaning: Group 6 Vera Galvin

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: \$425.35, Envelope: \$395.00+ Direct Debit: \$310.00, Loose: \$243.55

The Ascension of the Lord

Christ's Bodily Ascension: In the first reading, we hear that Jesus "was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight." In the psalm we respond, "God mounts his throne to shouts of joy...." But it's in the second reading, from Ephesians, that we see what this actually has to do with our own lives. Christ's bodily Ascension into heaven reveals "the hope that belongs to his call." It is this: the humanity that we all share has entered eternal bliss, body and soul, and this means we now "have confidence that we too shall go where Christ has preceded us". Through the bodily ascension of Christ into heaven, the Church proclaims the "divinization" of the body! Christ's bodily ascension into heaven indicates "the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory" and that's where following Christ leads! Oh Lord, "may the eyes of our hearts be enlightened," that we may know "what are the riches of glory" that await your followers!