

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona



Show me your faith apart from your works and I by my works will show you my faith

James 2:18

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:00pm
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PARISH NOTICES

Unfortunately we are back in lockdown and cannot celebrate mass together so this weeks bulletin will be a modified version with the Sunday readings and reflections. If you know of someone who would like a copy, get them to email me, paulmcd@westnet.com.au or text 0401999915.

In place of a homely Fr Hart has written a reflection for us. *See page 3.*

Online Masses: See list and links on the back page

Financial Report Cheques payable to IHM Parish Account
Direct Debit: BSB640000: Acc. No.111270902 Include name on transfers.
1st Coll: 481.90. **2nd Coll:** \$191.65 **Env:** \$385.00 **Dir Debit:** \$555.00

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR B

19/09/2021

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

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.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First reading

Wisdom 2:12,17-20

The wicked prepare to ambush the just man

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

Psalm 53(54):3-6,8

The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause.

O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth.

The Lord upholds my life.

For proud men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life.

They have no regard for God.

The Lord upholds my life.

But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life.

I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good.

The Lord upholds my life.

Second reading

James 3:16-4:3

The wisdom that comes from above makes for peace

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

cf 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

Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me

After leaving that place 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.’
universalis.com

Prayers of the Faithfull

Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

For our sick, Katerie Byrnes, Gary Smith, Mathew Smith, Wendy Mills, & Carmel Baker.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

For our recently departed, Fr. Peter Carauna, Bruce Duck, Margaret Doyle and those who’s anniversaries occur at this time including John Lawrowicz & Nicholas Gleeson,

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 118: 4-5

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

Prayer after Communion

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord.
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REFLECTION FOR THE 25th SUNDAY.

It’s a week since the lockdown was lifted and some sense of normality returned in our lives but now it’s back on again. In the Gospel it is six days since Jesus began to share the message and fact that suffering and death were on the horizon for Himself, but the disciples’ hearing and perception hadn’t changed. As an extra, Marks Gospel texts also included two exalted events, the transfiguration, and the healing miracle of a deaf mute, which Jesus referred to in the beginning of today’s Gospel. “... after leaving the mountain”.

How disappointing for Jesus that his followers worry and compete for positions

of prestige and honour. “What were you arguing about on the road?”. “Who do you say I am?” is a proper question for any disciple, whether then or now, there or right here. **What do we do with the gift of discipleship?**

This is where the little child piece is so important, in Palestine society children had no social standing at all. “Anyone who welcomes one of the little children in my name welcomes me!” He makes himself as vulnerable as a little child. He is within the little ones! He is also within the disciples. Jesus did not abolish ambition. Rather, he redefined it. For the ambition to rule he substituted the ambition to serve others. False ambition is very damaging to the unity of the community. It springs from jealousy and selfishness. Self interest creates conflict and often results in painful divisions. Christians seek to extend to others the love of Christ, which they themselves have experienced. This is the Church!!



Our Church began when the Holy Spirit fell on **people**, the group had no organisation or property, but gathered with Mary, Mother of Jesus and listening as Jesus commanded. The spirit fell on the unwashed fishermen, peasant carpenters, ordinary housewives, suspect tax collectors and seedy marginal folk, glued together by 3 things:

- Baptism into Jesus
- The breaking of bread
- Witness of ordinary people

They were the basis of being church. The presumption was that each one upon whom the spirit fell had gifts to use to spread the Gospel.

St Paul wrote forcefully about what it meant to be Church:

“There are many different gifts, but it is always the same Spirit, there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord.”

“... Now Christ's body is yourselves, each of you with a part to play in the whole” *1 Cor 12:4-6, 13:27*

Why do people convert?

Not because of lofty doctrine or loftier buildings, but because they see the church in action in the lives of people who **are** church. They show Christ in action. Back to the above question:

“What do we do with the gift of discipleship we have received?”

Humility? Acceptance of all? Faith? Appreciation?

Fr Paul Hart

FEASTS THIS WEEK:

Saint Matthew - Apostle, Evangelist. Tues 21th Sept.

PLENARY COUNCIL

Listen to what the Spirit is saying

In October 2021, the Catholic Church in Australia will gather for the first Assembly of the Plenary Council to be held since the second Vatican Council. In 2018, when the decision to hold a Plenary Council was announced, the entire People of God in Australia began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God and by listening to one another's stories of faith. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the first Assembly will be a mix of in-person and online delivery.



See the up-to-date [Plenary Council Journey](#).

Responses to the discernment journey which began with the Listening and Dialogue Phase, followed by the Listening and Discernment Phase can still be accessed for your consideration and reflection. The six Thematic Discernment papers and Reflection Guide, prepared by several writing groups are also still available, by clicking [here](#).

As we make the journey towards the first Assembly, we are all invited to be mindful that the members (formerly called delegates) will be commissioned and participate in formation sessions in preparation to fulfil their role as members. At the same time, we are all called to continue our own journey of prayer and discernment as we look forward in hope to the renewal of the Catholic Church in Australia.

A PRAYER FOR DISCERNMENT

Lord Jesus, you are the life of our community.

You refresh us and lead us in the right paths.

You established the Church to be your body in the world,
to carry forward your mission
and bear radiant witness to your love.

Give us the grace to support and nurture one another
as we discern and exercise the spiritual gifts you have given.

Give us the courage to speak boldly of your truth
and listen humbly to one another
as we seek to live according to the Spirit.

May we discover anew the path on which you are calling us,
so we may become a channel of God's mercy and love
for our neighbour and the communities in which we live.

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
to discern with wisdom and to live the Gospel with joy.

Guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council,
and unite us to your loving purposes. Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

[Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay](#)

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

One night I dreamed a dream. As I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, One belonging to me and one to my Lord. After the last scene of my life flashed before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that at many times along the path of my life, especially at the very lowest and saddest times, there was only one set of footprints. This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.

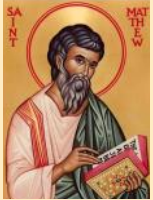
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you, You'd walk with me all the way. But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life, there was only one set of footprints. I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me." He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, It was then that I carried you."



Author unknown

SAINT MATTHEW

Little is known about St. Matthew, except that he was the son of Alpheus, and he was likely born in Galilee. He worked as a tax collector, which was a hated profession during the time of Christ. According to the Gospel, Matthew was working at a collection booth in Capernaum when Christ came to him and asked, "Follow me." With this simple call, Matthew became a disciple of Christ.



From Matthew we know of the many doings of Christ and the message Christ spread of salvation for all people who come to God through Him. The Gospel account of Matthew tells the same story as that found in the other three Gospels, so scholars are certain of its authenticity. His book is the first of the four Gospels in the New Testament.

Many years following the death of Christ, around 41 and 50 AD, Matthew wrote his gospel account. He wrote the book in Aramaic in the hope that his account would convince his fellow people that Jesus was the Messiah and that His kingdom had been fulfilled in a spiritual way. It was an important message at a time when almost everyone was expecting the return of a militant messiah brandishing a sword.

catholic.org/saints

ONLINE MASS LINKS:

[Mass For You at Home](#)

[St Christopher's Cathedral Canberra](#)

[Sacred Heart North Albury](#)

[St Parrick's Cathedral Melbourne](#)

Any time

11am Sunday and anytime after.

9:30am Sunday and anytime after.

Daily & 11am Sunday and anytime after