



The Parish of

St Anne & St Bede



Parish Office: 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:00am – 12:00pm

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For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.

1st Collection

Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account Presbytery
Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 666017079

2nd Collection

Account name: St Bede's Church Account Church
Account BSB: 083 347 Account no. 458706734

Please click on the link below from 5pm on Saturday, 1st August, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFXLOmrzAtE>

First Reading - Isaiah 55:1–3

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm – Ps 144:8-9, 15-18

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us:
he answers all our needs.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.

You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **R.**

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. **R.**

Second Reading – Romans 8:35,37–39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 14:13–21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.



The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Today's miracle story of the multiplication of the loaves and fish says something first and foremost about our deepest hunger and God's understanding and his compassion for us.

God is concerned about satisfying our hunger, the hunger of our spirits, our deeper selves for the things that bring us an inner satisfaction and completeness; the things that money can't buy; those things that give us meaning and purpose in life.

God is aware of our hunger for true peace and happiness that we can find only in him and he is always available to us when we come to the realization that nothing we can do or gain of our own efforts in life can really bring us that completeness. God also knows that we have physical hunger, that there are certain physical needs we have that require attention if we are to live dignified human lives; like shelter, security, food and education. Do we operate out of a sense of scarcity or a sense of abundance? Especially during this Coronavirus Pandemic!!!

In our Gospel this weekend, the disciples talk of scarcity, not enough food. The disciples had done their maths (*they must have an excellent maths teacher, you reckon?*). Five thousand in the crowd, plus women and children. And, there are some important things missing; no grocery store; no Coles, no Aldi or Woolworths, no fast food restaurant; KFC, McDonald's, or Hungry Jack's, and no the Village Café or Xocolatl Artisan & Café, in sight. Not even someone selling hot dogs or hot cross buns. No one peddling cokes.

The disciples have five loaves of bread and two fish. And, that's all. A sense of scarcity. They tell Jesus, "Dismiss the crowds." Send them away, tell the people to "go to the villages and buy food for themselves." *Ah ha ...pause for one and a half seconds.....* should we blame the disciples? I'll leave it you and tell me when restrictions are lifted!

When we operate out of a sense of scarcity, we never have enough. A sense of scarcity. We feel deprived when our mobile phone display tells us, "No Service." (*got this same problem???*) It's all a matter of perspective. When we shift from a shoe rack to having a shoe room, we'll never have enough shoes.

Now with mobile phones, we must be able to call from anywhere at any time. With a sense of scarcity, no matter what we have, it will never be enough. Christ thought differently. Jesus knew, God the Father showers us with abundance. He took the loaves and fish, blessed them, and everyone ate their fill. And, no light snack. A full, satisfying meal. With twelve baskets left over. Christ operates with a sense of abundance.

God takes care of us. Especially, when it comes to something to eat. Time and again the Bible tells us about God providing food for his chosen people. Bounty flows to God's people. Abundance comes from God. The Father showers us with more than plenty. God's a good provider. So says the Bible.

But, there's a catch. Jesus says to the disciples: "Give them something to eat yourselves." You, you give these people food to eat. Christ is telling us we have to do our part. To spread his bounty, God wants our help. God gives us an abundance, we are to distribute these gifts to the people of God. Christ is telling us to bring his love to others.

Today's readings address the problem of the gap between the rich and poor in our society and our world. Isaiah speaks about the abundance which God provides - grains, wine, milk - enough to satisfy everyone. Still, we are not satisfied.

Like Jesus' disciples, we fear hunger; we want to send needy people away, get them out of our sight. Jesus takes a different approach. He gives thanks to the Father, blesses the bread, breaks it and distributes it. With Jesus there is more than enough for all.

When we celebrate the Eucharist, we imitate the actions of Jesus - thank, bless, divide and share. The miracle may well have been the multiplication of food, but it was also a miracle of the transformation of selfish people to acquiring generous hearts at the touch and example of Christ. The generosity of the boy and the generosity of the few who had food. It was the miracle of bringing to birth love from resenting hearts.

Dear brothers and sisters, as God gives to us, we are to give to others. As we are fed, so we are to feed.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Christ invites us to come to him with all that burdens us. In His name we offer the following prayers.

We pray for Pope Francis and all the Bishops of the Church. May they lead us in reaching out to those most in need of physical and spiritual sustenance.

Lord hear us

We pray for leaders of all developed nations. May they be inspired to find ways of addressing compassionately the problems of hunger and disease in our world.

Lord hear us

We pray with gratitude for all the volunteers who have come to the aid of those whose lives have been ruined by the pandemic that has spread throughout our world.

Lord hear us

We pray for our parish community. May our celebration of the Eucharist together strengthen us in our faith so that we may reveal Christ to others.

Lord hear us

We pray for the sick of our parish and for those who care for them. We pray for those who have died recently especially **Lorenzo Giustolisi, Anne Harland, Margaret Wilson** and **Macushla Cosgrave** and those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially **Kama Coyne** and **Isobel Prowse**. May they share in the banquet of the Lord, as promised to us all.

Lord hear us

Celebrant: We praise you, O God, for all the ways in which you care for your people. Receive these prayers on behalf of those who seek healing and relief from life's burdens. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The simple and loving act of Spiritual Communion (written by St. Alphonsus Liguori) can be made when we are unable to attend Mass and receive the Eucharist. Pray these words:

My Jesus,
I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You;
never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer

Gracious God,
We give thanks anew for your providence and presence.
We prayerfully seek your grace,
amidst COVID-19 here and overseas.
We pray for those in need of healing.
We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving.
We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain
all those who are serving in response.
We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment
amidst the many choices and decisions
facing our national, community and medical leaders.
We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do
to help those who are vulnerable.
This prayer for our nation in the family of nations,
with all that is on our hearts,
we gather now and pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



(Ecumenical prayer from the National Council of Churches)



SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL VULNERABLE PEOPLE

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display in all churches and all Parish Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.