



The Parish of

St Anne & St Bede

Parish Office: 1 Severn St, Balwyn North

Office Hours: Closed during Stage 4 Restrictions.

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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, 26 September, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests:

<https://youtu.be/dM-001jCKGI>

First Reading - Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm – Ps 24:4-9

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
Because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

Second Reading – Philippians 2:1-11

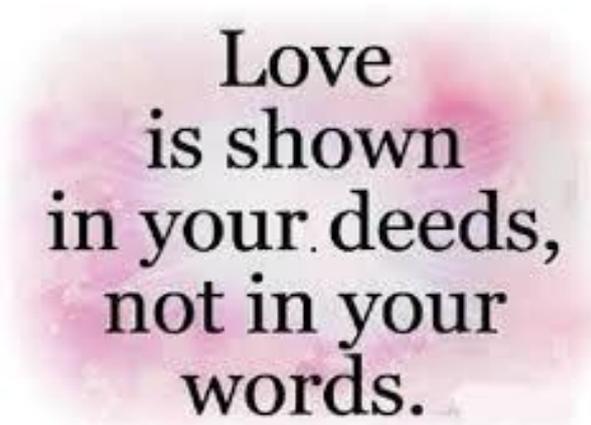
If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel – Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Love
is shown
in your deeds,
not in your
words.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Much of Jesus' teaching was in the form of stories that were taken from daily life, about ordinary things and ordinary problems. They were not directly about supernatural things; they were about worldly things. The first lesson we can take from them is that the drama of our salvation – collectively and individually – is lived out in daily life, not in some parallel, spiritual, universe.

“A man had two sons”. How often do we hear variations on that in our families and communities? One was a yes man, and the other was impetuous. One calculated what he needed to say to get ahead, and the other said the first thing that came into his head and later thought better of it. Which is more true to himself? Jesus was taking aim at those who say – and sometimes do – the “right thing” to win approval, but have an empty heart.

In the Second Reading today, Paul doesn't tell the Christians in Philippi what they should do, rather he tells them to follow their hearts – “if love can persuade at all”. The things of the Spirit, the tenderness and sympathy he calls for, are not things of the head; they are things of the heart.

I was listening to the radio early on Thursday morning and I heard a speaker reflect that she has observed that years after an event that at the time was a calamity, people sometimes look back and say that, in other ways, it was one of the best times of their lives. Not because of the calamity, but because of what it brought forth out of the human spirit. It sometimes takes adversity and tragedy for the human spirit to show its true transcendence.

It has been said that Western Catholicism is a religion of the head rather than the heart. Like all sayings, it conceals as much as it reveals. It is true that Catholicism likes order and reason – we have Creeds and laws, defined dogmas and heresies. We promote apologetics – the reasonable presentation of the Catholic faith. All that is good, and it often serves us well. But we also are a people of the heart and the community hearth. That is where our culture as Catholics comes from – the soaring music of classical Catholic tradition, the exuberance and pathos of religious art, the quiet and heartfelt piety of so many of our traditional hymns, and the tenderness and sympathy of our social action.

In this time of crisis, as we live our daily lives in often confined and constrained circumstances, we have all probably seen the best and the worst of ourselves and those who are near and dear to us. In the midst of this best and worst of times, let us concentrate of the things of the heart: the persuasion of love, the medicine of forgiveness and the encouragement of tenderness.

Have a serene week!

Fr John Salvano

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: St. Paul tells us to do nothing from selfish ambition but, in humility, regard others as better than ourselves. In this spirit we present our petitions before God.

We pray for Pope Francis and all leaders of the Church. May their ministry be inspired by the model of Jesus, in his humble service of God's people.

Lord hear us

We pray for our leaders of Government. May the Gospel standard of humility be an example to those who serve humanity.

Lord hear us

On this Refugee and Migrant Sunday, we pray for all those people forced to leave their home countries and for those who have chosen to do so. May they find peace and acceptance in our land as they strive to make new lives for themselves.

Lord hear us

We pray for each one of us. Having been given the freedom to make choices, may we be aware of God's will for us and respond accordingly.

Lord hear us

We pray for the sick of our parish, especially **Moya Rowan**, and for all who have asked for our prayers. We remember especially all those residents in our nursing homes and for all people affected by the coronavirus pandemic throughout our world and for those who care for them.

Lord hear us

We pray for those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Michael Dupuche**, **Gertrude Sexton** and **Gaetano Isgro**. May God welcome them into the Eternal Kingdom and give them the reward of their faithful service.

Lord hear us

Celebrant: Gracious God, extend your compassion and mercy towards all whom we have recommended in prayer. 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.

PARISH NEWS

World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2020

This [2020 World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#) (Sunday, 27 September), let's remember, pray for, and commit to working to change the reality of many in 'our own backyard'. [Members of Catholic Social Services Victoria](#) and [parishes across the state](#) are making considerable efforts to assist people seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas. Many remain in harsh circumstances in detention centres, and the majority of the [115,000](#) living in Australian community have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID -19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair.

CatholicCares across Victoria have seen a three times increase in the amount of people with a temporary visa seeking access to Emergency Relief over the past few months, as compared to last year. [CatholicCare Greater Melbourne, Geelong & Gippsland](#) also continues to provide other practical help to a number of asylum seeker families who receive supported housing as well as financial support for food, clothes and utility bills.

[St Vincent de Paul Society](#) is assisting people seeking asylum, migrants, refugees and international students in many different ways across the state. They are paying for rent, food, bills, education and providing support through advocacy and connection. It is not just in the cities: The Mooroopna SVDP conference in northern Victoria are supporting the rent and bills of 26 families, as COVID -19 has limited work options for many who were employed in casual and precarious work.

Pope Francis in [his message for Migrant and Refugee Sunday](#) tells us "You have to know in order to understand" and "It is necessary to be close in order to serve". He also points out to us that "It is necessary to cooperate in order to build" — only when different elements of the community work together – organisations, individuals, parishes, schools and universities — can we effectively both advocate for systemic change and provide for people's immediate necessities.

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.