



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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Website: parishofstanneandstbede.org.au

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, 10 October, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests: <https://youtu.be/l4CfyF9KrMY>

First Reading - Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 22 (23)

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures

where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely your goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

Second Reading – Philippians 4:12-14,19-20

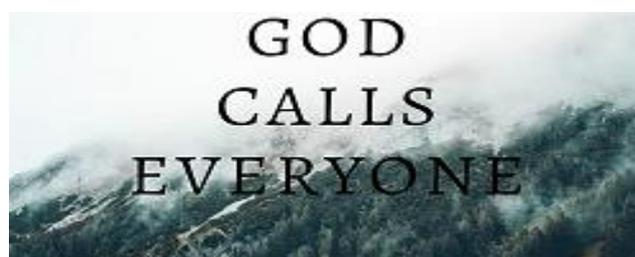
I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel – Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

The readings today are full of the imagery of feasts and banquets. Those are wonderful images for the Kingdom of Heaven – not taken literally, but because those images convey the sense of life, celebration, community and good will.

With the plethora of images in the readings, we can overlook what is the central image of the parable in the Gospel: the king who after the initial knockbacks becomes the gracious host who wants everyone to be able to enjoy the feast. That image is of God: who wants everyone to celebrate at his table.

Before communion, I hold up the Host and say *“Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb”*. The meal we share at Holy Communion looks forward to the heavenly banquet. And in making that proclamation, we are also challenged to take note of the parable and the imagery of today’s readings.

One of the issues that can divide people is the issue of who can receive communion. It seems to me that we can divide opinions according to two starting points:

On the one hand are those who start from the point that receiving the Eucharist is a great privilege and that we have to show we are worthy. There is some merit in that: the Eucharist is the greatest gift that God gives us in this life. But there is also a caution in that approach: we can never be worthy in the face of God – only trust in His mercy.

The other side of the debate starts from the fact that the Eucharist is total gift, and is food for the journey, healing for the wounded, and strength for the weary. That is all of us. Surely then, those who struggle are most in need of the Eucharist. God goes out to the highways and byways, in the imagery of the Gospel, not to the privileged. Of course, it does not absolve all of us from striving to live our lives as close as we can to the life of the Gospel. But should it be we who make the judgements?

We should hold precious the image of God which the parable today gives us: the God who calls us all – the good, the bad, and the indifferent, to the banquet. The expectation is that we will prepare ourselves now by being appropriately dressed for the occasion! And what is that?

St Paul gives us a description of the clothing of the disciple:

“You should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience ... over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts.”

[Col. 3:12-15].

Have a good week!

Fr John Salvano

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: St. Paul tells us that God will fully satisfy our every need. Confident in this divine mercy we bring our petitions to God.

We pray for Pope Francis and all Bishops of our Church. May they be inspired to proclaim God's invitation to the heavenly banquet and lead others to accept it.

Lord hear us

We pray for the people of the Middle Eastern nations suffering from the violence of wars. May Isaiah's prophecy be realized "that all nations will share in God's banquet on the Holy Mountain".

Lord hear us

As we acknowledge World Mental Health Day this week-end, we pray especially for all people struggling with worry and stress in their lives. May they find comfort in God's healing love and compassion.

Lord hear us

We pray for our faith community as we share in this Eucharist. May we reach out beyond our comfort zone to those in physical, emotional and spiritual need.

Lord hear us

We pray for the sick of our parish, especially **Eugene Falk** and **Paul Murphy**, 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, especially **Yvonne Cluning, Frank Forbes,** and **John Newton**, and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Jo and Bill Boyle, Margie Cass, Donato De Thomas, Teresa and Maria Anne, Joy Prouse, Mary Donohoe, Kevin Boyd, Mary O'Connor,** and **Christopher Sinclair**. May they be welcomed at the heavenly banquet prepared for us all.

Lord hear us

Celebrant: God of abundant mercy, we believe you will supply for us whatever we need. For this we thank you, through Christ our Lord. Amen

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

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

Tenth Anniversary of the Canonisation of St Mary MacKillop

Save the Date - Courage Hour

16 October 2020, 8pm your local time

Join us for a global Vigil to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Mary's canonisation. This special event will be an hour of deep peace, prayer and reflection on Mary's courage. You can host your own celebration or participate online via the Sisters of Saint Joseph website: <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary/> Together, we can all follow Mary's lead and **#TakeFreshCourage**.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF CANONISATION

**Take a moment
light a candle**

We invite you
to join together
with family or friends
and respond to
St Mary MacKillop's call

16 October 8pm wherever you are

COURAGE HOUR
Take fresh Courage...

 Sisters of Saint Joseph
of the Sacred Heart

for more details visit [sosj.org.au](https://www.sosj.org.au)

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.