



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, 24 October, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests:

https://youtu.be/MKoD_KSOp9A

First Reading - Exodus 22:20-26

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this:

"You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 17(18):2-4, 47, 51

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel – Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

The First Reading and the Gospel today both speak of how we should treat each other. The First Reading seems to come from a “thou shalt not” perspective; and Jesus in the Gospel from a very positive command: “You shall love your neighbour as yourself”. That sometimes seems to sum up one of the differences of atmosphere between the Old and New Testaments.

We all like to have a sense of belonging to particular people and particular places. That is what helps give us our identity and security. And that is good. However, when it becomes exclusive, or when we define ourselves over against who is not “one of us” then it is neither good nor what we are called to as Christians.

The tradition of Israel was to first offer hospitality and then to ask who the stranger was. We still see that operating in some traditional societies. If we first ask who a person is or where they come from, we are immediately creating a difference which may divide us. If first we offer hospitality and then find out about the person, then that is showing interest – not possible hostility.

The Book of Deuteronomy in the Old Testament – one of the Books of the Jewish Law – said *Love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt*. Jesus helped us see that everyone is our neighbour *and we must love our neighbour as ourselves*.

For us, the challenge can often be not so much about loving a person we have never met before, but loving the person we don’t want to meet again. It could be a physical neighbour, or a member of our family, or a business colleague. That brings home the challenge that Jesus doesn’t call us to love everyone in theory, to “love humanity”, but to love the person who happens to be in front of me, or beside me – whether I want them there or not.

The Eucharist is the great sacrament of God’s love for us. We have been starved of the sacrament for so much of this year, but we have not been starved of God’s love which is always with us in so many other ways. Now that we are beginning to have opportunities to receive the Eucharist again, may we more fully live what is prayed for in the Final Prayer of today’s Mass:

*May your sacrament, O Lord,
Perfect in us what lies within it*

God is love, and if we live in love, we live in God.

Have a good week!

Fr John Salvano

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Jesus has commanded us to love our neighbours as ourselves. We pray today for our neighbours everywhere in their time of need.

We pray for Pope Francis and the Bishops of our Church. May their lives and teachings give witness to a God who is compassionate and just to all people.

Lord hear us

We pray for our political, civil and business leaders. May they move beyond power and control to work for all people.

Lord hear us

We pray for people who feel lonely and abandoned. May they feel the Lord's healing touch through genuine concern being shown to them by those around them.

Lord hear us

We pray for our community of faith. May we be inspired by Christ's love to show sincere care and consideration for all those people in our lives.

Lord hear us

We pray for the sick of our parish and for all those in hospitals and nursing homes. We pray with gratitude for all those who care for them, especially during the coronavirus pandemic sweeping our country.

Lord hear us

We pray for those who have died recently, especially **Paul Murphy** and **Lydia Lobo**, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Edda De Pellegrin, Maria Slavec, Patricia Walsh, Helene Ooghe, Cyril D'Souza, Frank Dixon, Domenico & Mario Caruso**, and **the deceased members of the Unkles, Stebbing and Doyle families**. May they now rejoice in the presence of God's unconditional love.

Lord hear us

Celebrant: O God, listen to these prayers on behalf of our neighbours near and far. We believe we cannot love you without sharing in your concern for them. We ask this in Jesus' name. 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

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR!

Archbishop Comensoli has made the following appointments to take effect on Wednesday 18 November:

Fr Toan Nguyen will take up an appointment as Assistant Priest at Our Lady's Parish, Craigieburn. Fr Lenin Thenamirtham will take up an appointment as Assistant Priest at the Parishes of St Anne and St Bede, and St Bridget's.

Toan has been a much-loved Assistant Priest here for nearly three years, and we thank him for his joyful and stylish presence among us. We wish him well in his new appointment in a large, growing outer-suburban parish. Hopefully many of you will have an opportunity to say "goodbye" over the next few weekends. Unfortunately we will not be able to have a large gathering to honour him.

Lenin has been the Assistant Priest at the partnered Parishes of Greensborough, North Greensborough and Diamond Creek for the last two years. He was ordained five years ago. I am sure you will make him feel very welcome and at home.

Ready, Set, Pray! – Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Ready, Set, Pray! Children's Liturgy of the Word @ Home video series has been created to provide an engaging space for families to encounter Jesus through the Sunday gospel.

Each week includes an invitation for families to create and gather in their own prayer space, to sing, hear the Gospel, pray and respond creatively through an activity.

This weekly resource follows the familiar Children's Liturgy of the Word format provided in many parishes – but moved to an online setting. It can be used by families in their homes, and also by teachers and catechists.

The series consists of 10 weekly sessions of 15-20 minutes duration, commencing from Sunday 18th October and continuing each Sunday until Christmas. We hope this experience of gathering for prayer will encourage families in this time when they cannot gather for parish celebrations of Eucharist. It is produced by Proclaim: The Office for Mission Renewal at the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Please find below a link to the YouTube playlist – which will grow as we add each weekly episode. This below link will allow families to 'catch up' on previous episodes they may have missed but also access the most current episode.

<https://bit.ly/ReadySetPray>

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.