



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, 8th August, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests:

<https://youtu.be/BGob5tlhSpY>

First Reading - 1 Kings 19:9,11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm – Ps 84:9-14

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**

Second Reading – Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I hope in the Lord,

I trust in his word.

Alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Today, I am going to reflect as much on the First Reading, as the Gospel. In the First Reading, we heard about Elijah on the mountain. The background is that Elijah had just won a great contest with the prophets of Baal, a pagan god. Elijah thought that having done this he would be popular among the people of Israel, but he wasn't. So Elijah did what we often do when we feel hardly done by – he withdrew into himself and “went up the mountain”. And there he sat in a cave.

Then he was told by God to go out onto the mountain and meet the Lord. And what we heard was that God wasn't in the great and obvious things – the wind or the earthquake or the fire. God was in the sound of the gentle breeze. Elijah wanted God to throw his weight around, to rescue him, to show his power – but God wanted to show Elijah he was quietly there with him all the time, and to be respectful of the free-will and the autonomy he had given us.

Do we find ourselves in a similar situation at the moment? In the social media I have heard people imply that God has visited Covid19 on us, or that we should expect God to save us from the crisis we are in. Perhaps that should cause us to ask ourselves: what do we pray for in the midst of this, and what do we expect of God?

The Gospel raises similar questions for us: in the storms of life, what is the message that Jesus gives us? What did he do in the scene in Matthew's Gospel today: he told his disciples “Courage, do not be afraid!” and he took Peter's hand and held him. The writer of the Gospel doesn't say Jesus told the wind to drop – he just reports that the wind dropped when Peter felt and knew that Jesus was holding him.

What might that be saying to us? Can the storms of life seem less threatening when we remember that God is there, holding us? Not because God rids us of the storms themselves, but because He gives us the courage to not allow our fear to paralyse us. He strengthens us to confront the storms of life, knowing he is with us.

Let us pray for those who are ministering to the sick and the dying in this crisis; for those who are charged with making the decisions as to how society responds to this crisis; for those search for vaccines; and for those who mourn the loss of loved ones. And in the homes, let us find God in the quiet – in the little things of our daily life and routine. He is with us, he is holding our hand, and when we think we are sinking, he is there to gently carry us.

And as God is gentle with us, let us be gentle with each other. We are a people called to hope and compassion.

Fr John Salvano

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: We pray for Pope Francis and those who lead the Church in difficult times. May they be seen to be reaching out to the people of our world living in fear and oppression.

Lord hear us

As we have just celebrated the feast of St. Mary McKillop, we pray for our nation. May more people be inspired by her vision and example to embrace the Gospel with courage and creativity.

Lord hear us

We pray for those who make our laws and for all who administer them. May they always be guided by the belief in the dignity of human life and reach out to people with care and compassion.

Lord hear us

We pray for each one of us. When we feel tossed about in the storms of our lives, may we experience the presence of Jesus reaching out to us.

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 **Pauline Egan** and **Graziella Mascali** and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time especially **Maria Dinh, Anthony D'Mello, Nunziata Isgro** and **Max Reid**. May God welcome them into the Eternal Kingdom and give them the reward of their faithful service.

Lord hear us

Celebrant: God of mercy, receive our prayers this day and bring all people safely to the shores of your love. 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

Parish Office Hours

During stage 4 restrictions, the Parish Office will be closed. You will still be able to contact us by phone using the usual Parish telephone number: **9401 6355** or **in case of emergency 9401 6368**. Thank you.



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.