



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, 15th August, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests:

<https://youtu.be/7zv3oN2hHX8>

First Reading - Isaiah 56:1, 6–7

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm – Ps 66:2–3, 5–6, 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**

Second Reading – Romans 11:13–15, 29–32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom,
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 15:21–28

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, ‘Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.’ But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. ‘Give her what she wants,’ they said ‘because she is shouting after us.’ He said in reply, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.’ But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. ‘Lord,’ she said ‘help me.’ He replied, ‘It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the house-dogs.’ She retorted, ‘Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master’s table.’ Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.’ And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

There's an old saying which goes, "If at first you don't succeed, try and try again."

That was just what the Canaanite woman did in today's gospel. She kept on trying, begging the Lord, pestering the Lord to cure her possessed daughter.

What is this gospel passage telling us?
"Have a little faith and never give up."

Each of us are called to believe in the presence, love and care of the Lord in our lives. God and men and women are lovers, not business people in a negotiation. Like a bride and groom, God and us make promises to one another.

Faith means we believe in the promise and in a loving God. With faith, we trust that we are sons and daughters of God and that God is with us through the joys and sorrows of our lives. We have no promise of a life free from pain – we do have faith, however, in the promise of our God to wipe away our tears. Our God looks for our patterns of faithfulness, looks for us to try, sometimes fail, admit failures, seek forgiveness, try harder again and rely more on God and each other.

The woman in today's gospel, had love, faith and steadfast persistence. She tried and tried again. As it has been said: 'You just can't beat the person who won't give up.' Jesus in today's gospel is one example of this. He could not ignore her pleading. Have you got this same experience?

Look, the whole world is trying the best to fight Coronavirus. Each one of us is a part of this. Especially doctors and nurses are working '24/7' to fight this 'dangerous enemy.' Not only those heroes working in the hospitals, nursing homes, and so on, but also all the leaders around the world are working hard to find out the best way to win this virus and to save people's lives. If they don't succeed at first, they keep trying and trying another way. They would never ever give up trying. As a doctor once said: "Never give up on any patient."

Brothers and sisters, an important lesson that we might learn in today's gospel is to never ever give up: Always persevere. If you fall down, then get back up and try again. It doesn't matter if it is the first time, or the millionth time, you must always get back up again. Regardless of what challenges you are facing, you have to keep pushing forward.

Life isn't going to slow down or easy for us, so we have to work to keep up. Each time we get up, that is more character, more strength we have developed. Never stop reaching for the stars. Sometimes tomorrow is about learning from yesterday.

"Do your best, and to God you leave the rest." All that is expected of us is not to give up trying. May we never give up on people, and on ourselves. People will never know, but in the end, we ourselves, and God Himself will know if we have given our best, or our scraps.

Fr Toan Nguyen

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: We pray for Pope Francis and all Bishops of our Church. May they show true leadership in being open to all people who are reaching out for understanding and compassion.

Lord hear us

We pray for our national leaders. May they accept Isaiah's challenge to have care for justice and to act with integrity.

Lord hear us

We pray for the people of the Holy Land. May this land where Jesus walked and talked be blessed with lasting peace between Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Lord hear us

We pray for all those who are suffering. May they, like the woman in the Gospel, experience that Christ has the power to heal them and their loved ones.

Lord hear us

We pray for those who have died recently especially ***Fred Faraj Gebrail Ters, Viktor Jurkic, Fr Michael Wheeler and Matt Vale*** and for all whose anniversaries we recall at this time. May they inherit eternal life as promised to them by Jesus.

Lord hear us

Celebrant: O God, listen to the prayers of your people and let your face shine upon us. 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.

Letter from Fr John

15 August 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Last week, we had an initial Zoom meeting with representatives of the parishes of our pastoral cluster: Deepdene/Balwyn/Camberwell, Surrey Hills/Wattle Park, Greythorn, and Balwyn North/Kew East. The meeting was for people to get to know each other and look at the particular starting points for each parish, as well as begin the conversation as to how we might work more closely together.

The Deepdene affiliated parishes are already working on a consultative process within their cluster to look at the future dreams and mission of their parishes. We hope to do the same, learning from their experience. Parishioners of Balwyn North and Kew East have some experience of that in the path to reunification some years ago.

On the Feast of St John Vianney, Patron Saint of Parish Priests, recently, Archbishop Comensoli wrote to all the priests about the current circumstances of the church of Melbourne, and inter alia, said:

There are opportunities in this time of Covid lockdown that might open us up to be ambitious – to strengthen our hands – for viability and vitality ... You are familiar with hearing me speak of our parochial faith communities as “local neighbourhoods of grace” and of the imperative we have to reorient our parishes on a missionary footing. Might not our current circumstances be an opportunity for neighbouring PPs, PPCs and parish teams to come together through videoconferencing to consider how to engage in a few common missionary efforts? Might this be a time, for example, to tackle the obvious issue of the multiplication of Sunday Masses, which suffer because of “competing” timetables within local areas.

There are a multitude of missionary activities that we can look at together as well: catechesis for our young people approaching sacraments, outreach to baptised Catholic youth, social justice witness, are just some – all areas where we know that we are stretched as individual parishes; as well as vital administrative challenges due to the increasing complexity of compliance issues. The Instruction from the Congregation for the Clergy I spoke of two weeks ago also makes the observation that:

In the case of a multiple parishes entrusted to a single parish priest, or those within pastoral units: it is possible in these cases to establish a single Pastoral Council for several parishes [n.108]. This is something to which I am giving careful consideration as a step in the near future.

Our representative group will have another virtual meeting in a week's time, and I hope that in the near future we can begin to outline some of the steps we can take to be cooperative mission-focussed parishes in the region.

On another matter, given the much stricter restrictions in force for broadcast Masses and movement, we will be broadcasting from St Anne's, Kew East for the next few weeks as we are already onsite. However, we will be asking lectors from the various churches to be involved, and will provide the required Permitted Work Permit for each lector.

We have had a few funerals in the past fortnight, which are particularly difficult for families as only ten mourners are permitted, and social distancing and masks are mandatory. We already have two funerals booked in for next week. For all families suffering a bereavement at this time, we will be offering a memorial Mass at a future date when the Mass can be open to anyone who wishes to attend.

We are also beginning a Friday afternoon prayer session on Zoom, at 5.00pm, just for fifteen minutes or so, with a chance to catch up afterwards for a chat.

Please keep safe and well, and especially remember the elderly and vulnerable in our midst.

Fr John Salvano

Parish News

St Vincent de Paul bin at St Anne's

The St Vincent de Paul bin at St Anne's has been closed during the current restrictions. Thank you to all who generously donate clothes and toys through the weekly collection from the bin. We will inform you when it is "open for business" again.

ASRC Foodbank

Thank you to all who have continued to contribute to the Asylum Seeker Foodbank Project. Thanks to your efforts, the Social Justice Group recently donated \$700 to the Foodbank to purchase some eggs for the Asylum Seekers and have received acknowledgement and thanks for the contribution.

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.

