



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](http://parishofstanneandstbede.org.au)

**For those wishing to contribute to Stewardship or Priests' collection, the Parish account details are listed below for electronic funds transfer.**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection

**Account name: St Bede's Presbytery Account  
Presbytery Account BSB: 083 347 Account no.  
666017079**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, to watch Mass Online, celebrated by our priests:**

<https://youtu.be/1d76wL8yx1M>

### **First Reading - Isaiah 22:19–23**

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant  
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.  
I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father  
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and to the House of Judah.  
I place the key of the House of David  
on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.  
I drive him like a peg  
into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory  
for his father's house.

*The word of the Lord.*

## Responsorial Psalm – Ps 137:1–3, 6, 8

**R. Lord, I thank you for your faithfulness and love.  
I thank you for your faithfulness and love.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
Before the angels I will bless you,  
I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

All earthly kings, shall thank you,  
when they hear the words of my mouth.  
They shall sing of the Lord's ways  
How great is the glory of God. **R.**

## Second Reading – Romans 11:33–36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

*The word of the Lord.*

## Gospel – Matthew 16:13–20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*



## *REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL*

In these times I think we have all probably cleaned out a few cupboards and boxes, and even the garden shed. Recently I was going through a box of things that I have carted around from presbytery to presbytery and I found some old recipes my mother had hand-written for me when I first left home. One was for her lemon cake.

Mum's recipes only told you the basics – the rest was something you worked out. She knew how she did things in the kitchen, and we should work out how we did them. Sometimes that worked, and sometimes it didn't. Perhaps she had more faith in our cooking ability than we did. She gave us the keys, and what we did with them was our responsibility.

Keys – we all have them, don't we? They are a necessary part of life that gives us access to things that are not general access. They also imply trust given when we receive keys, and trust offered when we give them out.

In the First Reading today we heard how the Lord dismissed Shebna, who was the master of the royal household. His crime was to use some of the king's money to build himself an elaborate tomb. I guess he never got to use it – or perhaps if he did, it was earlier than he expected. In his place as master of the household, the Lord places the key of the House of David on Eliakim. That key symbolised the role that Eliakim was given – to admit or to bar access to the king of Israel. Sometimes in the history of Israel that could be a life and death responsibility.

And then in the Gospel we hear of keys again: I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven ... Peter is granted this after he has demonstrated his faith in Jesus, and had been given a new name – one that showed he was called and chosen by God for a responsibility. It was his "baptism" – just as we are called and chosen at baptism. Our call is not for ourselves but to be sent – to be given our own set of keys for life.

All that said, perhaps the Gospel scene is not so much about Peter's faith in Jesus – though his profession was undoubtedly sincere and heartfelt - as it was about Jesus' faith in what Peter could be. Not what he was then – for Peter didn't cover himself in glory during Jesus' earthly mission: he was a rock that crumbled under pressure! It was about what Peter would become through his journey through to death, and beyond.

For ourselves, there are times we need to reflect on God's faith in us, even as we often try to weigh up our faith in God. God believes in us! God is faithful to us! God can see more in us than we see in ourselves! At the moment, when forces bigger than ourselves seem to so impinge on life, and perhaps we feel that we can't prove to ourselves what we are worth, it is good to remember that God has faith in us.

In our Catholic tradition, we see our Church founded on the events of today's Gospel and other similar events. It is not that God was naïve that the history of our Church would be glorious and straightforward. It is that God is faithful to us in all the failures and disasters that befall us, and God trusts that we still strive to bring about the signs of the kingdom of God.

We have all been given the keys to the kingdom – we all choose to open some doors in life and close others, to bind up wounds, to loose from fear, to open up hope - in other words, to share the feast of the kingdom of God. God trusts us that we will do so.

Have a good week, keep safe, and keep close the people you love.

And as for the result of my mother's lemon cake recipe – that is for Toan to tell you!

Fr John Salvano

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** "From him and through him and to him are all things". With confidence we present these petitions before the throne of mercy.

We pray for Pope Francis and all the Bishops of the Church. May they always be mindful of the responsibility handed down to them of guiding those entrusted to their care.

*Lord hear us*

We pray for civil and religious leaders. As they struggle to gain control over the viral pandemic spreading throughout the world, may they share a willingness to dialogue in mutual trust and respect for the betterment of their people.

*Lord hear us*

We pray for those struggling with their faith. May they be moved by the Spirit to see in Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Light.

*Lord hear us*

We pray for our faith community. Unable to be bodily present at the Eucharist, nourished by the Eucharistic prayers, may we put our lives at the service of others, especially those most in need.

*Lord hear us*

We pray for the sick of our parish and for all who have asked for our prayers. We pray for those who have died recently especially **Carmel Ryan** and **Peter Murphy** and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially **Tim Cosgrave**. May they now rejoice in the presence of God's unconditional love.

*Lord hear us*

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, your Son, Jesus Christ, has promised us that your Church will endure against all evil. Strengthened by this faith, we ask that you hear the prayers of your people. 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.

## **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.