



The Bulletin Board

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your ears, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Opening Prayer:

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

First Reading: Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "If you are willing to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord". Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God".

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 33:2-3. 16-23

Response *Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Response

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

Response

3. They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Response

4. Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.

He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Response

5. Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. *Response*

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 21-32

Beloved, be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God, Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 6: 60-69

Jesus said to his disciples: “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you”. When many of his disciples heard this, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe”. For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father”. Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God”.

Religion A-La-Carte?

A Homily adapted from Daily Homilies & Reflections by Fr. Martin Hogan, a Catholic Priest working in the Dublin Diocese)

The gospels for the last four Sundays have been taken from chapter 6 of John’s gospel where Jesus speaks of himself as the Bread of Life and of the need to eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have life..... ‘This is intolerable language’, his followers were saying.....‘How could anyone accept it?’ Jesus was very aware that many of his followers were complaining, yet, he did not make any effort to soften his teaching in order to hold on to his numbers. Rather, he insists that the words he has been speaking, all his words, are

spirit and life. As a result, the gospel tells us that 'many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.' Jesus suddenly lost a whole swathe of his following.

In our culture success can often be a game of numbers. A successful television programme is one that has a very large viewing audience. If the numbers watching declines, the programme is in trouble. Democracy is based on majority vote. The candidate with the most votes gets elected. Every political party is anxious to maximize their vote on election day. In all kinds of ways, numbers matter in our society. If some event that is organized only attracts a small crowd it is considered a failure.

From the perspective of the culture of His time and of our own culture he was suddenly less successful.

Today's Gospel is about coming to a decision and sticking by it. Jesus had the rare ability to offer a straight option you were either for him, or against him. He himself was fully committed to his mission, and to all that was best for us, even if at times his disciples complained. He was used to being criticised by his enemies, but when he could not depend on the loyalty of his friends, he had to call them to account.

In a way it was hard on the disciples, because, by the nature of what Jesus offered, it could not just be some sort of an a la carte menu, from which they could choose whatever suited them. When some of his followers began to walk away, he didn't run after them and try to reason with them. That was not his way. Rather he turned to those who stayed and challenged them to commit themselves.

There are three types of people in every gathering. those who cause things to happen; those who watch things happening; and those who don't know what is happening! Peter was the one who stepped up to the occasion. "Lord" he said "You alone have the words of eternal life. We know, and we believe that you are the Christ, the Holy One of God." For Jesus, losing the others was worth it, if it left him with loyal followers like Peter.

A group of Christians were gathered for a secret prayer meeting in Communist Russia, at the height of the Stalinist era. Suddenly the door was broken down by the boot of a soldier, who entered the room, and faced the people with a gun in his hand. They all feared the worst when he said, "If there are any of you who don't really believe in Jesus, get out now while you have a chance." There was a rush to the door and in the end only a small group remained. The soldier closed the door and stood in front of those who remained, gun still in hand. Finally, a smile appeared on his face, and as he turned to leave the room he whispered "Actually, I believe in Jesus, too. And believe me, you're much better off without those others!"

The teaching and the life of Jesus will always challenge us at some level of our being. There may even be times when we will feel like walking away from it. That is why it is so important for us to keep renewing our response to the Lord's presence and invitation. The Eucharist is the primary moment when we commit ourselves again to the Lord's vision for our lives; it is our weekly opportunity to make our own those words of Peter in today's gospel, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life.'

Confirmation – 2015



Sacrament of Confirmation – Sts Peter and Paul's - Wednesday 11th November 7.00pm

Parent Information Session 7.00pm - Wednesday
14th October, 2015 in the Sts Peter and Paul's Parish Hall,

Saturday 17th October - 4.45pm Preparation Session in the Parish Hall - Upper Room above the Café, followed by 6.00pm Ritual Mass

Saturday 24th October - 4.45pm Preparation Session in the Parish Hall - Upper Room above the Café, followed by 6.00pm Ritual Mass

Saturday 31st October - 4.45pm Preparation Session in the Parish Hall - Upper Room above the Café, followed by 6.00pm Ritual Mass

Wednesday 4th November 7.00pm Rehearsal followed by meeting with Bishop Peter Elliott at 7.30pm

Saturday 7th November - 4.45pm Preparation Session in the Parish Hall - Upper Room above the Café, followed by Confessions at 5.15pm and 6.00pm Ritual Mass

POPE FRANCIS AND OTHER PROPHETIC VOICES: CALLING US TO RESHAPE THE PUBLIC SPHERE

Thursday 17 and Friday 18 September, 8.30am–5pm, St Michael's on Collins, 120 Collins Street, Melbourne

A Conference to reflect on and respond to Pope Francis' Pontificate. Pope Francis' vision of faith challenges us to renew our commitment to the public good, be inclusive and just and to welcome the poor and the vulnerable. It is a vision which embraces people of all faiths, cultures and all people of good will. Open to all to join us in this unique event where together we will listen, speak, reflect and engage in a common effort to renew the public sphere. Speakers include: Fr Frank Brennan sj AO, Dr Rachael Kohn, Professor Patrick Dodson, Fr Jerry Rosario sj (India), Dr Jenny Te Paa Daniel (New Zealand).

Cost: \$125.

Details: iace@acu.edu.au or 02 9701 4176 or www.acu.edu.au/popefrancis



Emmaus Friendship Group: We had a lovely gathering last Tuesday, our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th September, 12noon Mass and then a light lunch and some laughter afterwards in the Emmaus room.
Sue & Carol



Please remember to keep the following people and their families in your prayers, Val Boothey, Valda Hogan, Maurie Smith, Chrissa Dickinson, Wim Wubben, John McIlvenna, Lilian Stewart, Flo O'Hara. Julian Insall, Sr Joyce Stewart, Celestine Ressia, Gabrielle Herrin, Terence Rahill, Fr. Jim De Laurier O'Carm., Janet Dent, Andrew Sibley, Klara (1 year old suffering from Leukemia, Rosetta Condon Nicki Fabro, Pietrina Pergreffi, , Peter Woods, Marj Bateson, Michael Pucella.



Let us pray for:

Recently Deceased: Salvatore Pugliese, Rosary 7.30pm Tuesday 25th August, 7.30pm. Funeral Wednesday 26th August at 10.00am

and those whose **anniversaries** occur about this time **William & Dulcie Lee, John & Dulcie O'Neill, John Kirby, Calogero Tabacco, Ray & Raelene Couch, Jack Danaher, Emilia Knefel, Valerie Grierson, Gino Mariani.**