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6th October 2019 27th Sunday in **Ordinary** Time

Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14 Luke 17:5-9

"Everyone can be great because everyone can serve. You don't have to have a college education to serve. You don't even have to make your subjects and verbs agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace." - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Those were the days when the supply of electric power for lighting the streets was available only in a few big cities in India. In one of the big towns, every street had three or four oil lamps each with a glass chimney set on a pole, the municipal authorities employed some labourers to light the lamps at about 6:00 p.m. in the evening. The expenses incurred towards oil, wick and chimney were met by the municipalities.

There was one lamplighter who did his job cheerfully and scrupulously. He had great faith in God and always recited the name of his dear God, Rama (One of the prominent Hindu gods). He was very punctual and systematic in his work. He used to come to his ward exactly at 5:00 p.m., clean the chimneys, pour oil into the container, set the wick right and light the lamp. While doing all these he would be singing, "Janaki Jeevana Ram, Karoonga Tumhara Kam," meaning thereby, "Oh Lord of Janaki, I

am doing only your work. I am only serving you.

Reports reached the municipal authorities that the lamps lit by this devotee shone brighter all through the night while the lamps lit by others in the town were dim and many of them burnt only for a part of the night. The matter was taken for investigation. The reporting officer submitted to the authorities the fact that all the lamplighters in the town were given the same oil and other materials and were also paid the same remuneration. As for the street where the lamps shone brightly all through the night unlike those in other streets, it was a unique case where the lamplighter was known to be a very pious man doing his duty as service to God.



There are many ways of "doing your duty". We can do it because we have to - and, often, this leaves us resentful. We can do it because we have been bullied into it - or had wrongful pressure put on us to do it - and this too can leave us feeling resentful and, worse, can damage our sense of our own value. There is, though a wholesome and life-giving sense of duty, and it is that to which Jesus is referring when He speaks to His disciples in today's Gospel.



Family duty, religious duty, all duties stem from the fact that we need each other. We are "inter-dependent". We need to know that we can depend on others, and ensure that they can depend on us. Children have a right to expect that their parents will do their duty to them—feeding and clothing and caring for them. It is a desperate household where parents fail in their duties towards their children. It is sad too where parents leave children with the feeling that they are doing their children a big favour by bringing them into the world and looking after them.

A secure, loving home ensures that children know they can rely on their parents, and in that confidence, grow into loving and secure people too. On the other hand, children generally need encouragement, or cajoling, or sheer parental pressure to learn that they too have duties—that others need to know that they

can rely on them. This can be a hard slog! However, as they mature, the examples they have been given—of adults getting on with their responsibilities and duties—begin to bear fruit. They accept that they do have a part to play, that people depend on them and so they get on with the business of being dependable.

Gradually, such children mature into people who know that what they do is necessary and that people can depend on them to do it. They rightly feel a healthy pride in that. They know they have worth. They also trust others to do their duty and, through this dependence on others, see their worth too.

Like the servants in Jesus' story, they no longer need constant reassurance or gratitude in order to get on with the task at hand. They know that they can look anyone in the eye and say "I'm only doing my duty", and feel good about saying it. (Taken from Well Spring.)

We honour our Mother Mary the whole of October through contemplating the Salvation History by praying the Rosary every day. May this devotion deepen our dedication in the love and service of God and one another!

God's blessings, Fr. Vince





The Dedication Mass of the new church will be held on 24th November 2019, the Feast of Christ the King, beginning with a procession from the current church at 9:30am.

There will be no 8am Mass so everyone can be part of this joyous occasion.

Please contact the parish office—96542260 regarding your pledge. Thank you for your generosity!

Social Justice @ St Mads

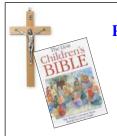
October marks the beginning of the Extraordinary Missionary Month announced earlier this year by the Pope. www.catholicmission.org.au/emm. It is to be an opportunity for reflection, prayer and support for the missionary efforts of individuals, communities and whole Church.



One suggestion is to create a soccer ball using old socks <u>www.socktober.org.au/</u> Sockball', you will experience how soccer is played in the countries supported by Catholic Mission. We are challenged to 'Sock it to Poverty'

The Church of Christ n Mission in the World

~Sue Martin



DON'T MISS THE PIETY STALL MOVING SALE this weekend, **5th and 6th October.**



Plus: 2020 Columban Calendars now available—\$9 each!!!

Please come to our next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, 19th October, 8:30am in the St Joseph Centre.

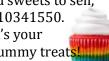


"Why I Became Catholic" by Brendan Ford



CAKE & SWEETS FUNDRAISER!!!!

We are having a cake/sweets fundraiser for our new church on Saturday the 19th and Sunday the 20th of October. If you are able to donate cakes and sweets to sell. please call or text Lita on 0410341550. And for the non-bakers, it's your lucky weekend to stock up on yummy treats



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

1st Collection (for Diocese) = \$ 1409.25 **2nd Collection** (for Parish) **Envelopes = \$**1598 **Loose** = \$ 953.85 **Credit cards/Direct Debit** ave weekly = \$2107 TOTAL = \$4658.85 (target = \$5577)

If you donate to the parish and have recently changed your <u>credit card.</u> please phone the parish office on 96542260.

Thank you for your generosity!



For the **Dedication Mass**

All are welcome to join! Come to ANY of these rehearsals. Sunday, 6 October - 9-9:45am Thursday, 10 October – 7-8pm

Wednesday, 16 October – 7-8pm Tuesday, 22 October – 7:30-8:30pm Sunday, 27 October – 9-9:45am Thursday, 31 October – 7-8pm Wednesday, 6 November – 7-8pm Tuesday, 12 November – 7-8:30pm in the new church Sunday, 17 November – 9-9:45am Thursday, 21 November – 7-8:30pm in the new church

> Interested in becoming a Catholic? Or know someone who is?

Please come to the INFORMATION SESSION for the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) on 23rd October, Wednesday, 7pm, St Joseph Centre

(Feel free to ring the office—96542260—for any questions)

BAPTISM PREPARATION:

The next **Baptism** preparation session will be on Saturday, 2nd November at 4:30-5:30pm at St Joseph Centre. To book, please call the parish office on 96542260. Thank you.



PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS:

For the recently deceased

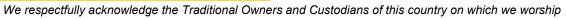
Howard Langham, Maria Agatha Dias, Patrick McGirr, and Cecilia Villanueva

For the dearly departed

Roberta Alumios, Giovani Cristaldi, Orazia Cristaldi, Santo Cristaldi, Salvatori Campo, James Mulvihill and the deceased of the Mulvihill and Culligan families

For healing of the sick

Lara Sawaya, Candida Irugalbandra, Sheila Cañabano, 10-mo old Florence Smith, Gregory Borg, Maria Peach, Paul Byrne, Andy, Patrick Breen, Jacqueline Kelly, Maria, Tricia, Rob, Michael Foley, Samuel Abella, Harper Grace, Margaret Collison, Margaret Gaudry, Anis Nicholas, Peter Balnaves, June, Dorothy Green, Pat D, Neil Rogers, Karen Bligh, Marlon Sabellano Alumios, Desmond Grogan, Louise, Vanessa, Ben Johnson, Cathy Voss, Mary Madden, John Donnelly, Louise Lambert, Charlie, Frank Tabone, John Lippman, Sarah Bilford Beattie, Giuseppi Grasso, Faye Willing, Annabelle, Patrick, Ben Eberand, Callum Goracz, Patrick Griffiths, Catherine Bourke, Tina, Marie, Joe, and Charles Vencyel Special prayers for Joan Carroll



We will have Communion Services next week, Tuesday—Friday at 9:15am. There will be NO DAILY MASSES.



As a community, we will be praying for the students who will be sitting their HSC exams beginning this October.

Please write the names of the HSC students you would like us to pray for in the book provided in the foyer.



VOLUNTEER CLEANERS FOR THE NEW CHURCH!!!

We would like to start organising cleaning rosters for the new churchmostly to do dusting and wiping. If you can spare an hour or so on a Saturday morning once a month, please write your name on the sheet in the foyer. Thank you so much for sharing your time!!!

DISCERNMENT SESSION FOR THE PLENARY COUNCIL

You are invited to attend a discernment session at our parish on Saturday, 12th October, 8:30-11:30am in the St Joseph Centre We will pray about the theme of a Church that is a Joyful, Hope-filled and servant community (*Copies of the theme reports are available in the foyer.) If you are interested in attending, please write your contact

details on the sheet in the foyer.

PLENARY 2020 - National Theme for Discernment #6

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church that is open to conversion, renewal and reform? The fruits of what is discerned during this time will help shape the agenda of the first session of the Plenary Council in October 2020.



This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a desire to do things differently in response to Christ and the experience of our people, accepting that faithfulness to tradition requires change that is both personal and communal. Respondents also affirmed the important role of the clergy, expressing their appreciation for their vocation and recognising the need for support and ongoing formation and accompaniment. Some asked for a consideration of alternative approaches to ordained ministry, some for a greater inclusion of laity and different groups in the Church's life, some for new models of governance and leadership, and some for a renewed fidelity to the Church's teachings. There was also a call for a renewed life of prayer and communion with one another, including understanding the many different ways in which we encounter God and experience a conversion of heart.

More information can be found here: https://tinyurl.com/themereports

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: 27 OCTOBER All married couples and their families are warmly invited to the Diocese of Parramatta's Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral on 27 October at 11am. Bishop Vincent will celebrate Mass and will join couples and their families for a light lunch in the Cathedral Hall afterwards. Please register your names and numbers of years married, and the numbers attending the lunch by contacting the Life, Marriage & Family Office on 02 8838 3460 or email Imf@parracatholic.org.

ALPHA PROGRAM WEEKEND TRAINING: 8 - 10 NOVEMBER

The Pastoral Planning Office is running a training course in the Alpha Catholic program at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown. A sample Alpha evening will be held on Friday 8 November from 7pm to 9pm, before full-day training sessions on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 November. Morning and afternoon tea and lunch will be provided. To register, and for more information, please contact Lisa in the Pastoral Planning Office on 8838 3497 or lisa.bright@parracatholic.org

POSITIONS VACANT

Retired Priests Care Coordinator (Part-time) - Broken Bay Diocese Clergy Development Officer (Part-time) - Broken Bay Diocese For more details, please contact Kelly Paget on 02 8379 1612 or kelly.paget@bbcatholic.org.au

Mission Coordinator (Part-time) - Sisters of Mercy Parramatta For more details, please contact Anthony Spata at REACH Human Resources, on 0402 210 055.

PARISH VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Playgroup Coordinator: Grainne Barker SRE Coordinator: Maureen Jones Friendship Group: Jenny Puleo Ministry to the Nursing Homes Coordinator: Peter Balnaves/Suzanne Kingston-Hunt Adult Faith Formation: Careyanne Moylan

PARISH TEAM Parish Priest: Rev Vincent Savarimuthu

> Parish Secretary: Lisa Echevarria

Sacramental Coordinator Sally Coppini

St Madeleine's Primary School Phone: 9654 6751 Principal: Mrs Jeanette Black

Marian College Phone: 9654 6700 Principal: Mrs Jayne Campbell

PARISH SERVICES

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5.30pm (Eucharistic Adoration at 4:45) Sunday 8:00am, 10:00 am, 5.30pm

Children's Lituray 10am Mass during School terms

Weekday Masses 9:15 - Tuesdays to Fridays Playgroup - Tue 9:00am

at St Joseph Centre during school terms Prayer Group: Wednesdays after the 9.15 am Mass

Reconciliation: Saturday 5.00pm Baptisms: Every 4th Sunday at 11:20, or during 10am Masses

Weddings: By appointment

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY THE CHURCH. ALL OF IT.

Issues of The Catholic Weekly are available in the foyer for \$2 each.

- \Diamond All aboard for fleet blessing
- Attacks on seminaries \diamond
- unwarranted & dangerous
- \diamond Voice of Assisi: Friar to open Lights of Christmas
- Kiss and make up: \diamond Shock Jock
- \Diamond Movie review: Abominable
- \diamond Historical meeting of Archbishops

Let us be kind without weakness, humble without groveling.

-St Madeleine Sophie

Property Maintenance Manager: Angelo Roia Piety Stall: Sandra Tabone Altar Linen Coordinator: Catherine Diekman Parish Council Chair: Patrick Tuttle Finance Committee Chair: Michael Parslow

Baptism Preparation: Angelique Easton RCIA Coordinator: Steve Fry

Welcomers Coordinator:

Music Coordinator: Alexandra Mifsud

Junior Ministers Coordinator: Maree McNeil

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Deb Rankin

