



Humanitarian crises unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

As the situations in **Afghanistan** and **Lebanon** deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.

In **Afghanistan**, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In **Lebanon**, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

Visit caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.



IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Leo O'Brien, Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Kevin Murphy, Sarah Rodgers, Cathy Reid, Assunta Delgrosso.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Henri Styzinski, Antonietta Kucich, Chris Salamone, Mary Cassar, Kathleen Featherston, Warwick Smith, Aurelio Sagona, Hugo Smith, Pat Smith, Christine House, (Sr.) Philomena, Maureen Haughey, Shirley Dervan, Kevin Doohan, Anna Dubiel, Martino Doria, Pasquale Vivona, Lucia Caputo, Mick Spiller, George Francis, Ronald Purcell, Rene Norton, Betty O'Rourke, Myra Matthews, Anne Kenny, Jo Schobben, Lloyd Molineux, Patrick O'Brien, Peter Warr, George Cassar, Jacob Van Lilth, Edward Armstrong, Stasha Bajsuk, Maria Pos, Beryl Saidy, Pasqualina Fabbro, Peter Spurling, Rose Achkar, Giuseppe Sokolic, Mamie Fitzpatrick, Allan Sargeant, Constantino Sammut, Jason Medlicott, Michael Paicquadio, Angelina Meilak, Natalino Meilak, Michael Meilak, Joan Spiteri Antonio Basilone, Rosaria, Albert, Celestina, Ersilia, Guisepppe, Natalino, Margherita, Carmelo, George and Emanuele Mangion, Maria Meloni, Agostino, Margherita, Pasquale, Rita, Pietro, Francesca, Benedetto, Ignazio and Angeolina Saragozza, Spiro Grima, John Cassar, Les Sharp, Paul Gerada, Ivor Jones, Arthur Jones, Nickolas Dimeck, Mario Camilleri, Emiglio Cini, Roland Zammit, Blondina and Lawrence Sammut, whose anniversaries are at this time.



St Mary's Parish

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents



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5th September, 2021

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 35:4-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Praise the Lord, my soul!

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of James. 2:1-5

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

GOSPEL: MARK 7:31-37

Again he left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" (that is, "Be opened!") And immediately the man's ears were open, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."



Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall
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Pastoral Associate

Monique Julian
0450 789 951
Monday, Tuesday

Parish Office Manager-Secretary

Heidi Zahra
Tuesday 8:30am - 4pm
Thursday 8:30am - 4pm
Friday 8:30am - 4pm

Wednesday Secretary

Kylie Skinner
8.30am-3.30pm

St. Mary's School

Principal
Anthony Hockey

Normal Mass Times

Consult bulletin inside for any changes.
Saturday at 6:00pm
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am
Tuesday to Friday 9:15am

Reconciliation

Saturday 10:00am

Silent Adoration in Church

2:30pm - 3:30pm
Wednesday

Baptism Preparation Night

Third Thursday monthly
7.00pm at Parish Centre.
Baptism must be booked prior to attending Preparation Night.

Baptism 12:30am Sunday

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

Saturday 11th September	9am-11am Working Bee.
Sunday 12th September	4pm-5pm New Altar Servers training at the church.
Sunday 19th September	4pm Wedding planners meeting at the Presbytery.
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th October	Renewal of wedding vows
Sunday 24th October	After 10.30am Mass new parishioners luncheon in the Parish Centre.

Prayer for Father's Day

God our Father,
We give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.
We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; May they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.
We pray for Fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; May they know that the God of compassion walks with them in their sorrow.
We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.
We remember fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

Amen.

EVERY CHILD IN EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS A FAIR GO



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
5 - 11 September 2021

NAPCAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE
Find out more
www.napcan.org.au

Dear Parishioners,

As **Upcoming Calendar dates** had to be printed on the Wednesday of this week please dismiss the early ones if we are still in a more extended lockdown situation.

I realise that **this extended lock down eats at our hope**. Hope is one of the three great pillars of the Christian faith. It is on hope, along with faith and love that the whole Christian faith is founded (1st letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 13:13) For those who are struggling 'with hope' at this time I wish I could knock at your door and bring you a bag full of hope! Some people talk about having a money tree, in their front yard, I wish I could come to your door and present you with 'the tree of hope' as if it was something you could plant in your front or back yard!! If I feel it is appropriate, I might go into explaining the theological background of 'hope' next week, but simply at this stage I might suggest two things. In past weeks I have suggested the importance of both keeping up some form of exercise and also keeping up your prayer life. Well, within the latter I would like to suggest 'the psalms of the Old Testament' and the App "Pray as you go". Firstly, many of the psalms of the Old Testament are written as songs for people who have been deprived of hope, yet by the end of most of the 150 psalms (or songs) the author expresses his or her hope in God. Ultimately when there are too many rain clouds on the horizon as predicted later in this week, in a **spiritual sense our main hope is in trusting God** to get us through the trial, or accident or bad circumstances. Besides looking at the Old Testament Book of Psalms which base themselves on hope and trust in God, I would like to suggest that you put the app "Pray as you go" on your laptop or computer or it is also contained in my fathergreg.online which can be accessed through the top toolbar on you computer or iPad. "Pray as you go" is a beautiful daily prayer session (about 13-14 minutes) designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time. Several of our parishioners have found it extremely beneficial. It combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection. The music is usually very nice and often there is a lovely picture introduced on the screen. The style of prayer from the Catholic Jesuit Order in Great Britain is based on Ignatian Spirituality with material written by a number of Jesuits and other experts in the spirituality of the great St Ignatius of Loyola.



As **the environment** was a central issue in last week's bulletin, I overheard from the radio this morning a source was stating that 67% of Australians want more action on addressing green house omissions. Hence, last weekend's Social Justice Statement of the Australian bishops is a timely reminder to us all. I will continue to leave a full free copy of this statement entitled; **Cry of the Earth – Cry of the Poor** on the front porch of the presbytery for anyone to read or discuss with others. I hope you found the summary in last week's bulletin informative. World leaders have opportunities to protect our common home for years to come and should be held accountable. In November 2021, at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference countries must announce their plans to meet the goals of the historic Paris climate agreement. We have to ensure a just home for all creatures of life on our planet including ourselves, as all creatures should be encouraged to thrive.

Continued...

The situation in Afghanistan has proven to be very challenging to the world community. Consequently, I was pleased to see Prime Minister Scott Morrison promise 3,000 refugee spaces within its existing humanitarian program. However, I was even more pleased that many of the Churches such as Sydney Anglicans, the Uniting Church in Australia, Baptists and several others besides ourselves have lobbied the government to give places to even a far greater number. They have 'demanded' that the refugee intake increase to 20,000 from Afghanistan!

Incidentally, Victoria is home to the largest number of Afghan born people in Australia, and the Victorian bishops affirmed that "Afghans hold an important place in the hearts of Victorians, especially at this difficult time. "While we recognise the limitations of the role that Australia can play in the context of this international crisis, and the complexity of the situation, we affirm that a just and compassionate response should guide our government's decision making." Our former western suburbs bishop and nowadays bishop of Parramatta, Vincent Long (born in Vietnam) said Australia had a long tradition of generously resettling refugees and displaced persons who fled their home countries due to war, conflict and violence. "Australia has changed for the better with each successive wave of new arrivals because people like me have brought our determination and drive for a better future." In regard to the limited promise of 3,000, Jesuit priest and human rights lawyer, Fr Frank Brennan remarked: There are lots of people, including our veterans, who know these Afghans want us to do more, we can do much better than 3,000. I think, given our commitment to Afghanistan, the Australian public will want much more."

In line with the above our **7th Annual Way of the West Food and Living Essentials Collection for Refugee and Asylum Seeker Families** has been another outstanding success. Please don't donate any more goods otherwise I will not be able to get into the front door of the presbytery! Already, thanks to your generosity the presbytery dining room is completely full of items and we await the ease of the lockdown so that we can transport them with Mark Northeast's help to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Footscray and some to the Brigidines in Albert Park to help through their 'Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project'. I can't see us being much short of the same total of about 3,000 items of previous years. It is a marvellous response from both our Parish and school families.



For those donating financially to the parish in our regular giving scheme we call "**Stewardship**" I have recently sent some correspondence covering a few areas. Anyway, thanks to those who have given generously during this pandemic and thanks to the many who have dropped their envelopes into the front door slit of the presbytery. Your generosity to the presbytery account has also not gone unappreciated. It is a privilege to be part of this parish as quite a number have put their names down for various ministries ranging from working bees to support of the St Vincent de Paul Society. In regards financial support I will be trying to include in this bulletin one or two causes needing help at this time, especially through our main overseas charity organisation "Caritas Australia." See back page.

If not already had your first or second covid jab please make haste with that as vaccination is the pathway back to some sense of normality in our lives. By doing so you are giving all of us 'more hope'!

As it is the **Father's Day weekend** I will address four areas I see as areas of importance for the success of fatherhood on my fathergreg.online if you wish to look at it.

Yours 'in Christ'

Fr Greg 1/9/2021