



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 Cassandra O'Keefe who died recently and for Bronislaw Markowicz, Sue Sherman, Marija Kokos, Marianna Covelli, Gerald Kennedy, Brian Allen, Frank Dooley, Joseph Zammit, Nicholas and Ada Kurkowski, Phil Wraight, Vito Massaro, Pauline Runting, Kevin Johnson, (Fr.) Ron Lowe, (Fr.) John Frawley, Eileen Bull, Jenny McLaurin, Frances Kielt, Martin Schobben, James Meehan, Tony Dixon, Caterina Borghese, Anna Kalka, James Ferguson, Joseph Lazzario, Therese Setteneri, John Anderson, John Gopsill, Rose O'Brien, Vin Murphy, Davey Johnson, Josie Curtis, Clive Stafford, Patrick Haddad, Bill Grigg, Mary Ellen Williams, Ersilia Portelli, Rosario De Bono, Richard Sammut, Carmela Pisano, Laurie McGuinness, Evan Jones, Arthur Jones, Paul Gerada, Spiro Grima, Nickolas Dimeck, Roland Zammit, Felice Lanzon, Giovanni Del Grosso, Indhu Peiris, Margherita, Chris Staggs Colleen d'Assumpcao and David Ainscough, whose anniversaries are at this time.



A Prayer for Inner Strength

Dear God,
Please give me the strength to endure this situation, and to find the blessings and lessons that it contains.

Please give me the endurance to continue ahead.

Please guide my thoughts, words and actions, so that I walk your path of peace and love.

Amen



St Mary's Parish

A community where we bring together our gifts and talents



116 Cecil Street, Williamstown 3016
Telephone: 9397 6066
Email: williamstown@cam.org.au
Web: www.stmaryswilliamstown.org.au

12th September, 2021

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 50:5-9

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

SECOND READING:

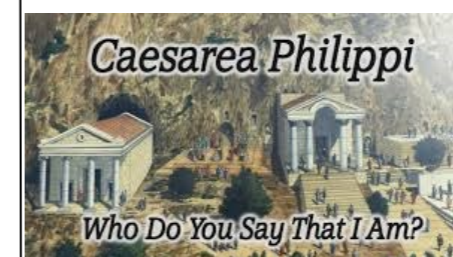
A reading from the letter of James. 2:14-18

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

My only glory is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, which crucifies the world to me and me to the world.

GOSPEL: MARK 8:27-35

Now Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Messiah." Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."



He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

Parish Priest

(Fr.) Greg Trythall
PH: 9397 6066
MO: 0400 524 363
Email: greg.trythall@cam.org.au

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

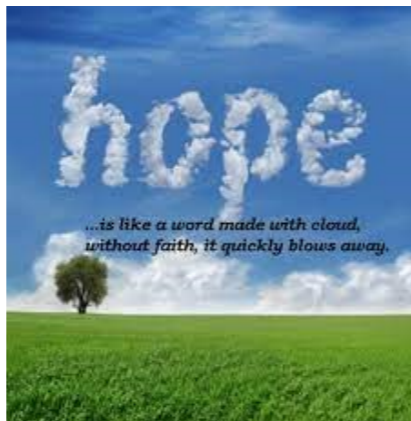
UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th October	Renewal of wedding vows. 1 st Eucharist for current grade 5's at all Masses and likely an extra Sunday Mass at 5pm as they were unable to celebrate their 1 st Eucharist last year.
Saturday 16th October Sunday 17th October	1 st Eucharist for all current grade 4's at all Masses
Sunday 24th October	After 10:30am Mass – New Parishioners Luncheon. 4pm New altar servers training in St Mary's Church

Dear Parishioners,

As I stated last week an extended lockdown can eat away at our hope and with the continuation of this present lockdown, I have noticed more and more people from different categories of life are struggling with the length of it all, from the very young to the elderly. Accordingly, I thought I would delve deeper into the importance of **'the virtue of hope'**.

In the first place I am sure **most of us take hope for granted**. I think it is something innate to our being and something which the divine has placed in all of us. Just think of how extensive it is. For instance, when we as a small child put trust and hope that our parents will look after us; when we live in hope that they will feed us; and on the other hand as a parent we hope our child will stay healthy; we hope even that they will enter a good primary school and later have a good secondary school education; we hope that they will turn out to be a nice person; we hope that they will get a good job; we hope that they will meet a nice person and get married; we hope they have children; we hope their children, our grandchildren will be happy and healthy; we desire for ourselves in our earlier years a nice home to buy in a good area or are able to rent in a nice neighbourhood. In most of these situations we don't enter with the mindset that things are likely to turn out bad do we, or that: we are likely to not get a good set of friends; we are not likely to receive a good education; we are not likely to meet a nice person to marry; we are not likely to obtain a good home; we are not likely to have grandchildren!! No, we live in hope usually and there is an even deeper side to that hope as far as our Christian faith is concerned.



Where are then the sources for hope from a Christian's overall life perspective? Well, after the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John there is an incredibly hope filled book called the 'Acts of the Apostles', then that is followed by a Letter of St Paul to the Romans. There is a lovely little passage in chapter 5 of that particular letter: ".....And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans ch 5) Thus, as we look back on our lives, we can normally see that God has journeyed with us not only through the good times but through the very trying or the hard times - this then brings us with even more greater reasons for hope! I hope so! Hope in another words is due to our experience and in our experience that God has not let us down. He never will, I am sure of that.

A main source of hope is the Holy Scriptures. They were left for us by those who had either known Jesus or have passed on the first oral and written stories on to others in order to give us hope, mainly in God's love for us. Consequently, I think in the same Letter to the Romans, St Paul puts it rather nicely when he states: "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." (Romans ch 15:4) Through the Holy Scriptures people have studied and read God's actions in both the Old and New Testaments, and this has left us full of hope from one generation to another.



Continued...

A further element to this hope is a belief that we have been called by God. The Christian has not the despairing sense of a salvation into which he or she must struggle like from a darkened room. No, we as Christians have the sense of a new relationship with God into which we have been invited, not because we deserve it necessarily, but by the sheer mercy of God. I think St Paul puts that also very nicely in his Letter to the citizens of the magnificent ancient city of Ephesus in modern day Turkey: " ... so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, **you may know what is the hope to which He has called you...**" (Ephesians 1: 18)

I don't want to appear glib at this time or dismiss a fair percentage of peoples own real difficulties in dealing with this very long lockdown, and its impact on personal circumstances, but I as a leader in faith must be responsible in pointing everyone to Christ's very example, especially in regards the Gospel presented to us on this 24th Sunday of Year B on the front of this week's bulletin. When Jesus asks the disciples; "Who do people say that I am?" the disciples first state the answers that miss his true identity. The subsequent revelation from the mouth of Peter – "You are the Christ" – can only be the work of the Spirit of God within Peter. Yet Peter still fails to see why Christ must undergo his Passion, which saves our lives. Christ's rebuke speaks to us, too, as we reflect on the meaning of those gospel words on the front page, for it corrects our tendency to think that the cross in our own life is a sign that God might have abandoned us! Besides an opportunity for personal growth in other ways, maybe during this particular 'cross of covid' period of our lives, it is worth also noting the further complementary words of Jesus from this weekend's Gospel as they ram home the message of taking up our crosses even during a covid era: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me". As I say I am not trying to underestimate difficulties, especially real emotionally negative feelings at this time or hard personal family situations, but there is a need sometimes to put forward an overall larger picture, as Christianity is not always an easy journey but there is a certain hope in us – especially when we can place our trust in a God who will always be faithful to us and never let us down. He will help us no matter what the length of that journey!

Just in case it somehow passed you by last week, I remind you of the wonderful prayer App: **"Pray as you go"** as it 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. It combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection. Also you can find it on my fathergreg.online site - This App 'Pray as you go' is another opportunity for hope in our lives through personal reflection and prayer.

Besides, as I have stated in the last few weeks of the importance for our hope of 'praying' and some form of exercise like walking; we cannot underestimate the lifting of our spirits from a phone call received or the timely ringing by ourselves of a friend or family member. People give us hope as we are not meant to be isolated hermits! Thus, when we start thinking of someone it might be opportune to ring or contact them through social media if the latter is the way you normally do things. It is worth being reminded that if someone rings you at this time, it might be a blessed timing as the phone conversation may be a good tonic for the both of you.

If a couple has a **significant wedding anniversary** and would like to renew their wedding vows at any one of the Masses on the 9th or 10th of October, please be in touch with me by email or by mobile as per details in this weekend's bulletin. Of course, we are hoping for an easing of restrictions by that time!



There is such a thing as the **Priests Retirement Foundation**. With 95 of our Melbourne Archdiocesan priests retired it necessitates a rather large financial burden on the Archdiocese. The main fund raiser for that is usually on the Father's Day weekend. However, no collection could be taken up this year or last. Nevertheless, donations to the Father's Day appeal can be made through the Priests Retirement Foundation website via debit, credit card or Paypal where the donor's details are loaded and receipts can be issued. The site is www.cam.org.au/foundation. For those who received the Priests Retirement Foundation envelope with your stewardship envelopes thanks for your wonderful generosity in putting money in those and sending them back to the presbytery. Next week I will finalise those envelopes and send the money on to the Priests Retirement Foundation remembering that your previous Parish Priest, Fr Noel Oliver has been looked after well by the Foundation for the last 11 years. The good Fr Noel first came here to Williamstown 21 years ago would you believe!

May God bless you and your families at this time.

Yours 'in Christ'

Fr Greg 8/9/2021