

Rosters

Mass Readers	Not required until further notice.
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IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for, Leo O'Brien, Haizil Joseph, Santhi Komatineni, Kevin Murphy, Kevin Featherston, Bridget Walsh, Cathryn Walsh.

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Dean Maher, Concetta and Giuseppe Camilleri, Patrizia McBride-Sagona, Elliott Willets, Patricia Woodruff, Rita Zahra, Bob Dye, Verna Routley, Vera McAuslan, Carmelo Mangion, Dave Meehan, Monsignor Pietro Sambì, Thomas Nolan, Vince Ganley, Melanie Wrekmeister, Lou Riley, Patrick Geddes, Mary Magee, Sammy Guerzon, Mary Mew, Frank Moloney, Evelyn Cuffe, Domenico Acquaro, Harry Forecast, Nick Kurkowski, Mary Reifschneider, Gerard Finn, Giovanni Dudine, John Pepper, Kath Eddy, John Hilton O'Keefe, Antonio Morelli, Pietro Sokolic, Ada Major, Lesley Dobbyn, Nancy Helmore, Tom Hewitt, Carrie Thompson, Angelina, Natalino and Michael Meilak, Blondina and Lawrence Sammut, Luciana Rigoni, Ida Rigoni, Nadala Sokolic, Dumica Zuklic, Stefano Zuklic and Joan Spiteri; whose anniversaries are at this time.



# St Mary's Parish

*A community where we bring together our gifts and talents*



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19th July, 2020

**Parish Priest**

(Fr.) Greg Trythall  
PH: 9397 6066  
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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 5:30pm  
Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am  
Tuesday to Thursday 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.

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A**

**FIRST READING:** Wisdom 12.13, 16-19

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

**SECOND READING:**

The letter of Paul to the Romans 8. 26-27

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13.24-43**



He proposed another parable to them. The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off.

When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from? He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up? He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn." He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in the branches.'" He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened.



*A Prayer of Solidarity*



MY JESUS, I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT IN THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT. I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND I DESIRE TO RECEIVE YOU INTO MY SOUL. SINCE I CANNOT NOW RECEIVE YOU SACRAMENTALLY, COME AT LEAST SPIRITUALLY INTO MY HEART. I EMBRACE YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY THERE, AND I UNITE MYSELF WHOLLY TO YOU. NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU.

(SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI)

For many Melburnians, it has been difficult to adjust to the renewed level 3 lockdowns. There is uncertainty regarding how long this period will last, whether restrictions will increase, as well as rising anxiety over contracting COVID-19.

For Catholics, we are once again removed from the Eucharist. Receiving the body of Christ is essential to many people and we sincerely hope that all Churches can reopen as quickly as possible. We would ask our interstate friends to pray for us, as we pray that you too may avoid worsening restrictions in your areas. *Reproduced from Majellan Media Wednesday's E-Newsletter 2020*

Dear Parishioners,

One of our more elderly parishioners, a gentleman in his 90's turned up at my presbytery door during the week with a bunch of stewardship envelopes. He informed me that he had been giving to the parish since the first stewardship campaign, organised at the Williamstown Town Hall in 1961—apparently, in those days wine and cheese were served to everyone! It was a bit humbling receiving that good man at the door as he said he had never missed giving since that particular 1961 campaign! It is also very humbling the number of people who have offered to assist others at this time, in particular to either buy for, or take others shopping if necessary.



If you require assistance at this difficult time, with getting food delivered or picked up from the supermarket, or someone to keep in touch with you, please text or phone me on 0400 524 363 and I will endeavour to help. Thanks go to those who reach out to others at this time, through phone calls or any other method of communication. We all benefit from those who care about us making the effort through phone calls, texts, emails, Instagram and/or facebook during this time of keeping our physical distance.

### Sermon/reflection for 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year A

Without being condescending, I feel like a broken record sometimes when I say the Catholic bible readings are in a three year cycle, Year A, Year B and Year C. However, there are always new people on the scene, and it is important, as I see it that we realise the three year cycle enables all of us to receive a good variety of scripture over a long period of time. I believe it to be recognised as successful, as many of our protestant brother and sister churches have adopted our three year cycle. The more we can share with each other the better.



Anyway, onto the Gospel reading of the 16th Sunday Year A as presented for this particular Sunday. I stated last week, Jesus is 'the King of the Parable.' Again this week, Jesus gives us three more parables about the kingdom of heaven or the reign of God. The first one is the parable about the weeds and the wheat growing together; in the second one Jesus compares the kingdom to a mustard seed which stretches out to be the biggest of the bushes from the smallest seed, and the third parable is the one

about the yeast helping the bread to evolve, just as the Kingdom of God is slowly and surely evolving.

In the first parable the world is like a field in which wheat and weeds grow side by side. In other words, Jesus teaches that all types of people are welcome in God's Kingdom not just 'Holy Joes' as we used to say!

However, some in the early church, not unlike the old Pharisees, believed that sin and sinners should be ruthlessly weeded out. They wanted retribution and some worldly justice straight away. However, the parable of the weeds and the wheat growing together until the harvest time leaves a strong suggestion by Jesus that only until the last will we see what is truly good and what is truly bad. The Popes in particular, were given a hard time in the early history of the church, as they suggested mercy to people who had left the church or committed serious sin – as I have stated, others wanted no mercy on them, but fortunately the Papacy won out in most early generations and people who had even become notorious sinners were welcomed back into the church as long as they were prepared to repent and change their ways. *Continued.....*



We, in our time ideally should not try to weed anyone out, but remember that good and evil will always grow alongside each other until the end of time, when only what is good will ultimately survive.

What happened in the first parable in a bit more detail is that a landowners servants notify him that his crops had been corrupted. Somebody has sown alien seed in the

field reserved for wheat. The servants are quick to offer to cleanse the land of the intrusion, but the landowner has a different point of view. He's not ready to make a final determination about the worth of everything growing out there. There may be some surprises, and the harvest time will tell the final tale. One question here might be: "just what is a weed?" One dictionary defines a weed as "a plant considered undesirable in a particular situation." When Jesus interpreted this parable of the weeds, he talked about the world with good and evil people and he specified that the task of weeding questionable people out of the community was not part of the disciple's job description. As a landowner, he mandated that there was to be no weeding. The sifting would happen at harvest. Until then, everything would have its chance to grow. The message of this



parable is something that Jesus lived throughout his ministry. Consequently, he reached out to all sorts of people, mixing with prostitutes, politicians, tax collectors, lawyers and so forth. Separatism was something Jesus refused to advocate, making it his business to seek out and save the lost. On other hand, the Pharisees, whose very name means 'the separated ones,' criticised him for associating with the so-called 'wrong crowd.' But

Jesus knew all communities are a mixture of good and bad, the crooked and the cracked. And furthermore, it is not easy at times to tell the difference. Accordingly, as Jesus has stated strongly in this parable, the final harvest will come eventually and then the weeds will be separated from the wheat. In the meantime, as Christians we have no authority to pronounce the final judgement on anyone. It is God's part not ours. St. Paul puts it so nicely in his first letter to the Corinthians: "There must be no passing of premature judgement. Leave that until the Lord comes." (1 Cor 4:5)



We can all live in hope.

Yours 'in Christ'

Fr. Greg 17/7/2020

