

POPE FRANCIS AND THE PANDEMIC

Last week we have seen Pope Francis' reflection on the Coronavirus pandemic. This week he invites the Church to look at Jesus to bring his healing to the world today.

At his weekly general audience he began his talk noting that the pandemic "continues to cause deep wounds, exposing our vulnerability. On every continent there are many who have died, many are ill. Many people and many families are living a time of uncertainty because of socio-economic problems which especially affect the poorest."

In this context, he said, "we must keep our gaze firmly fixed on Jesus" and "with this faith embrace the hope of the kingdom of God that Jesus himself brings us. A kingdom of healing and of salvation that is already present in our midst. A kingdom of justice and of peace that is manifested through works of charity, which in their turn increase hope and strengthen faith."

"Jesus heals not only the physical evil—which is true, physical evil—but he heals the entire person," "In that way, he restores the person back to the community, too, healed; he liberates the person from isolation because he has healed him or her." Although the Church cares for the sick, provides healthcare, but she is not an expert, neither does she give specific socio-political pointers. This is the job of political and social leaders."

Nevertheless, he said, "over the centuries, and by the light of the Gospel, the church has developed several social principles that are fundamental." He highlighted the main ones: "the principle of the dignity of the person, the principle of the common good, the principle of the preferential option for the poor, the principle of the universal destination of goods, the principle of the solidarity, of subsidiarity, the principle of the care for our common home."

That's why he concluded, "In the next few weeks, I invite you to tackle together the pressing questions that the pandemic has brought to the fore, social ills above all. And we will do it in the light of the Gospel, of the theological virtues and of the principles of the church's social doctrine," (vaticannews.va)

SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the mental health of many members of our parishes, schools and communities. Understanding mental health will help us to be aware of those who need our support. In the Social Justice Statement 2020-21, To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today, the Bishops invite us all to reject stigmatisation, to work for the transformation of social determinants of mental ill-health and to call for policies and service provision that meets the needs of the poorest and most marginalised members of our community. Download the Statement at:

<https://agora.catholic.org.au/e/576423/SocialJustice-2020/nf41c/517738972?h=kivVT1NNo0aSBGZR5IGpIkPwRfSRaFYn58v51Dhswo>



Sacred Heart Parish Koorungal 8th/9th August, 2020

Parish Sec: Roxy Locke

(Mon. Thurs. Fri. 9am-2pm)

Pastor: Fr John Baptist (Mob 0415 371 627)

Parish Council Sec: Marsha Reilly

Presbytery: 71 White Avenue, Koorungal. 2650

Telephone: 02 6922 6057

Sunday Mass Times:

Sat.Vigil:5:30pm Sunday: 10am

Daily Mass Times:

Monday - Friday: 5:45pm

Saturday: 9.30am

Changes to Mass times will be on Chapel door.

Reconciliation: Sat. 10.00am-10.30am

Parish Pastor Email: koorungalchurch@sacredheartparish.net.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sacredheartkooringal/>

Web Site: <https://kooringalchurchsacredheartparish.net/>

Parish Council Email: shkparishcouncil@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer: Anne Brown Phone 6926 2937 Email annie1.temple@gmail.com

WE PRAY FOR:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Brian Connolly, Mary Desira, Frank Corbett, John Hosie, Beryl Pearson, Gerard Davis, Gerard Gaynor, Sr. Ann McRae pbvm, Thea Bowen, Fr. Frank Bell, John Maloney, Laurent Stout, Michael W. Flett, Tony Madigan, Allan Davis, Barbara McDonnell, Fr. Wilfred Plunkett, Fr. Noel Connolly ssc, John Stout, Bill Matthews, Beverly Crouch., Vitas Mangahis, Bette Fitzpatrick ..

ANNIVERSARIES/ REMEMBRANCES: Kerry & Mary Pierce, Stella Fralonardo, Margaret & Bernie Stout.

SICK: Theresa Gallucci, Ilona Gortva, Laurence Roche, Dorothy Castle, William Trist, Miriam McCoy, Joanne Huckel, Terry Phegan, Mary Condell, Genevieve Keogh, Dorothy Waterford, Shivaun Clifton, Barry Parnell, Hayden O'Callaghan, June Kimber, Bob Barclay, Denise Goonan, Adam Horsley, Finley Owens, Shirley Gabriel, Christopher Lee, Garry Brigham..

Courage! It's I! do not be afraid!

Friendship Group: The Friendship group will not be meeting at this time as the virus is still too dangerous. We will stay in touch.

mainly music: the program is planning to start again on 4th October.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YR A

To prepare for next Sunday's Mass go to St Louis Jesuits – The Centre for Liturgy website: <http://liturgy.slu.edu> and/or Jerusalem Bible Translation of Readings: <http://www.universalis.com/>

FIRST READING: A reading from the first book of Kings 19:9. 11-13

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord. Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 84

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 9:1-5

What I want to say now is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ - it is the truth - my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Ps 129: 5

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a head-wind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and

cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord,' he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God'. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

GOSPEL CONNECTIONS

A Walk on the Wild Side

Peter was a fisherman. He was long accustomed to the sea and its moods, and surely this was not the first stormy night he had spent on the water. Peter knew how to compensate for wind and waves in choppy weather. He also knew there was a point beyond which negotiation with a tempest was impossible. But Peter had no experience at all with a ghost, or a man, walking on the waves. Like the others in the boat, he was afraid. But unlike the others, he was willing to negotiate with this new situation. Peter decided to take a walk on the wild side.

A fisherman who stays with his boat knows how to ride a wave. But with wind at his back and water under his feet, all Peter had for support was the solid view of Jesus. As his consciousness of the peril grew, his confidence in the Lord shrank. Many of us too have lost our faith in time of crisis. Our trust in God is steady within the boat, and up for grabs when life is less predictable. Peter scores points for risking a walk on the wild side, which the rest of the disciples were unwilling to do. An untested faith is worse than the 'little faith' Peter showed. God can always plant a mustard seed.

When has your faith been tested by stormy events? How did your faith endure?

Walk in faith, even if it means getting out of the safe boat you have been sailing lately. Take a risk: give charitably beyond what is comfortable. Tell the truth even if it costs you. Pray through your doubts.

"Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid". (gpbs.com.au)

FINANCE

Las week 1st Collection \$460.35 and 2nd Collection \$1317.

New Envelopes and Receipts are available in the foyer.

Twinning receipts and envelopes are also available in the foyer.

Direct debit to our PARISH BUILDING Account BSB 066 789 A/C No 6111068 showing your surname, this account attracts a 100% tax deduction.

Direct debit to account BSB 066 789 A/C No 100005658, which is our parish working account, attracts a 50% tax deduction using your surname reference as envelope givers. PRESBYTERY ACCOUNT, you can direct your donation to BSB 066 789 A/C No 100005657 also showing your surname as reference, no tax deduction.