

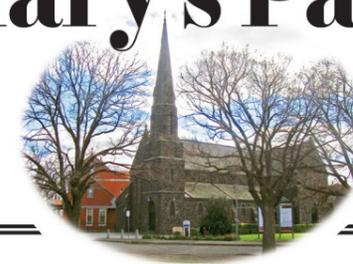
PLENARY COUNCIL PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land. O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council. Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road. Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth. Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying. Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age. Amen. Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us. St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.



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

3rd October, 2021

TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

FIRST READING:

A reading from the book of Genesis. 2:18-24.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

May the Lord bless us
all the days of our lives.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews. 2:9-11.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

If we love one another,
God will live in us in perfect love.

GOSPEL: MARK 10:2-16

The Pharisees approached and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted him to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In the house the disciples again questioned him about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."



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

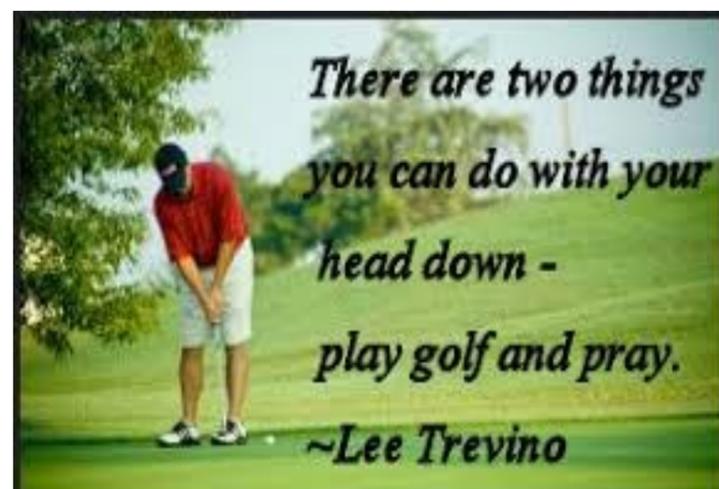
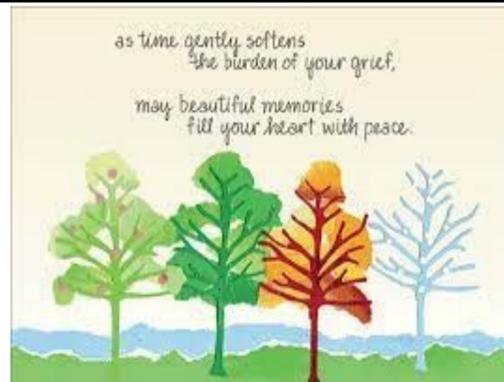
IN OUR PRAYERS

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

Praying for You

RECENTLY DECEASED & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for Marino Kucic who died recently and for Kevin Featherson, Basil Kalka, Ema Rawnik, Emilia Matkovich, Fr. Urbano Paz, Publio Paz, Mary Newington, Pierluigi Grech, Joseph Dibattista, John Mallia, Mavis Jamieson, Maria Gusman, Noel Darmanin, Connie Darmanin, Veronica Coen, Lawrence Meehan, Maureen Morgan, Pasquale Saragozza, Marlene Dunham, Peter O'Sullivan, Mark Penfold, Les Hodder, Nancy McGinty, Maureen Cartledge, Bill Burton, Tony McGuigan, Tuc Le, Joseph Micallef, Maria Meloni, Win Woodruff, Bernard Brown, Noel Kenwery, Vera Rice, Jack Meehan, Fr. Carmine Tricarico, Mariantonina Patania, Roland Zammit, Margherita, Concettina and Felice Lanzon, Josephine Lorient and Maria Cassar, whose anniversaries are at this time.

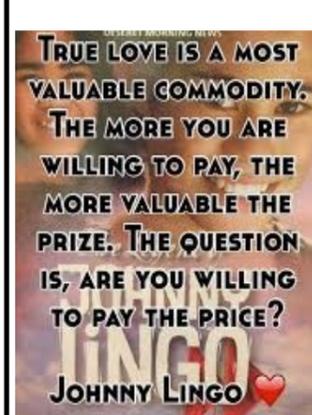


Dear Parishioners,

During these lockdown weeks of this year and last, I have been trying to arrange our parish **bulletins to get into every known household** with some connection to the Catholic religion, if it be even a school or whatever. Accordingly, from last year and this I have been able to identify 400 households to send bulletins to mainly within the Williamstown border area in order for us at this time to keep in touch at least in some way. Nevertheless, I keep on realising, almost weekly, over the last few months in lockdown, there are others who could be receiving our parish bulletin! If you know someone in this latter category or on the other hand you are wrongly receiving every week the bulletin in your letterbox due to someone connected to the Catholic faith living in your address previously, please contact me as per front of this bulletin in order that I can delete your present address from our records – thanks.

Please don't forget to avail yourself of the **Catholic Mass via an online source** in this period before Mass finally returns hopefully on November 20. For instance, if you google Catholic Mass online on u tube you will find a number of choices. Probably one of the better ones though is through just googling 'Mass On Demand lavender bay today' and you will find at any time of the day you can listen to a previous Mass (ps - just wait one minute in silence until the actual Mass starts as video starts before priest comes out). Or if you want it at the exact time of streamlining it is on Monday to Friday at 7:30am or on Sunday at 9am.

I had expected during the last week to get down to **rearranging all the numerous baptisms** that have had to be postponed, or are likely to need postponement, but half my week has been taken up by trying to work out with brides and grooms when to set a new date for their weddings and wedding rehearsals, as well as trying to see how to fit in an appropriate meeting time with a number of couples who need to have their commonwealth government paperwork filled out at least a month before the wedding to satisfy legal requirements. Anyway, when all is said and done it is often a pleasure to be with these younger couples, as most of them exude a lovely peaceful feeling with their future married partner. In this period before the wedding, you can feel the hope, the trust and the love for their future husband or wife. With that in mind, and since the Gospel of this week on the front page of the bulletin centers on the **importance of the marriage commitment**, I would like to leave you with a lovely story of how marriage can bring out the best in people.



In the days when dowries for marriage were expected, Johnny Lingo, an entrepreneur on the Pacific Island of Kiriwata, offered eight cows to the father of Sarita, whom he wished to marry. Sarita was plain and too thin; she walked with her shoulders hunched and her head down. She had no self esteem whatsoever. Usually, a dowry consisted of three cows or five at the most, eight was unheard of. Nevertheless, that's what Johnny Lingo gave. Months later, a visitor to the island of Nurabandi, where Johnny now lived, came over wishing to avail himself of Johnny's business skills. He had heard of the eight-cow dowry and the plainness of Sarita. But when he met her, he found her to be the most beautiful woman he had ever seen – the lift of her shoulders, the tilt of her chin, the sparkle in her eyes. The fact that her husband loved and respected

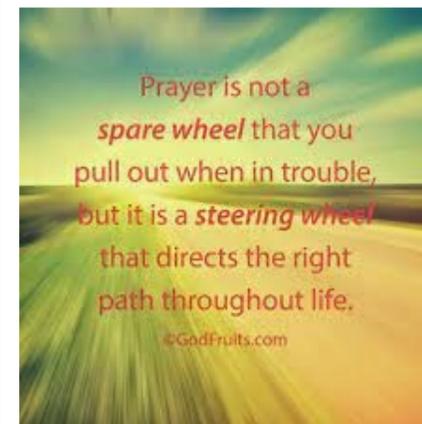
her enough to offer an extravagant dowry for her made all the difference. Because of him, she had become her best and most beautiful self. Such can be the dynamic of marriage: Two persons who love one another more than themselves call forth the best in each other, and together they bear witness to the world that true love and mutual respect are possible.

Similarly, to the above love story between a man and a woman is the ideal response of a man or woman to the wake-up calls God leaves with us constantly throughout lives. Like Sarita becoming her best and most beautiful self, we can only become our best and most beautiful self if we respond appropriately to the Godhead – I suppose we can call that prayer! Accordingly, I would like to develop for your further consideration **some aspects of prayer**.

One may ask the most pertinent and simplest of questions in the context of prayer: **what is prayer?** Fr Seamus Ahearne, a parish priest in Dublin recently wrote: 'But what is prayer? It is the taking off of shoes. It is the gently breeze. It is the awareness of nature. It is gratitude. It is beauty. It is wonder. It is the poetry of the soul. It is the music of life. It is awesomeness. It is kindness. It is goodness. It is gentleness. It is the eyes of the heart and imagination open to whisper – "thank you". It is the big heart of laughter. It is the touch of comfort. It is the warmth of love. It is the awareness of the uniqueness and mystery of a little life. It is finding a Tent of Meeting. It is any old mountain that gives a view.'

I can understand what Fr Seamus is mainly getting out, and he expresses it in such a nice way, but the definitions of Fr Seamus probably only just touch the surface as prayer like love is something we will never be able to fully define or indeed conquer. On the other hand, we can understand prayer, in its widest context, is an attempt of ours to have a connection with the Godhead and in turn the attempt of the Godhead to be in touch with us – provided we are prepared to open up to its very mystery. We try to connect and that connection we call prayer. Like putting an electricity plug into the wall – is that how we connect! Maybe not but like you can't get electricity working for you unless you turn the switch on, there is no prayer unless you start turning the switch by talking, and by working out some strategies to pray more often. To enable prayer one usually needs to be practical by normally choosing a regular time and place, if one wants some quality time spent in prayer – otherwise at any time of the day one can talk to God like talking to a friend, even if is for a few seconds.

Notice in the first chapter of Mark's Gospel we are told the following: "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." Not unlike us needing to connect to the heavenly Father, Jesus needed a set time and place. His example means we try also to connect with not only the calling of the Father, and the Spirit but also to Him – to a greater life – to a greater way of living and love. This is the results of prayer, but also part of prayer itself.



How we pray is another whole story! In the world today there are dozens of different language groups: people speak French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Japanese, Spanish, Portugese, Maltese and of course English. How you speak to God is up to you. There is "no right way" – some use the language of words, some use silence, some use their bible while others look at the readings of the following Sunday, some use set words from prayer books whether it be as simple as the Our Father, or Hail Mary and others use their own words. Some find the rosary a helpful way of reflecting and praying. Horses for courses as they say. I like to pray in the morning, some like to pray at night. I like to use a room mainly away from the other rooms

while others like to be in a garden. Some walk and pray, while others prefer to sit still. Some drink water while they pray, while others have a cup of tea or coffee to steady them down and put them in the mood. Prayer is a rich vein that runs through all our lives and finds expression in so many ways.

When all is said and done, like the younger couples I see for marriage, as they hope, trust and love their new partner, God also hopes, trusts and loves us but like any relationship, it is destined for failure if there is no response - prayer followed by action is often our response to God.

In considering prayer you will find the app on your computers PRAY AS YOU GO. Or you can find it on my u tube site, via the top address bar, fathergreg.online and PRAY AS YOU GO is just a simple click. All the best in your own particular prayer life.



Yours 'in Christ' Fr Greg 29/9/2021