In Time

The readings of today emphasise discipleship as we live in expectation of the Incarnation and the second coming of Christ. The challenge is to live in the now and to expect the life to come. Isaiah and James help us understand this. Just as the farmer waits for the rains for a good harvest so James gives us the criteria for waiting: be watchful and do not despair. We who live in time have the gift of time to prepare for God’s coming. Isaiah calls us to remember that dry land will bloom in God’s time.

John the Baptist is portrayed as the bridge between Old and New Testaments. He is called to prepare the way for Jesus. John sends his disciples to Jesus to ask the core question: ‘Are you the one who is to come?’ Was John really unsure or was he preparing the way for the disciples, for us? St Augustine would say that as John was soon to die, he wanted them to be convinced by Christ himself… You’ve seen the deeds, acknowledge the doer.

‘Who are you?’ is the question that we pose to Jesus and ‘Who do you say that I am?’ is the question Jesus poses to us today. Jesus is not going to answer our question, rather he wants us to find the answer by answering his question to us. For this we need to have a personal experience of him. A genuine experience of Jesus necessarily results in transformation in one’s life. The relationship with Jesus is strictly personal and not based on description, definition, or even witness of the other. Jesus knows this and so he wants us to know and experience him in our personal life the way that enabled Peter to proclaim that Jesus is the Messiah or the way Paul experienced him that made him confess that it is no longer he who lives, but Christ in him.

God’s Word Fr Johnson Chacko SSP

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Tree, Money Box & Appeal

Thank you all for your donations to the Appeal last weekend. If you were unprepared you may add your envelopes to this week’s collections.

All hamper items and money for gift cards need to be received by next weekend of 17/18 December to be in time to be distributed before Christmas.

Vinnies continues to restore hope to struggling families each year. As we approach the Christmas period there are people who need hope more than ever. Vinnies makes a real difference in the lives of 1 out of 18 people in Australia. Your generosity makes it possible for our members, volunteers and staff to continue offering the right kind of assistance at the right time.

We thank you for your compassionate support. The impact of your gift will be felt well beyond 25 December. Your donation will be an important foundation in making a difference to the lives of many Australians this Christmas.
To the Witness Stand

What do you picture when you think of the Church? Do you think of a building, a group of people praying, or a family at table? St John, in the Book of Revelation, pictures the Church as being witnesses (Rv 11:5), people testifying personally and publicly to their relationship with Jesus. John pictures the Church as witnesses because Jesus commanded us before his Ascension to be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). Thus, to be a witness is foundational and essential to being a Christian. Our faith in Jesus must be personal and publicly communicated, or we are involved in an aberration of Christianity. We are ‘under compulsion and have no choice’ to witness to Jesus and publicly proclaim his Gospel (see 1 Cor 9:16). We are ruined if we don’t preach it. The Church of witnesses has been so powerful in changing the world that the term ‘witness’ has come to mean ‘martyr’, someone who has been killed because of his love for the Lord. Will you accept the Holy Spirit’s power to love God so much that you will speak publicly of that love and even be martyred for that love? Will you choose to be a member of the Church by Jesus’ standards? Witness for Jesus.

Be Merciful

Jesus revealed to us the mystery of his heavenly Father’s merciful love not only for our own consolation and personal benefit, not only to give us absolute confidence in God, but also to teach us to be merciful to our neighbour. ‘Be therefore merciful, as your Father is also merciful’ (Lk 6:36). Good attracts good, goodness engenders goodness, kindness inspires kindness; therefore, the more a soul penetrates the mystery of infinite mercy the more it will be incited to emulate it. When we feel irritated with someone and little disposed to indulgence and pardon, we ought to plunge with all our strength into the consideration of the infinite mercy of God, in order to stifle all harshness, resentment, and anger in ourselves. If we had but the slightest experience of our own wretchedness, it would not be difficult for us to realise that there is no moment of our lives in which we do not need the mercy of God. Our merciful Father is so forbearing that he never casts us off despite all our falls, never reproaches us about the many times he has forgiven us, never refuses us his paternal embrace of love and peace. Nothing softens a soul more, making it full of good will toward others, than this consideration. If only others could see in our attitude toward them a reflection of God’s infinite mercy!

Peter had not yet completely understood the deep mystery of merciful love when he asked Jesus if it were enough to pardon his neighbour seven times. Jesus’ reply must have sounded like an exaggeration to him: ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven times (Mt 18:22). Later, Peter’s heart was completely changed when he experienced the goodness of Jesus, who, without a single word of reproach, forgave his threefold denial so generously. This man, who was so impetuous, so quickly moved to anger, and so ready to threaten, was later to give to the primitive Church this gentle exhortation to goodness and pardon: ‘Be all of one mind, having compassion one on another, being lovers of the brotherhood, merciful… not rendering evil for evil, nor railing for railing, but contrariwise, blessing, for this are you called’ (1 Pt 3:8,9). How can we fail to hear in these words an echo of the words of Jesus: ‘Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you’ (Mt 5:44).

Don’t forget your Catholic Weekly today!
The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The sacrament of Reconciliation is also called the sacrament of Penance or Confession. Essentially, the sacrament of Reconciliation is the healing of our relationship with God and his family which has broken down because of sin. Just as the wound of sin is varied and multiple in the life of individuals and of the community, so too the healing which reconciliation provides is varied. Those who by grave sin have withdrawn from the communion of love with God are called back in the sacrament of Reconciliation to the life they have lost. The sacrament of Reconciliation is, in one respect, the renewal of our Baptism and allows us the freedom to live the Christian life, to be the people God made us to be. Christmas is an especially good time to return to communion of love with God.

Advent Adoration

And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the ancients, and about the living creatures; and they fell before the throne upon their faces, and adored God, saying “Amen. Benediction and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, honour, and power, and strength to our God, forever and ever, Amen.” (Apocalypse, vii, 11, 12)

The revealed precept to adore God was spoken to Moses upon Sinai and reaffirmed in the words of Christ: “The Lord your God you shall adore, and him only shall you serve.” (Matt., iv, 10)

This month, why not make a special effort to spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament? All the faithful are encouraged to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. It doesn’t need to be long or elaborate. Frequent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is a path to spiritual growth.

Please Note

Year of Youth Advent 2017 to end of 2018

The Catholic Bishops of Australia invite Catholics across the country to join in celebrating a Year of Youth with the theme, ‘Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment.’ The emphasis is on local discussion and dialogue in parishes, schools, youth groups and dioceses. Information is available at www.youth.catholic.org.au and www.dbb.org.au and youtube/-TloGCRa7HI

Advent Carols Celebration

All are invited to the annual Carols on Friday 9 December 10am followed by a special morning tea, at All Saints Anglican Church 289 The Entrance Road. RSVP 4334 4388.

Palms Australia Applications Closing Soon!

Communities in East Timor, PNG and Kiribati are asking for educators, health professionals and trades people to mentor their local personnel. If you would like to volunteer in 2017 the Church offers considerable financial support. Call 9560 5333.

St Patrick’s Business College Courses 2017

Enrolments are open for Diplomas in Business and Business Administration (40 week courses) with graduates assisted to find employment roles. St Patrick’s is the only Catholic Business College in NSW. Call 0407 2789 164 for study options.

Christmas Carols at the Schoenstatt Shrine

The Schoenstatt Sisters would like to invite you to join them for an evening of carol singing at the Shrine at Mt Schoenstatt 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa. Carols commence 7:30pm Saturday 17 December. Bring a picnic, blanket, chairs, snacks. 4773 8338.

Don’t forget free Faith, Hope, Love & Mercy Prayer Cards on the information tables!
Serving the Catholic Community of The Entrance and extending the Kingdom of God

PARISH PRIEST & DEAN  Fr Bill Stevens  ASSISTANT PRIEST Fr Stephen Hamilton  0407 201 474
SACRAMENTAL COORDINATOR Br John Verhoeven FSP
Office Hours  Monday-Friday 9:30-5:00pm  Tel  4332 2216  Fax  4333 5344
Postal Address  PO Box 189 THE ENTRANCE 2261  Street Address  239-243 The Entrance Rd THE ENTRANCE 2261
Email  info@ourladyoftherosary.org.au  Website  www.ourladyoftherosary.org.au
PROPERTY MANAGER  Michael de la Motte  Tel  4334 7600 (BH)

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PRIMARY SCHOOL  Tel  4332 5594  Fax  4334 5599
ST PETER’S CATHOLIC COLLEGE  Tel  4351 2344  Fax  4351 2965

Mass & Devotions in Ordinary Time

Sunday Masses  Saturday Vigil 6:00pm  Sunday 8:00am & 9:30am
Weekday Masses  Monday - Thursday 9:00am  Friday 11:45am  Saturday 9:00am
Reconciliations  Saturdays 9:30-10am & 5-5:30pm

Liturgy of the Hours  Saturday 8:40am  Rosary  Monday-Thursday 8:35am  Friday 11:20am  Saturday 9:30am
Cenacle  Wednesday 9:30am  Christian Meditation Group  Friday 10:30am-11:30am Muldoon Room. Come & join us!

Keep Us In Your Prayers

There is no gift more precious than prayer - Fr Benedict Groeschel

Recently Deceased:  Jill Puckeridge, Jim McCarthy, Sue McNally, Lorna Wicks, Noeline Wilkinson, Rita McIntosh, Elizabeth Meier, Simon Maloney.

Funeral:  The funeral of Lorna Wicks was held during the week. Please pray for Lorna and her family.


Remembrances:  Bruce Parry, Dorothy Cribb, Noeleen Corrigan, Maurice Cramsie, Charles Magri, Sam & Antonia Borg, James Baker, Marie McCallum, Lorraine Richards.

Families:  Bouchet.

Sick:  Peter Connolly, Maria Buttigieg, Len Martin, Kerry Fitzpatrick, Fr Jack Robson, Luigi Schiavo, Kathy Lowe-Scafidi, John Verhoeven Snr, Brian Staggs, Laurel & Stan Johnson, Andrew Edmunds, Les McDonald, Maree Gilratreath-McLoughlin, Peg Senogles, Sr Christina Cullen, Michael Falzon, Garry Reynolds, Br Tom and all families and friends suffering with cancer and long-term illnesses.

Welcome Newly Baptised:  Ruby Fallon.

Thanksgiving:  For Agnes and her continued improvement in health.

Our Lady of the Rosary

GIFT CENTRE

For all your devotional needs...

Christmas is nearly here! Come in and see our beautiful Nativity display and lovely new gifts for Christmas - something for everyone. Fr Mac's Heavenly Puddings are also back - don't miss out - small $20, large $35. You'll find the Gift Centre behind the Church carpark, corner of Ashton and Copnor Avenues.

Open:  Sunday 9am-9:30am & 10:30-11am  Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-1:30pm
Phone/Fax 4332 5997