33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A
14TH & 15TH NOVEMBER 2020

HOMILY NOTES

As Sr Verna points out in her commentary, the evangelist Matthew and his faith community, and the first intended readers of his gospel were very aware that Jesus has gone on a journey back to his Father. So, as in the parable we read today, the early church had to wrestle with the reality that it would be “a long time” before his return. And we, 2000 years later, are still waiting. In the meantime every disciple, like the Master’s servants in the parable, has the responsibility of using the gifts given to us by God for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. It is not enough to just “play safe” with the gifts God has given to us. Sr Verna also reminds us that Jesus tells this parable to disciples on the Mount of Olives—the place where he will soon struggle “with the risks and responsibilities to which he must commit himself as God’s Good & Faithful Servant, entrusted with the incomparable treasure of the world’s salvation”.

Thus, we can see that Jesus is the model from which the parable’s characters of the first 2 servants of the Master are drawn. And God’s risk-taking in the life and death of his son has “paid off” in Jesus’ Resurrection. Everyone who therefore seeks to follow the way of Jesus, is called to risk-taking and responsibility too. And Sr Verna names some of the risks in ordinary life that we as good and faithful servants will find affirmed by God.

- Forgiving rather than burying a grudge in our heart
- Standing by another in times of sorrow, failure or misunderstanding
- Giving someone the benefit of the doubt
- Associating with those whom many consider the “wrong kind”, the unacceptable people
- Laying down one’s life for another: perhaps a misunderstood friend, rebellious child, a terminally ill spouse, aged parents.

And now a point about good fear and bad fear. As Jesuit, Dennis Hamm comments: “The fear of the 3rd servant led him to opt for security first. And we as disciples can think we are doing God’s will when we simply preserve intact the gifts we are given rather than venturing it in ways that will enable the talents (the faith?) to grow. However, there is another kind of fear that’s very different, and which the woman extolled in our Proverbs reading has in spades:—the “fear of the Lord”. The fear of the Lord is a profound awe and wonder of the Creator that frees a person from the fear of anything or anyone else, and it energises a person to act justly and generously.

Jesus in his life and passion/death, and the first and second servants were acting obediently according to the “fear of the Lord” whereas the third servant was disabled by a lesser, cowardly fear. St John XXIII once said, “we are not on earth to guard a museum, but to cultivate a flourishing garden of life”. And maybe these words came from his fear of God, nurtured by a long life of prayer and service. Thus, as Dennis Hamm says, “At a moment when many were preoccupied with keeping the deposit of faith secure, Pope John called for a new venture of renewal and dialogue in our life of Christian discipleship and mission.”

CHILD SAFEGUARDING RESOURCE...

The eSafety Commissioner has recently published a free e-book resource ‘Online safety for grandparents and carers’ which provides advice about online safety issues that children and young people may experience. This resource provides “key advice about online safety issues that can affect children and young people” including practical tips to help grandparents and carers to talk about these issues with children and young people and manage them. Helpful topics include: setting up devices safely; managing time online; preventing unsafe contact from strangers as well as a guide to some of the most popular sites and apps. Grandparents and carers can download and view the resource online: https://www.esafety.gov.au/seniors/online-safety-grandparents-carers

The SMOT Safeguarding Committee have been working hard this year to prepare the parish for an Archdiocese audit at the end of November. Website updates coming soon...
MACLEOD NEWS!!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November
Friday 13 9.15am Morning Mass in the Church (limit of 20 people)
Saturday 14 5.30pm Mass in the Church (limit of 20 people) ***fully booked***
This Mass will be uploaded to the website www.smot.org.au to view
Sunday 15 10am Mass in the Church (limit of 20 people) (33rd Sunday in OT) ***fully booked***
Monday 16 9.15am Morning Mass in the Church (limit of 20 people)
Tuesday 17 NO MASS THIS MORNING
Thursday 19 9.15am Morning Mass in the Church (limit of 20 people)
Friday 20 9.15am Morning Mass in the Church (limit of 20 people)
Saturday 21 5.30pm in the Church (limit of 20 people) ***fully booked***
This Mass will be uploaded to the website www.smot.org.au to view
Sunday 22 10.00am Mass in the Church (limit of 20 people) (Christ the King) ***fully booked****

It is very exciting that our Church has re-opened, albeit with limited numbers.

Returning to Mass will be different compared to what we are used to. We still need to collect a list of pre-booked attendees and contact details to enable contact tracing should it be needed. There will also need to be extensive cleaning after each service with a 1 hour gap between services. Please be patient while we continue to steer our path through the easing of restrictions whilst adhering also to the government guidelines.

Please ring or email the office should you wish to reserve a place at a particular Mass.

If you have booked in to attend Mass you must wear a mask TO Mass. Hand sanitiser is available and must be used, and any further directions, such as seating arrangements, given by Fr Michael must be adhered to. Please only attend if you are well. Also note that weekend Masses on the 21/22 November and 28/29 November are booked out as state school children receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist (this may change for 28/29 if numbers are lifted).

THIS WEEK’S READINGS: (33rd Sunday) Prov 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 127:1-5; 1 Thess 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: (Christ the King) Ezek 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 22:1-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

RECENTLY DECEASED  Frederik (Fredi) Assouad, Maria Basilone, John Clark, Angela Lavric,
ANNIVERSARIES - THOSE WE REMEMBER FONDLY AT THIS TIME: Doris Martin, Margaret Buckley, Teresa Morello,
John Fitzgerald, Josephine Meehan, Giovanna Calabrese, Adrian McKitterick, Leo Moloney, Henry Darroch, Pasquale Martucci, Cecilia McPhee, Ernest Lynch, Rocco Vivarini, Ida, Paciocco, Anna Surkic, Laurie Nce, Thomas Grech,

LORD THAT I MAY BE WELL AGAIN - PRAY FOR THE SICK– Bernie Herridge, Kate Mulholland, Des Reardon,
Sr. Mary Fankhauser, Cheryl Parker, Patricia Valentie, Robyn Atherton, Philomena & Leo Boek, Fr Kevin Mogg, Danilo Milic, Anne-Maree Silfo, Michael Nicholls, Elizabeth Martin, Tony Ryan, Sr Margaret McHugh, Michael Burgess, Annette Lewis, Richard Mc Aliece, Katrina Jackman, Brian Flynn, Maria George, Maureen Miller, Brigid Harding, Joan McKeegan, Terry Walsh, Harry O’Connell, Noel Murray, Judith Price, Vivienne Fernandez (mother of Marguerite Partridge & Janet D’Souza), Sophie Nathan

LEGEN OF MARry_The Legion of Mary invites you to join in our weekly Wednesday meetings held at 11am via Zoom. The meeting includes the Rosary and Tessera Prayers. Come as you can, leave when you must. Please sms / text or contact Philomena on 0403910446 to receive an email invitation link to join. If you are able to join only via phone; I will make arrangements for the same.

SMOT NATIVITY SCENE THIS CHRISTMAS_ Parishioners will recall the beautiful nativity scene created a few year ago by Domenic D’Agostino. It was located in the main foyer. Little did we know that this was to be his legacy, as he passed away earlier this year. So now we need some volunteers to help set it up. It would be good to have a small group, maybe 3 people to organise setting it all up. If you are handy and have some time to do this, please contact the Parish Office.

COLUMBAN CALENDARS—If you have been lucky enough to have booked a seat at Mass you will notice that Columban Calendars are available to purchase from the foyer of the Church for $10. Please try to have the correct money on the day. Thank you.

BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP …. We will meet again online in Zoom, from 7:30-8:30pm this Tuesday night 17 November.
To join, click on this zoom link: https://latrobe.zoom.us/j/92296803601 If you have any questions, or want help setting up your Zoom, contact Dennis Wollersheim on dewoller@gmail.com or 0414529454.

CARMELITE SISTERS, PERTH is offering St Martin’s parishioners a 25% discount on all purchases from Sunday 8th to Sunday 15th 2020 at the Carmelite Gift Shop in celebration of its Feast Day. Visit www.holytrinitycarmel.com.au and at the checkout enter code STMARTIN to receive your 25% discount. Gifts, nativities and decorations available.

GARDENING: TIM O’HANLON 0433 952 705 GENERAL HOME MAINTENANCE: Bernie Power 0409 936 860
THANK YOU & GOOD BYE MEGAN

Megan Williams who has been on leave this year, has decided to finish her time at St Martin’s. We would like to take this opportunity to reflect on her time with us.

Meg led our school and community in 2019 as Acting Principal during a very difficult period. She put the needs of students, parents and staff before her own.

During her time at St Martin’s her many roles included, classroom teacher, Mathematics Leader, ICT Leader, Deputy Principal and Acting Principal. She attended primary school at SMOT, her family has been part of the parish for many years and she continues to hold this community close to her heart. Meg spent many years teaching overseas and brought that wealth of knowledge to our school along with her cultural sensitivities. Meg has no interest in sport, except in 2018 when West Coast won the Premiership. She was the only West Coast supporter in our footy day parade.

Meg’s quirky nature enabled her to relate very well with all students. She has a gentle and caring manner and a genuine rapport with the students. She challenged many students in mathematics, STEM and technology. She cared for all students and shared her quirky ideas with all. Meg is a very approachable person and nothing was too difficult for her. She made staff comfortable in her presence. She shared her contemporary ideas with staff and her enthusiasm shone through. Her forward thinking in the technology area set us up for success during our remote learning this year. Meg was happiest working behind the scenes, tirelessly and quietly, for our school and community, the best interests of our students being her highest priority. We take this opportunity to thank Megan for her tremendous contribution to the St Martin’s community and wish her happiness and success in all her future endeavours.

NAIDOC WEEK 8-15 NOVEMBER
(National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee)

Naidoc Week is an opportunity for all Australians to come together to celebrate the rich history, diverse cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the oldest continuing cultures on the planet. Naidoc Week celebrations provide a valuable opportunity for all Australians to participate in a range of activities and to support local Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander communities.

The 2020 theme, Always Was, Always Will Be recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. They were Australia’s first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronauts and first artists. Naidoc Week 2020 acknowledges and celebrates that our nation’s story didn’t begin with documented European contact whether in 1770 with Captain James Cook, or in 1606 with the arrival of the Dutch on the western coast of the Cape York Peninsula. The very first footprints on this continent were those belonging to First Nations people. Naidoc 2020 invites all Australians to embrace the true history of this country - a history which dates back thousands of generations. It’s about seeing, hearing and learning the First Nations’ 65,000-plus-year history of this country - which is Australian history.

Tyrown Waigana, a Perth based artist and designer, has been named as this year’s winner of the prestigious National NAIDOC Poster Competition (see above) for best illustrating the theme: Always Was, Always Will Be. Waigana, is a proud Noongar and Saibai Islander. His winning entry depicts the Rainbow Serpent coming out of the Dreamtime to create this country, and how we are strongly connected to it. “The Rainbow Serpent is represented by the snake and it forms the shape of Australia, which symbolises how it created our lands. The colour from the Rainbow Serpent is reflected onto the figure to display our connection to the Rainbow Serpent, thus our connection to country. The overlapping colours on the outside is the Dreamtime.”

“The figure inside the shape of Australia is a representation of Indigenous Australians showing that this country - since the dawn of time - always was, and always will be Aboriginal land,” Mr Waigana added.

You are able to search for NAIDOC Events that are close to you by visiting our NAIDOC Week Events page!

CARITAS ASIA EMERGENCY APPEAL  The devastation caused by the worst storms and flooding in the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam in nearly a decade is urging us all to act. Since early October, Vietnam and Cambodia have experienced unprecedented rainfall and severe flooding. Several people have been killed and hundreds of thousands of homes have been submerged. The region has been hit by back-to-back typhoons in a very short period of time. Typhoons Quinta and Goni have bought havoc hitting the Philippines with gusts up to 225km an hour and causing even more flooding in Vietnam and Cambodia. Entire villages are without power. Thousands are flocking to evacuation centres where the risk of Covid transmission is higher again, due to cramped conditions, and high numbers. Please help all you can by phoning 1800 024 413 to donate, by post GPO Box 9830 in your capital city or access on line donation via caritas.org.au/
FIVE QUOTES FROM Laudato Si: The Pope’s encyclical Laudato Si (‘Praise be to you’) - On the Care for Our Common Home, is the Church’s most profound and comprehensive statement yet on caring for creation and the poorest. It is an inspirational letter that calls for us to examine our hearts, transform our social values and take action for global solidarity. Pope Francis’ call for a renewed sense of wonder at the miracle of creation, is a key ingredient the Church can offer to the ecological conversation, and to make that appeal with such rich language heightens the call’s potency. Here is the fourth in a series of five of the encyclical’s most beautiful passages.

4) Take the long view.

Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others…the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. (no. 159)

Taking the long view, what’s best for me right now might not line up with what’s best for all of us for centuries to come. If we see the planet as a gift — gift we have received and gift we will pass on — we can develop gratitude. And gratitude is the best tool for breaking down self-centeredness.

Next week…5. Simplify, simplify, simplify…….

PALMS AUSTRALIA—Reaching Beyond 2020 People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities' needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment See www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

ANTIBIOTICS OF GENEROSITY First Aid

The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve disciples came to Jesus and said, “Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place.” But Jesus said to them, “You give them something to eat.”

They said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.” For there were about five thousand men. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. All ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces. (Lk 9:12-17)

1. Touch

I touch the Heart of Generosity.

I hold some bread or rice. I consider how either is life to so many, and how bread broken or rice shared may be a symbol of generosity. I slowly break the bread in two, or divide the rice into two lots, feeling, touching and becoming deeply aware of my sharing actions. I feel the Spirit of Generosity moving in my hands.

I remember a small story of someone who was incredibly generous to me when I was in want and urgent need. If praying alone I hold that memory, if I am praying in a group, I share it with them, feeling touched by the Spirit of Generosity. I begin to understand how generosity may be multiplied by the Spirit in feasts of healing.

2. Desire

I desire to the Gift of Generosity.

I slowly and prayerfully read the prayer text above.

I name all the relationships and situations where I wish to be generous …

I ask the Spirit for the gift of overflowing generosity, when I am called to be a generous — even if resources are few — for the need of others is critical.

3. Give

I breathe in the Spirit of Generosity.

Then I imagine and feel the Spirit breathing the gift of Generosity into me.

I breathe it in deeply, wait, then breathe it out into my relationships and service of others, and into those who hunger in body and spirit.

I repeat as desired — breathing, generous, feeding hungers …

I conclude in thanks, considering two questions. Firstly, if possible, how might I make contact and reconnect with the one who was so generous to me? Secondly, to whom and how do I pass on this exercise — who urgently needs generosity now?

PRAYER TIME: Go gently, using the generous time you have put aside for this prayer.

The three dots … indicate the places to pause.

If you are specially moved at any of the steps, remain there for the rest of the prayer.

FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

First Spiritual Exercises are designed in a similar way to the way that St Ignatius helped people to pray before he developed the Spiritual Exercises as we have had them since. These are named Field Hospital exercises in reference to the way that Pope Francis sees the Church as a Field Hospital for a broken world. This prayer is offered to you as another way to pray, a way you may not have tried before. You can pray these prayers individually or in a group with some sharing. Many more prayers are available. If you would like to join in a group then please let me know so that it can be arranged. My email address is, anne.priestley@mercy.org.au

For those of you who wish to subscribe, go to- https://www.fsecloud.life/field-hospital-sign-up/

FSE FIELD HOSPITAL © Michael Hansen SJ

Contact: field-hospital@fsecloud.life • www.fsecloud.life • JISA Ministries www.jisa.org.au