St Martin of Tours - Parish of Macleod

‘A faith community where Christian service thrives and shared ministry is developed’

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St Martin’s Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS - YEAR A 31ST OCTOBER & 1 NOVEMBER 2020

HOMILY NOTES

The context of the gospel passage is that crowds of burdened and afflicted people have crowded around Jesus. Seeing them, Jesus then goes up the mountain (In the Bible, the place where God is revealed.). And there, as Brendan Byrne points out in his commentary, Jesus teaches his disciples, with the mass of afflicted humanity overhearing what he is asking of us disciples.

Yes, the scene is the same today. The world we live in is full of human beings who are burdened and afflicted. And Jesus reveals to us his disciples the great Sermon on the Mount in response to this context. Today’s well-known gospel passage is the overture to the Sermon on the Mount which is recorded in chapters 5-7 of Matthew’s gospel. I find it important to recall that every word of the great sermon on the Mount is lived out by Jesus.

Thus, Jesus as the Risen One, is the source of our hope, to live out and reflect something of the vision he puts before us. And our hope is real too, because of the Spirit that Jesus bequeaths to his disciples including we who live in Melbourne in this Covid time.

Let’s examine a couple of the Beatitudes (Blessings)

- Disciples who are poor in spirit are blessed because they put their hope in God. And so they will know, like Jesus did, that God indeed reigns.
- Blessed are those who mourn that is, who feel for the world’s suffering (and the planets’ groaning); for they, like Jesus, will become a source of God’s comfort to those carrying heavy burdens.
- Blessed are the pure in heart and those carrying heavy burdens.
- Blessed are the peacemakers. The spirit Jesus gives us is always working and those who peace, will become a source of God’s comfort to the burdened and afflicted.

Disciples who struggle to recognize “the who and the why” in life’s threatening storms are assured of the kingdom vision of God.

A final reflection...

On the Feast of All Saints we have used two banners in our church over the past few years. One banner depicts a traditional saint and the other portrays a grandmotherly figure with an apron and stirring spoon. Often at funerals, families remember their beloved departed with an apron and stirring spoon.

One banner depicts a traditional saint and the other portrays a grandmotherly figure with an apron and stirring spoon. Often at funerals, families remember their beloved departed through symbols like recipe books, aprons, stirring spoons, tools and other signs of their work. Let us pray, that in the spirit of the Lord Jesus, each of us may also in ordinary ways, reflect something of his presence of love/mercy to the burdened and afflicted around us.

MEMORIAL MASS 2020

The Annual Memorial Mass will be held this Thursday 5th November at 7.30pm via Zoom and on Facebook (@Smot Parish). If you would like to join this Mass on the night please use the following link.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82653944548?pwd=N1VqTjBVcmVzK0hJVTdcB1JwQ1JNdz09
Meeting ID: 826 5394 4548 Passcode: 109610
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday 30 Oct  9.15am SMOT Mass via Zoom followed by October Rosary and Zoom catch up
Join Zoom Meeting on Friday’s using this link
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86821580873?pwd=OHQ5Y21pNUlWkFTRUd6SFVVaDlZUT09
Or use the id and password below if you use Zoom this way
Meeting ID: 868 2158 0873  Passcode: 415472

November
Sunday 1  All Saints - SMOT Mass available on website or Facebook
Monday 2  All Souls - 9.15am Mass in the Church (limit of 10 people)
Tuesday 3  Melbourne Cup Day - No Mass this day
Thursday 5  No Morning Mass
Memorial Mass 7.30pm livestreamed via Facebook and via Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82653944548?pwd=NIvqTjBVcmVzK0hJVTdCb1JwQlNlZz09
Meeting ID: 826 5394 4548  Passcode: 109610

Friday 6  9.15am Mass in the Church (limit of 10 people)
Sunday 8  SMOT Mass available on website or Facebook (32nd Sunday in OT)
Monday 9  9.15am Morning Mass in the Church (limit of 10 people)

We are currently continuing with taping the weekend Mass until we can have numbers of 20 parishioners. This Mass will appear on Facebook or the website as it has been.

Weekday Mass, starting Monday, will begin with numbers limited to 10. Please ring or email the office should you wish to attend to reserve a place.

If you have booked a spot and are attending Mass you must wear a mask TO Mass. Hand sanitiser is available and must be used, attendance record must be signed (request that you BYO pen) and any further directions, such as seating arrangements, given by Fr Michael must be adhered to. Please only attend if you well.

THIS WEEK’S READINGS: (All Saints) Apoc 7: 2-4, 9-14; Ps 23:1-6; 1Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12
NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: (32nd Sunday in OT) Wis 6:12-16; Ps 62;2-8; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

RECENTLY DECEASED
Joyce Broadbent (Robert’s mother), Michael Murray, Eileen Duncan (Karen Livingstone’s mother)

ANNIVERSARIES - THOSE WE REMEMBER FONDLY AT THIS TIME:
Brian Martin, John Twomey, Isidor McHugh, Peter Martin, Phillip O’Hehir, Geraldine Shannon, Frank Nolan, Allan Turville, Olive Rutter, Bryant McEvey, Giovanni Martino, Carmel Power, Steven Marson, Patricia Wood, Henry McDermott Roe, Joyce Dalli

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

LEGION OF MARY
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

SMOT Nativity Scene This Christmas
Parishioners will recall the beautiful nativity scene created a few years ago by Domenic D’Agostina. 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.

BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP ....
We will meet again online in Zoom, from 7:30-8:30pm this Tuesday night 3 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.

GARDENING: TIM O’HANLON 0433 952 705 GENERAL HOME MAINTENANCE: Bernie Power 0409 936 860
STEWARDSHIP NEWS
Giving Summary 1 July 2019-11 October 2020

“THANK YOU for your magnificent support of our Parish during this difficult time. Your generosity knows no bounds. God bless.”

Stewardship envelopes will be mailed out this week.

REPORT FROM THE SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE (FORMERLY CHILD SAFETY TEAM)
The Safeguarding Committee works on behalf of parishioners to ensure that St Martin’s has a child-safe environment.

Throughout this year, the committee has been working to update the parish’s policies and procedures in line with the ten National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (Standards) which were published in 2019.

The committee has:
- Met regularly via Zoom
- Participated with other parishes in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM), Northern Regions - Safeguarding Network meetings held via Zoom
- Revised the SMOT Policy and Code of Conduct to better reflect the Standards
- Submitted the revised Policy and Code of Conduct for the endorsement of the Parish Pastoral Council
- Created a Risk Management Plan for which we are seeking feedback
- Documented procedures to implement the Standards
- Prepared an initial ‘Self-Assessment of Compliance’ audit relating to the Standards. This audit has to be completed and a copy lodged with CAM’s Professional Standards Unit by 30 November 2020. Committee members are all contributing to this challenging work to ensure we can meet the 30 November deadline.

We will be consulting with parish group leaders about some of these documents and look forward to receiving feedback. It is anticipated that the website will be updated in the coming weeks. You will be notified when this occurs.

A prayer as I put on my mask:

Creator, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth—let it be "an outward sign of an inward grace"—a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbors, as I love myself.

Christ, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart, that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes. Since my voice may be muffled, help me to speak clearly, not only with my words, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, As the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully—and full of care—to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.

In your Name and in that love, I pray.

Rev. Dr. Richard Bott, Moderator, Uniting Church of Canada.

Ready, Set, Pray! Children’s Liturgy of the Word @ Home
The Ready, Set, Pray! Children’s Liturgy of the Word @ Home video series has been created to provide an engaging space for families to encounter Jesus through the Sunday gospel.

Each week includes an invitation for families to create and gather in their own prayer space, to sing, hear the Gospel, pray and respond creatively through an activity.

This weekly resource follows the familiar Children’s Liturgy of the Word format provided in many parishes—but moved to an online setting. It can be used by families in their homes, and also by teachers and catechists. The series consists of 10 weekly sessions of 15-20 minutes duration, commencing from Sunday 18th October and continuing each Sunday until Christmas.

This resource is produced by Proclaim: The Office for Mission Renewal at the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

To access the free program see https://bit.ly/ReadySetPray

FRATELLI TUTTI
Pope Francis has written his third encyclical entitled, Fratelli tutti (On Fraternity and Social Friendship). Visit full text of Fratelli tutti

To view our Safeguarding Children & Young People Code of Conduct, go to www.smot.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 third in a series of five of the encyclical's most beautiful passages.
3) To grow your own care for the earth and for the poor, get in touch with your inner child.
The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God. The history of our friendship with God is always linked to particular places which take on an intensely personal meaning; we all remember places, and revisiting those memories does us much good.
Anyone who has grown up in the hills or used to sit by the spring to drink, or played outdoors in the neighbourhood square; going back to these places is a chance to recover something of their true selves. (no. 84)
Places form us. When we forget our intimate connection to place, we take it for granted, and the move to exploitation is not far off.
Next week……4) Take the long view.

FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES - BANDAGE OF KINDNESS

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Mic 6:6-8

Stretch out your hand to the poor, so that your blessing may be complete.
Give graciously to all the living; do not withhold kindness even from the dead.
Do not avoid those who weep, but mourn with those who mourn.
Do not hesitate to visit the sick, because for such deeds you will be loved. Sir 7:32-35

1. Touch

I touch the Heart of Kindness.
I hold a small cloth, handkerchief or paper tissue – symbol of kindness, reminding me of times when my tears were gently wiped away, a bloody scrape of flesh was softly cleaned, or the sweat of my illness dabbed away.
I remember a small story of someone who was kind to me when I was hurt or caught in desperate times. If praying alone I hold that memory, if I am praying in a group, I share it with them. Listening to their stories, feeling touched by the Spirit of Kindness ... I begin to understand how with a driven life, community frustration, and even hostility with cruel events, it is essential to practice loving kindness.

2. Desire

I desire the Gift of Kindness.
I slowly and prayerfully read the prayer texts above.
I name all the relationships and places where I desire kindness ...
I ask the Spirit for the gift of loving kindness, to give and receive, especially when a pandemic can threaten small gestures of thoughtfulness.

3. Kind

I breathe in the Spirit of Kindness.
I imagine and feel the Spirit breathing goodness and loving kindness into me.
I breathe it in deeply, wait, then breathe it out into my daily relationships, actions and into all those who suffer a harsh or desperate life in these times.
I repeat as desired – breathing, loving, kind ...

I conclude in thanks, considering two questions. Firstly, if possible, how might I make contact and reconnect with the one who was so kind to me? Secondly, to whom and how do I pass on this exercise – who urgently needs loving kindness 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 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 the email address at the bottom of the prayer.