

St Martin of Tours - Parish of Macleod

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



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ABN: 21 504 260 106

PARISH WEBSITE: www.smot.org.au FACEBOOK @Smot Parish

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

PARISH TEAM

Fr Michael O'Connell
Parish Priest

Sr. Maria Bui
Pastoral Associate
Maria.Bui@cam.org.au

If you need the ministry of Fr Michael or Sr Maria please ring the Parish Office. This includes viaticum and all the opportunities for healing through the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation.

Macleod Parish Mass can be found on our website

www.smot.org.au or on our facebook page

Ingrid Leverett
Parish Secretary
Macleod@cam.org.au

Elizabeth Jernejcic
Parish Accounts Mgr.
Elizabeth.Jernejcic@cam.org.au

SCHOOL

Jacqueline Marshall
St Martin of Tours School
School Principal
Tel. 8458 7500

PARISH GROUPS

Parish Pastoral Council
David Grasso (Chair)
ph 9401 6338

Communion to the Sick
Ph 9401 6338

St Vincent de Paul
Frances Essling (President)
Tel. 9895 5800

We deeply respect the Aboriginal Community of Wurundjeri upon whose land our Parish resides

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -YEAR A 5TH & 6TH SEPTEMBER 2020

HOMILY NOTES

When I was a young man at University I loved the extra-curricular life - especially my involvement within both the Newman Society (Catholic student movement) and the University's football club. One year, at the business end of the football season, our team was looking at playing in the finals. It was then that I made a decision. The Newman Society had planned a weekend faith formation camp that I really wanted to attend. And because I felt I was one of the better players in our football team, I thought, : "I can miss out on this one game". Not long after this our football side was in the Grand Final....and I can still feel the disappointment/hurt when I was omitted from the side. I was shocked. No one had approached me when I'd made my earlier decision to say: "you've crossed a line here".

The context of today's gospel passage is that it is placed just after Jesus' story of the lost sheep...in which the shepherd lovingly goes after that wandering sheep. So our gospel passage reminds us that when we know someone needs to be confronted, the first step is to lovingly seek out the person in a one on one encounter. And then, if there is no response we follow the next step that Jesus outlines. What would I have done if a member of the selection panel of the football club had confronted me after I'd made myself unavailable for that weekend? I may have reconsidered!

Today's gospel text also reminds us as a faith community that the Lord is with us, walking with us on the journey that we travel. It is Father's Day weekend and in the bulletin is a reflection from Fr Joe McMahon about his dad (Fr Joe died 3 1/2 years ago). I was struck by Joe's words: about walking with his dad; his dad proudly standing beside him; that he and his dad worked together and how they were at ease in each other's company and thus able to converse on many topics. I reckon Joe's dad became for him a powerful symbol of the way that the Lord walked with him, proudly stood beside him, worked with him, and was at ease with him, so that they could converse together about anything. Today, the subject matter of our gospel may be quite challenging to some of us. However, the last verse reminds us that the Lord walks with us, proudly stands beside us, works with us and seeks to talk with us about all that's going on in our lives!

A BLESSING FOR FATHERS

We thank you, God, for the gift of our fathers,
For grandfathers and godfathers and fathers-in-law too.
Send your Holy Spirit upon our fathers,
In whose laps we were cradled, at whose hands we were fed,
instructed, at times corrected,
In whose company we learned to work and play and pray,
at whose side we hear your word and celebrate your mysteries.
Heal their pains and disappointments.
Forgive all that needs to be forgiven.
Give to them the good that they have given to others.
Welcome into your arms those who have died.
Fill this world, O God, with a father's love!
We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, who taught us to Pray to you as "Abba".
He lives and reigns with your and the Holy Spirit, who is the Father of the poor, one God forever and ever.
Amen.



MACLEOD NEWS!!!!

Now that we are in stage 4 COVID restrictions, the doors to the Church and the Community Centre remain closed. The Parish Office is NOW CLOSED. Staff are working from home. For all enquiries please either phone the parish office on 9401 6338 or email macleod@cam.org.au and we will return your call/emails. We strongly encourage you to stay at home in line with Victorian Government stage 4 guidelines. Please see our resource guide on the following pages.

MASSES AT SMOT THIS WEEK

Weekend Mass can be found on our website www.smot.org.au or on our facebook page @SmotParish

Weekday Masses livestreamed Tuesday (8 Sept) & Thursday (10 Sept) this week at 9.15am on our facebook page and **Friday via Zoom** (11 Sept)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2137834081?pwd=RmtMZ0dGRTEvOFVvN3Flid2V0MjhLQT09>

Or use the id and password below if you use Zoom this way

Meeting ID: 213 783 4081

Passcode: 415472 (for any anniversaries or special intentions please advise the parish office by phone).

THIS WEEK'S READINGS: (23rd Sunday in OT) Ezek 33:7-9; Ps 94:1-2.6-9. Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: (24th Sunday in OT) Sirach 27:30-28:7; Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

RECENTLY DECEASED

Silvana Gennai, Mina Fauske (102 yo in Norway)

ANNIVERSARIES - THOSE WE REMEMBER FONDLY AT THIS TIME:

Cosimo Petrilli, Andrew Baxter, Antonina Fortunato, Janet Seymour, Isabella Stella, Teresa Wood, Barry Fitzgerald, Phyllis Neilson, Candido Tieppo, Saverio Turchet, Kathleen Humphrey, Antonio Lanza, Sam Alexander

LORD THAT I MAY BE WELL AGAIN - PRAY FOR THE SICK-

Mary and Michael Murray, Des Reardon, Ines Favrin, Sr. Mary Fankhauser, Freddie Assouad, 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

ST MARTINS MENTAL HEALTH CHECK INS

Hi St Martin's Community, this is Chris one of the youth leaders.

During this lockdown period, many of us are at risk of the negative effects that social isolation can have on our mental wellbeing. This can be especially true for the members of our community as weekly masses have been halted. That's why from the 23rd of August to the 19th of September, 2 other Nursing student volunteers and I will be offering mental health check-up calls to those who feel they need it, or to those who think a family member or friend may need it. In these weekly calls we will offer guidance, advice, and support regarding your quarantine experience, staying safe, and possible referrals and recommendations to services you may find useful. Most of all we are here just to listen to anything you want to say. These calls are confidential and if you would like can simply be for you to socialise. If you think you, a friend or a family member may benefit from this service, email christopherwebb4321@gmail.com and send me the name and number of the person and we will follow up with a phone call. Stay Safe everybody and God Bless.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary invites you to join in our weekly Wednesday meetings held at 11 am via Zoom. The meeting includes the Rosary and Tesserat Prayers. Please sms / text or contact Philomena on 0403910446 to receive an email invitation link to join. Please advise if you are able to join only via phone; I will make arrangements for the same. All are welcome!

MILESTONE OCCASIONS

Do you have a significant marriage milestone or significant birthday coming up??

Parishioners may like to receive a blessing at Mass on these special, important occasions. A certificate will also be given to commemorate the milestone.

Please let us know via email of your milestone and we can arrange to have the occasion celebrated during Mass.

Upcoming Feast Day - MONDAY 14 September The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Child Protection Sunday - SUNDAY 13th September

To view our Safeguarding Children & Young People Code of Conduct, go to www.smot.org.au

FATHER'S DAY REFLECTION

This is a reflection about 1 man's dad - perhaps it can prompt some thoughts of your dad or father figures in your life.

'DAD'

My favourite time with dad was spent walking with him. When I was young I would walk with dad and my brother to the Punt Road oval to watch our team Richmond.

I have another special memory, one Good Friday, walking with dad to Good Friday ceremonies at our church. We went together to St Francis' in the city, the night my little sister died. We arrived home when my sister called for dad, just before she died.

Dad would stand beside me, when we were having a break between quarters at our football matches. I knew he was proud of me and it helped me to play better.

When I was on holidays from the seminary, I worked with dad in a grain store on the South Wharf.

Walking beside dad was always an honour for me. We were easy in each other's company. We could converse on many topics, sports, politics, things at home, television (westerns), religion. Dad was easy to be with except when he was driving a car, or barracking at the football; these were times for war!

Dad's health suddenly turned bad when he was in his mid-fifties. In his final illness he was downcast, as weight fell off him until he was 'skin and bone'. He said that he did not know what to do. I gave him a small Bible and asked him to read and pray through St Paul's letter to the Corinthians. When he read the words "death where is your victory, where is your sting", it settled him and gave him great heart for the journey to come.

I hope to walk again with dad, one day 'in the land that knows no end'.

This reflection is from Fr Joe McMahon's book of reflections entitled, Seeking the Heart of God on Earth

CARITAS THANK YOU

A donation of \$3000.00 was sent to Caritas Australia towards the Lebanon Blast – Beirut Appeal. These funds were donated from the Mission Fund account that you, our parishioners, contribute towards from your Stewardship contributions. **A note from Caritas...**The donation you have so kindly made to Caritas Australia's Middle East Crisis Appeal will enable a rapid response to help communities and families who have been stuck by the explosion on 4 August 2020 as well as others who continue to bear the scars of conflict long after it is over. Your kindness will be directed to where it is most needed in the region, to provide emergency assistance to displaced families, host communities and affected populations. Through the international Caritas network and local partners, our programs currently address a range of areas, such as: food and water, hygiene kits including masks and soap, emergency housing and shelter repairs, access to education, social services, household items, healthcare and psychosocial support; and peacebuilding activities.

FIRST SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

The prayer accompanying this newsletter is called a Field Hospital, First Spiritual Exercise. It is just one of many that have been developed to help us during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fr Michael Hansen SJ has been working on these prayers with his team in Sydney. 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/>

PLENARY COUNCIL A Journey of Discernment

The last six months of the Plenary Council Journey has required many unplanned changes due to COVID-19. This included the decision to postpone the Plenary Council gatherings to 3-10 October 2021 (Adelaide) and 4-9 July 2022 (Sydney). What hasn't changed though, is the heart of the journey – the discernment process.

Archbishop Tim Costelloe SDB has written a paper reflecting on the genesis of the Plenary Council, retracing the journey so far and offering insights into the period leading up to the assemblies in 2021 and 2022, as well as the implementation phase beyond. In it, he likens the celebration of the Plenary Council to St Francis' "San Damiano moment", where the saint received a calling to rebuild God's Church.

'We are being invited to rebuild the Church, to restore it so that its true nature and identity, and its beauty, can be seen again,' Archbishop Costelloe says.

'We are being called to walk together again the path of true fidelity. But if we are, together, to do this we need to understand the gift we have been given, rejoice in it, love it, and be ambitious for its future. ... The key lies in a careful consideration of what fidelity to the Lord and the Lord's will for the Church really looks like.'

Download the paper: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/a-journey-of-discernment-The-Plenary-Council.pdf> (copy and paste the link into your browser)

RESOURCES TO ACCESS DURING LOCKDOWN

MASSES AVAILABLE TO WATCH ON LINE...

SMOT Weekend Mass can be found on our website www.smot.org.au or on our facebook page @SmotParish
SMOT Weekday Mass livestreamed Tuesday & Thursday at 9.15am on our facebook page & Friday via Zoom (for any anniversaries or special intentions please advise the parish office by phone).

St Patrick's Cathedral The 11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral is televised free to air on C31 (often listed as Channel 44 on digital TVs) as well as live streamed on its website and YouTube channel. We invite you to share the news widely, particularly with those who might be limited to TV viewing.

Watch here: <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Mass for you at home This program has been allowing the faithful – particularly those with mobility problems – to participate in Mass from their homes for many years. Mass for You at Home is broadcast on Eleven and Network Ten on Sundays and Aurora Channel on Foxtel every day. It is also the fourth-longest running television program in Australia.

Watch here: <http://www.mfyah.com/video.html> or <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

RESOURCES FOR HOME PRAYER.....

Richard Rohr, OFM - Action & Contemplation: Daily meditation

<https://cac.org/2020-daily-meditations/>

Joan Chittister, Benedictine Sister of Erie

<http://www.joanchittister.org/node/9231> or

<http://www.joanchittister.org/>

Pray As You Go Is a daily prayer session, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray when ever you find time. A new prayer session is produced every day of the working week and one session for the weekend. It is not a 'Thought for the Day', a sermon or a bible-study, but rather a framework for your own prayer. Lasting between ten and thirteen minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection. Our aim is to help you to: become more aware of God's presence in your life, listen to and reflect on God's word and grow in your relationship with God. The style of prayer is based on Ignatian Spirituality. It is produced by Jesuit Media Initiatives, with material written by a number of Jesuits, both in Britain and further afield, and other experts in the spirituality of St Ignatius of Loyola. It is available free to download from the App Store and is also available on Google Play. Just search 'Pray as you Go'.



Children's Liturgy If you would like any additional children's liturgy resources to use at home during this time please drop us an email at macleod@cam.org.au and we can send them to you.

BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP

We will meet again online in Zoom, from 7:30-8:30pm this Tuesday night **8 September**

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.

SEASON OF CREATION 2020 - free program

Pope John Paul II in 1990 named environmental care as integral to the Catholic faith and named St Francis of Assisi as the patron of ecological conversion. Pope Benedict XVI reinforced this Catholic vocation delivering homilies and speeches asking world leaders to take action. Pope Francis, in his 2015 Encyclical Laudato Si' detailed the call to See, Judge, Act on care for our common home.

Every year, Christians of all denominations join in prayer and action for our common home and celebrate the Season of Creation starting on 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation and ending on 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. See www.columban.org.au for the program.

CATHOLIC CARE SERVICES DURING COVID19

Whether it be losing your job, facing a financial crisis, experiencing depression, anxiety, relationship issues or social isolation, there is help available. It is important to look after your health and wellbeing during these difficult times.

Whether you are feeling stressed, overwhelmed, anxious or sad, talking to a counsellor or seeking emergency relief can help. We are offering FREE counselling via phone and video conference during the COVID crisis. You do not need a referral or a mental health care plan to access this service.

Call 9287 5555. Or visit www.ccam.org.au