

Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish



C/- 7 Mann Street, Mount Barker
South Australia 5251



We are a Community learning to be disciples of Jesus.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 18 August 2019

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

**Our Lady of Mercy
Mt Barker**

**SATURDAY VIGIL 6.00 PM
SUNDAY MORNING 9.00 AM**

**The Good Shepherd
Strathalbyn**

SUNDAY MORNING 10.45 AM

Weekday Masses This Week

Tue 20/08	St Bernard	9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Wed 21/08	St Pius X	12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 22/08	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 23/08		6.00pm	St James the Less
Sat 24/08	St Bartholomew, Apostle	9.30am	The Good Shepherd

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass on Thursday and Saturday mornings for half an hour.

Reconciliation is available during and after Exposition, and by appointment.

Serve others freely, as God freely loves you

In his homily at Mass in the Casa Santa Marta, Pope Francis reminded us that our relationship with God is completely gratuitous and requires only that we open our hearts to His grace. Taking his cue from Matthew 10:7-13, in which Jesus commissions the disciples to go out on mission, Pope Francis said Christians cannot remain stationary, since our way of life impels us to "hit the road, always".



He said Jesus has already given us our mission: "As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons." *"Christian life is for service. It saddens us to find Christians who at the beginning of their conversion, or awareness of being Christian, serve and are open to serve the people of God, but who later end up making use of the people of God. This causes much harm to God's people. Our vocation is to 'serve', not to 'make use of'."* Christian life is lived gratuitously. "Without cost you have received; without

cost you are to give," was how Jesus described the core of salvation. Salvation cannot be bought, because God "saves us free of charge" and "requires no payment". As God has done with us, so we are to do with others. "All God's gifts are given without cost. We should not bargain with God.

Pope Francis then invited Christians to give freely and not try to sell God's graces. "It pains the heart" when we see pastors "who make money off of God's grace: 'I can help you, but it will cost this much...'"

"In our spiritual life we always run the risk of slipping up on the question of payment, even when speaking with the Lord, as if we needed to bribe the Lord. No! That is not the correct path... I make a promise, in order to expand my heart to receive what is already there, waiting for us free of charge. This relationship of gratuitousness with God is what will help us to have the same rapport with others, whether it be in Christian witness, Christian service, or the pastoral work of those who guide the people of God. We do so along the way. Christian life means walking. Preach and serve, but do not make use of others. Serve and give freely that which you have received freely. May our life of holiness be permeated by this openness of heart, so that the gratuitousness of God – the graces that He wishes to give us without cost – may enter our hearts."

The Parish Team:

Fr. Richard Morris PP 8391 1053

Fr. Ian Wilson, Assisting Priest

Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary (Wed/Fri) 8391 1053

Sue Eckert, Ministry Coordinator, Strathalbyn 8537 3053

Fr. Richard's email address: morrisri@bigpond.com

Website: www.barkerstrathcatholic.com

Email Address: mbstparish@adam.com.au

Our Lady's Rosary Garden

8391 1471

St Francis de Sales College

Gavin McGlaughlin - Principal

8393 1000

Please Pray For...

Sick

Ashlee Lloyd, Geraldine Griffin, Jannifer Green,
Brian Hockings, Susie White, David Neville.

Names will be kept on the sick list for 4 weeks.

Recently Deceased

Malcolm Pollard, Win Mott, Joan Giles.

Anniversaries

Anne Dunning, Wendy Edes, Fr John Leahy, Rod White,
Marie and Joe Mannion, John Vaughan, Kit Morrison,
Christopher Green, Lynda Barton, Garry McDonnell,
Bonnie (Frances) Towns, Neil Stanley, Valentina Buberis.

Anniversaries from Saturday to Friday.

Parish Pastoral Council

Neil McGoran (Chair), Fr Richard Morris (Ex Officio),
Gavin McLaughlin (Ex Officio), Sandra Lloyd, Mike Galea,
Yesamma Hendry, Jo Manalo, Jan Sobotta, Joanna
Falkland.

Supporting our parish community on our journey of faith.

Parish Finance Council

Tom Hardy (Chair), Fr Richard, Michelle Muller (Secretary),
Noel Duffield, Jim Mann, John Barton, Hilary Raimondo.

For parish property, maintenance and finance matters.

Collections Last Week

1st Collection (supporting our priests)	\$ 894.90
2nd Collection (supporting the parish)	
Envelopes	\$ 966.00
Loose plate	\$ 375.90
Direct debit	\$ 292.00
Total second collection	\$ 1,633.90
Special Collection (Vocations Week)	\$ 348.15

Parish Meetings this Week

Mon 9.45am	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Mon 10am	Level 1 Atrium	St James the Less
Tue 7.30pm	Parish Pastoral Council	OLOM Foyer
Wed 4.00pm	Levels 2 & 3 Atrium	St James the Less
Thu 10.30am	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Thu 6.00pm	Youth Group	Parish House
Thu 7.00pm	St Vincent de Paul	Vinnies Centre
Sun 9.30am	Legion of Mary	Parish House

Ecumenical Prayer at Strathalbyn

Come, join in, and help begin what God wants to do here.
Sunday 18 August at the Lutheran Church.

On the Noticeboard

Aug 22	Youth Group @ the Parish House (bring a torch)
Sep 9-	'Hidden Treasure' retreat @ Loyola Centre
Sep 14	Knights of the SC Quiz Night @ the Strath Hall
Sep 17	Our Lady's Rosary Garden Inc. AGM
Oct 25	Christus Rex Pilgrimage, Ballarat

Reflection on the Scripture Readings

No doubt Luke knows that his readers would be startled by today's reading: 'Do you suppose I bring peace. No, I tell you, but rather division'. But he sees these statements of Jesus as important for the Church community of his time, that was facing great difficulties: not only from persecution on the part of outsiders, but also from internal disputes and divisions that sometimes ended up in the civil court, disputes that divided the Christian community itself and even the families that belonged to it. Such a situation calls for stern measures.



The whole story of the Scriptures leaves us in no doubt that evil, or 'sin', is real. God's designs for the human family have been continually frustrated by selfishness and destructiveness – sometimes motivated by the evil in human hearts; sometimes more an expression of ignorance and foolishness, but destructive nonetheless. Jesus did not come to provoke dissent; but the decision to live by the ways of God, that was essential to the message he preached, inevitably led to disagreements. If selfishness and destructiveness are to have their way unchallenged, the peace Christ came to bring - as a foretaste of the final 'kingdom' - will never become a reality.

It is important - in a moment of history marked by an increase of violence that is often motivated by religious differences – to understand the paradox involved in these startling words of Jesus. Luke has already made it clear that Jesus came to bring peace – rebuking the brothers who called down vengeance on the unfriendly Samaritans (9:55); proclaiming the demands of his New Commandment: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' and you will be true children of the Father who 'is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked' (6:27-35). The very words Luke quotes invite us to understand the paradoxical truth of what he is saying. The 'fire' he brings can symbolise destruction or purification. When we recall Luke's account of the message preached by John the Baptist, that the one who came after him would 'baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire' (3:16), and we link this with reference to the ordeal that awaits him in Jerusalem as a 'baptism', we can conclude that his is a purifying fire. His standing up to the forces of violence and destructiveness in opposition to him are to be a healing and reconciliation for a world unable to overcome its divisions and antagonisms. The true disciples of Jesus have understood the paradox: 'God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself' (2 Cor 5:19); 'For he is the peace between us' (Eph 2:14); 'a peace the world cannot give, that is my gift to you' (Jn 14:27).

When we know the challenge to having to oppose the forces of destructiveness, we have the example of the Saviour's courage, as he pressed on to Jerusalem, and 'endured the cross, for the sake of the joy which was still in the future.

John Thornhill SM

Question of the Week

Jesus said, 'Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!' (Luke 12: 51)

Adults: When has your taking a strong stand on a moral issue created division rather than healing in the short term?

Young People: When have you seen Christian living spark conflict with friends or family?

Children: Is it important to do the right things even if others are angry as a result? Why or why not?

Welcome Fr Peter Rozitis

We welcome Fr Peter who will be saying 6pm Mass this week.

Parish Lunch - Directions!

Next Sunday 25th August is our shared Parish lunch from 12 noon in the function room at St Francis de Sales College Stadium. Enter from Dutton Road near the railway line and proceed down the driveway to the car park. The function room is at the front of the stadium.

Please bring a sweet or savoury to share and note that we won't have access to kitchen facilities, so any hot food will need to be heated at home beforehand. See you there!

Children's Liturgy Awards

Congratulations to Lorelai, Cruz, Lara and Stephanie for your beautiful work in Children's Liturgy. There will be certificates and special prizes awarded at Masses this weekend to celebrate your achievements!

Parish Pastoral Council Election

The Parish Pastoral Council supports our parish community on our journey of faith. The PPC is comprised of Fr Richard, Gavin McLaughlin (Principal, St Francis de Sales College) and ten members elected by our parish community.

We have received many nominations to fill these ten positions. If you feel that you may also be called to serve the parish in this way, or you may be an existing member who wishes to continue on the PPC, please let the office know.

We ask all nominees (even if you are an existing member) to provide a photo and short statement up to 200 words, perhaps telling the parish a little about your background, the church you attend, your parish involvement and your vision for the parish. It would be helpful if we could receive the photo and statement by Wednesday 4th September.

Please continue to pray for our PPC at this time.

Succulent Plants

Are you willing to donate hardy succulent plant cuttings with roots on to put in the western side of the car park at the Strathalbyn Good Shepherd Hall?? Please bring them to Church on Sunday 25th August suitably wrapped so they don't make too much mess. We intend to plant them on Wednesday 28th August, beginning at 10am, weather permitting. Anybody willing to help please come along. Susan and Yesamma.

For Sale! Pots, Wine Barrels & One Pew

All of the pots and wine barrels surrounding Our Lady of Mercy Church are free to be taken away by anyone who would like them. There is also one pew for sale with a reserve price of \$200. Please email or visit the office if you are interested in the pew and let us know how much you would like to bid.

Plenary Council National Themes

This week's theme is:

A joyful, hope-filled and servant community.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Each day they met together in the Temple; they broke bread in their homes; they shared their food with great joy and sincerity of heart; they praised God and won the favour of all the people." (Acts 2:42-46)

How is God calling us to be a Christ-centred Church in Australia that is a joyful, hope-filled and servant community?

This National Theme for Discernment is inspired by the voices of the People of God who expressed a yearning for the Church to be a sign of God's kingdom for all people in Australia – to be able to see the Catholic Church in action, and to recognise Jesus. There was an expression of faith-filled hope in the capacity of the Catholic community to celebrate together, to show what it is to be a follower of Christ and to be loved unconditionally by God. There was a call to contemplate the Gospel call to be a servant Church for the good of all people in Australia – particularly for people who are vulnerable or at risk. Many responses called for greater sharing of the story of the good works done by so many people and organisations of the Church. Some responses expressed a hunger for strong witness of faith, especially by priests, young people and female leaders in parish and school ministries.

Update from St Francis de Sales College

'Vinnies-Faith-in-Action' (FIA) Group

Vinnies-FIA have a number of projects happening that you may be able to assist with:



- Collection of plastic bread-tags and plastic lids from bottles. These are sent to be recycled and made into wheel-chairs and prosthetic hands for those in need.

- Collection of 10cent deposit drink-containers (lids off). These are taken to a recycling depot and the money received is used for social justice projects by Vinnies-FIA.

Coffee-Bean Sales Vinnies-FIA are selling coffee-beans, filtered coffee and coffee-pods from the 'Naturally Smart Coffee' range. It is organic, fair-trade, and the packaging is 100% compostable. Part of each sale goes to Vinnies.

Development of Parish Land

The Yr 8 students at the College are currently working on a project to develop the Parish land adjacent to Our Lady of Mercy Church. The concept-design includes a prayer space with a labyrinth; a native garden and frog pond; and a nature play area. The space has been designed for parishioners, College students, and the broader Mt Barker community to use. The College is seeking assistance from parishioners for this project. If you have the relevant skills, time to assist, machinery or materials to lend or donate, the College would greatly appreciate it.

For more information contact Oreste Farrugia on 8393 1000 or email ofarrugia@stfrancis.catholic.edu.au. Thank you.

20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING JEREMIAH 38:4-6, 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 39:2-4, 18

R. Lord, come to my aid!

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. R.

He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.

He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. R.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. R.

As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.

You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! R.

SECOND READING HEBREWS 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION JOHN 10:27

Sung Antiphon

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.

Sung Antiphon

GOSPEL LUKE 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth?

No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



August 25th, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

*From East and West they will come
to take their place in the kingdom of God.*

First Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

Psalm 116

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30