

## Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B 20 - 21 March 2021

### **Our Vulnerable Selves**

Some people insist that their hero must never show any sign of weakness, or display hesitation or doubt, uncertainty or fear. The hero must at all times and in all circumstances be strong, active, brave and unflinching. **But real heroes are not like that.** 

For example Martin Luther King who was a leader of civil rights movement in America- a difficult task which he took on with some reluctance. It brought him hardships, insults, imprisonment, and threats to his life. In the end it claimed his life - he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

**During that struggle he suffered many low moments.** One night he reached rock bottom. His home was bombed - he felt he could not go on - he was tired of the insults and injuries- he threw himself at the feet of the Lord and prayed 'Lord I have taken a stand for what I believe is right. But now I'm afraid. The people are looking for leadership. If I stand before them without strength and courage, they too will falter. But I am at the end of my powers. I have nothing left. I can't face it any longer.'

He says that at that moment he experienced the presence of God in a way he had never experienced before. That experience enabled him to continue the struggle. Martin Luther King is no less a hero because he showed that he wasn't made of stone. Heroes who never show weakness or vulnerability are simply not believable. Nor are they of much use to us as models. We cannot identify with them or imitate them. When we meet someone who is hesitant, reluctant and fearful, we find that person is more believable. We love to see the human being behind the hero.

Jesus himself didn't go to his death with that kind of assurance. He had his lowest moment in the garden of Gethsemane. In the garden his soul was so deeply troubled that he said, 'My soul is ready to die with sorrow.' St John has no account of the agony in the garden in his Gospel. But we catch an echo of it in today's gospel where Jesus says 'My soul is troubled.'

In some respects the agony in the garden is the most comforting part of the Gospel it shows Jesus at his most human. Now that the most dreadful moment has come, he was so distressed that his sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood. He did not contemplate suffering and death with a stoical calm. He was appalled at the prospect. From where did he get the strength to face it ? He got it from prayer, which means he got it from God.

One would not be human if one didn't feel fear when danger threatens. **Courage is not never feeling afraid; it is feeling afraid and going on in spite of it.** 'A person without fear is no hero; the person who overcomes fear is' (Solzhenitsyn).

Jesus' agony in the garden gives us comfort and hope in our low moments. There is no need to pretend that we are made of granite. We must not hide our weakness and fear.

Like Jesus we must turn to God in heartfelt prayer. And we must also seek human comforting as Jesus did when he asked Peter, James and John to watch and pray with him.

There is importance that we come together in prayer – With God's blessing we have returned to our Sunday Masses and having the people back in increasing numbers is a great joy to us, for as we pray together we grow in faith, hope and love.

Please look to the Easter timetable commencing from next Sunday Palm Sunday, come as one to the Procession on Sunday, make it a joyful entry into the Cathedral in anticipation of Holy Week, The Chrism Mass, come also in increasing numbers to Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday let us experience The Joy of the Risen Lord, Easter Sunday.

Love and prayers for all Dean Peter

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Cathedral 6.00pm Friday March 26 FIRST RECONCILIATION & PARISH RECONCILIATION: Tues 23 Mar 6.00pm -Cathedral.

Thursday 25 Mar 6.00pm - Stratford HOLY HOUR: Wednesday - Cathedral 5.00pm March 24

PALM SUNDAY: Masses at Cathedral Sat 27 Mar 5.30pm, Sun 28 Mar 9.30am, 5.30pm Sun 28 Mar Rosedale - 9.30am Loch Sport Sat 27 Mar 11.00am

MASS OF THE HOLY OILS: Tuesday March 30 11.00am Cathedral

SERVICE OF SHADOWS: Wed 31 March 7.00pm Cathedral

HOLY THURSDAY: April 1 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, Cathedral

GOOD FRIDAY: April 2: 9.30am Stations of the Cross - Cathedral, Rosedale & Stratford Ecumenical Walk of the Cross 10.30am Cathedral to St Pauls

Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 3.00pm Cathedral

HOLY SATURDAY: THE EASTER VIGIL

April 3 7.30pm Cathedral

EASTER SUNDAY: April 4 9.00am Loch Sport, 9.30am Cathedral

**9.30am** Stratford **11.15am** Seaspray *Please note: No Easter Mass at Rosedale* 

**CATHEDRAL OPEN DAILY** Churches can be open for private prayer. Please adhere to sanitising and signing in requirements. The Cathedral will be open from after 9.30am or 11.00am Mass and closes at the normal time usually 5.00pm unless services are being held. <u>MASS REQUIREMENTS:</u> Mass can now be held for up to 140 people in the Cathedral. All standard Covid-19 directives to be strictly followed. Mark your attendance by using the QR code to register your attendance or use the sign in sheet. Please social distance and use the hand sanitisers' provided. Bookings and masks are no longer required to attend Mass.

<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u> – Fr Jithin, with your help, desires to build a very efficient team to serve at the Altar – please encourage your children in a generous response to assist. Contact Fr Jithin anytime on 5144 4100.

**PARISH RECONCILIATION:** The First Reconciliation celebration will be held on **Tuesday 23 March at 6.00pm in the Cathedral** and at **Stratford on Thursday 25 March at 6.00pm**. All Parishioners are encouraged to attend as this is also the Parish Lenten Reconciliation service.

2021 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM Enrolments closed on Tuesday 9 February 2021. For those who missed the deadline and still wish to enrol your child for Confirmation or First Communion please call Jennifer Fitzgerald, Sacramental Coordinator, before the end of term one on 5144 4100 to discuss enrolment.

#### HOLY HOUR - DURING LENT

Wednesday 24 March, from 5.00 to 6.00pm, we will have our last Holy Hour for Lent in the Cathedral. During this time we will have a Rosary, a reflection given by one of the priests and time for personal prayer: Everyone welcome. (Please sign in as you enter) With every best good wish, Dean Peter

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES will be available for collection from the Cathedral or your local Church this weekend of 20 and 21 March. Please collect your receipt and/or your receipt and envelopes by Sunday 28 March. Collecting your envelopes/ receipts saves the Parish the cost of posting these out. Any envelopes left will be posted on Monday 29 March. If you are choosing to pay your planned giving by directly crediting at your bank to the Parish please let the office know if you no longer require envelopes.

**IN SEARCH OF AN EASTER GIFT?** The book "Three Springtime's —Chronicles of St Mary's Cathedral Sale," by local historian Peter Synan, beautifully brings alive the history and beauty of our own Cathedral. It is an ideal Catholic gift for any occasion and is available from the Cathedral Piety stall, for \$20.00.

31 CLUB REMINDER for 22 - 28 March. Please pray for vocations.

**PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP** Are celebrating their 10th birthday at the **9.30am Mass on Sunday 11 April.** Parishioners are invited to join us afterwards a BYO picnic/BBQ at the Fauna Park in Guthridge Parade at **12noon**, concluding with a cake.

## PARISH PRAYER.

God our loving Father, we give you thanks and praise for our Cathedral Parish of Sale, for your people and your Creation. Nourish us by your daily Word and Eucharist. Enrich us in our faith, hope and love. Strengthen us with the spirit of your mercy and grace. Make us grateful for your gifts as we journey through our lives together. May we be a welcoming and servina community. always discerning and doing your will for one another. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

#### **DIOCESAN LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS:**

Three seminars will be held in a central location in the Diocese as follows: Venue: **St Ita, Drouin** 

Dates: Saturday, 17 April, God's promise of the Holy Spirit

Saturday, 22 May, New Life in God's Spirit Saturday, 19 June, Community in the Lord; Commissioning Mass with Bishop Greg Time: 10.30 am each day.

"May our Diocesan Life in the Spirit Seminar be an opportunity for us to fan into a flame the gift of God anew (1 Tim 1:6) and renew the gift of our baptism which calls us forth in missionary service." (Bishop Greg Bennet, Sale Diocese).

#### **CHURCHES OF SALE GATHERINGS:**

There are a number of opportunities for the churches of Sale to come together in shared prayer - this year 2021, these are:

- Ecumenical Service of Shadows (St Mary's Cathedral) Wednesday March 31, 7.00pm. (please save the date)
- Walk of the Cross: Good Friday from St Mary's Cathedral 10.30am April 2, visiting Uniting Church, Salvation Army and stopping at the Park across from St Paul's Anglican Cathedral
- Anzac Day (Sunday 25 April) at the Sale War Memorial

|--|

**BAPTISMS:** By arrangement through the Parish Office or with Veronica, phone 5144 4100. **ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament,** Friday after Mass 1130am—12.00noon **First Friday of the Month** 11.30am-4.00pm At St Rose of Lima, Rosedale on 1st Wednesday of each month 9.30am—10.30am **RECONCILIATION: Cathedral: Friday** 11.30am after Mass , **Saturday** After the 9.30am Mass—10.30am **Stratford and Briagolong on Sunday or Rosedale on Saturday evening:** Before or after Mass or anytime by arrangement with the priest. **MARRIAGES:** Not less than six months notice please.



With thanks from a grateful parish.



#### Mass Timetable this week Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B 20 - 21 March 2021

| 20 - 21 Ivia                           |                       |               |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| Day/Date                               | Time                  | Place         |
| Weekend Masses                         |                       |               |
| Saturday 20 March                      | 9.30am                | Cathedral     |
| ·                                      | 5.30pm                | Cathedral     |
| Sunday 21 March                        | 9.30am                | Briagolong    |
| ·                                      | 9.30am                | Cathedral     |
|  | 5.30pm                | Cathedral     |
| Weekday Masses                         | - · · · · · · · · · · |               |
| Tues 23 March                          | 9.30am                | Cathedral     |
| First Reconciliation & Parish          | 6.00pm                | Cathedral     |
| Lenten Reconciliation                  | -                     |               |
| Wed 24 March                           | 9.30am                | Cathedral     |
| Holy Hour                              | 5.00pm                | Cathedral     |
| Thurs 25 March                         | 9.30am                | Cathedral     |
| First Reconciliation & Parish          | 6.00pm                | Stratford     |
| Lenten Reconciliation                  | 11.00am               | Cathedral     |
| Fri 26 March                           |                       |               |
| <b>Reconciliation &amp; Exposition</b> | 11.30am               | Cathedral     |
| Stations of the Cross                  | 6.00pm                | Cathedral     |
| Weekend Masses                         | 0.20                  | Cethe duel    |
| Saturday 27 March                      | 9.30am                | Cathedral     |
|  | 11.00am               | Loch Sport    |
| Use the QR Reader or the sign          | Use                   | Please social |
| in sheets to record your               | hand                  | distance      |
| attendance please.                     | Sanitiser             |               |

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONSULTATIVE FORUM

Catholic women are being invited to participate in an online national consultation on 27 March, with the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry. The consultation invites women to articulate and celebrate their contribution and vision for the mission of the Catholic Church in Australia. Archbishop Christopher Prowse (BCELM Chairperson) and Bishop Michael Morrisey (Bishops Delegate for Women) will be present for the meeting to hear the voice of Catholic Women from around Australia. Bishop Michael Morrissey said he is looking forward to hearing from Catholic women from across the country. "The thoughts, the voices and the actions of women within the Catholic Church are absolutely central to our life and mission, and the national consultation invites a sharing and listening that will benefit the whole Church," he said. "All the bishops have women acting in senior roles within their dioceses; this conversation provides another forum for broader national conversation." Clara Geoghegan, the executive secretary of the Bishops Commission and one of the organisers of the consultation, said women she had spoken with were supportive of the idea of a national conversation. "Women are looking forward to the opportunity to speak with the two bishops and with one another and, as invited by the great document Gaudium et Spes, to share their joys and their hopes, their griefs and their anxieties, for the Church in Australia." Consultation Details:

Date: Saturday 27 March Time: 2pm-4pm AEDT Platform: Zoom Read more and register at https://nce.catholic.org.au/catholicwomen

## YEAR of ST JOSEPH

#### **Prayer to St Joseph**

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

By Pope Francis

### **COMING TO COMMUNION – COVID RESTRICTIONS**

**SOCIAL DISTANCING:** It is very important dear parishioners we don't become distracted in keeping to the Covid restrictions – especially in keeping to the social distancing directions as we come forward to receive Communion. The Tapes on the floor in the centre isle are there to assist you in keeping to social distancing (1.5 metres).

A practical way of doing this would be to have communicants come forward **one row and one side of the row at a time**.

As you look to the Altar, my suggestion is the **right hand side** be the first row to come forward. The procession to communion to start from the **front seat proceeding to the back seat**. I repeat please be conscious to keep your distance in line with the Social distancing directions as per Covid 19. You will notice the tapes on the floor set there to clearly determine our correct distancing. Come to the tape, stop there until the person in front processes on, then and only then proceed in your turn to the next tape and so on, then to the Priest to receive Holy Communion.

Once the back row of the right hand side is reached, then the back row on the left hand side falls in behind (start from the back row proceeding to the front row of the left hand side).

I am grateful for your co-operation. Should you be available after Mass, would you be so kind as to help in the wiping down of seats and doors and windows – there will be a person to guide you in what is necessary to do – please don't wait to be asked this would be a great help to them. Let us not take their generosity in cleaning and sanitising, for granted. The best way we can show our appreciation is by offering to ease their load.

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

We offer prayers for those who have died Mally Parer, Drew Pretty, Allan Douch, Wil Waanders, John Henderson, Hiske Deschepper, Lyndon Webb, Michael Mashlak, Marjorie Lanigan and those whose anniversaries occur about this time Phillip Horne, Robert & Dawn McNeilly. We pray for those who are sick Peter Kerr, Troy Barney, Noreen Waud, Diliana Toonen, Mary Bailey, Barbara Webster, Miguel Stehr, Bernard Clancy, Sue (Durrant) Barr, Daryl Leggett, Kim Yacoub, Celie Smith, Robert Hopkinson, Fr Brian O'Connor, Joan Whitford, Bill Harkin, Angela Jones, Cynthia Freshwater, Fr Bernard Buckley and Maureen O'Kane. We pray in thanks for all who care for the sick.

| NEW TO THE PARISH? CHANGED ADDRESS IN THE LAST YEAR? NEED PLANNNED<br>GIVING ENVELOPES OR TO UPDATE THE PARISH RECORDS?<br>Please let us know we'd like to meet you!<br>NAME:<br>ADDRESS:<br>PHONE:<br>EMAIL:<br>Please tick: If you would like to join the Planned Giving Program<br>If you would like to join a Family Group<br>Please place on the plate at Mass or drop into the Parish Office | Barry & Annette Lett<br>FUNERAL DIRECTORS<br>We offer care, compassion and service with dignity, for the people of Gippsland<br>Caring and personal 24-hour service .<br>Chapel facilities available.<br>67 Macarthur Street, Sale<br>Phone: 5143 1232<br>www.lettsfunerals.com.au<br>Member Australian Funeral Directors Association |
|--|---|
|--|---|



#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

### FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The Word of the Lord.

# RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

#### Response: Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on my, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt. and cleanse me from my sin. *(R.)* 

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. *(R.)* 

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (*R.*)

#### **SECOND READING :**

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Hebrews 5:7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

#### The Word of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

## GOSPEL:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies. it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

Now sentence is being passed on this world;

now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies it bears much fruit.

#### AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace You and Unite myself entirely to You: never permit me to be separated from You. Amen



The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass © 1981 & the prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 1973 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from *The Psalms*, A New Translation, copyright © 1963 by The Grail, England and used with permission. of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Every Friday from 11.30am—12.00pm RECONCILIATION: Cathedral Every Friday from 11.30am –12.00pm

#### READINGS NEXT WEEK: PALM SUNDAY, YEAR B

The Procession Gospel: First Reading: Second Reading: Gospel:

Mark 11:1-10 Isaiah 50:4-7 Philippians 2:6-11 Mark 14:1—15:47

# MARY'S SOUP KITCHEN CHAPTER HOUSE

Mary's Soup Kitchen is held each Thursday & serves 'Soup and Sandwiches' from Noon -1.30pm Tea and Coffee provided.

At the Chapter House. All welcome.



## WEEKEND MASS TIMETABLE

Saturday:Loch Sport- 11.00am (2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month)Saturday:Cathedral - 5.30pm VigilSunday:Cathedral - 9:30amSunday:Rosedale - 9.30am (2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month)Sunday:Stratford - 9.30am (1st & 5th Sundays of the Month)Sunday:Briagolong - 9.30am (3rd Sunday of the Month)Sunday:Cathedral - 5.30pm