

STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

19th Jan 2020



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Perfect Offering

Jesus speaks through the prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading.

He tells us of the mission given to Him by the Father from the womb: "You are My servant,' He said to Me." Servant and Son, our Lord was sent to lead a new exodus—to raise up the exiled tribes of Israel, to gather and restore them to God. More than that, He was to be a light to the nations, that God's salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (see Acts 13:46–47).

Before the first exodus, a lamb was offered in sacrifice and its blood painted on the Israelites' door posts. The blood of the lamb identified their homes and the Lord "passed over" these in executing judgment on the Egyptians (see Exodus 12:1–23, 27).

In the new exodus, Jesus is the "Lamb of God," as John beholds Him in the Gospel today (see 1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18–19). Our Lord sings of this in today's Psalm. He has come, He says, to offer His body to do the will of God (see Hebrews 10:3–13).

The sacrifices, oblations, holocausts, and sin offerings given after the first exodus had no power to take away sins (see Hebrews 10:4). They were meant not to save but to teach (see Galatians 3:24). In offering these sacrifices, the people were to learn self-sacrifice—that they were made for worship, to offer themselves freely to God and to delight in His will.

Only Jesus could make that perfect offering of Himself. And through His sacrifice, He has given us ears open to obedience, He has made it possible for us to hear the Father's call to holiness, as Paul says in today's Epistle.

He has made us children of God, baptized in the blood of the Lamb (see Revelation 7:14). And we are to join our sacrifice to His, to offer our bodies—our lives—as living sacrifices in the spiritual worship of the Mass (see Romans 12:1).

Scott Hahn

COMING UP

**Bush fire
special
collection**
Sun 26th Jan,
10am

MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil)
Mon - Thurs: 8am, Friday: 10am, Saturday: 10am
Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

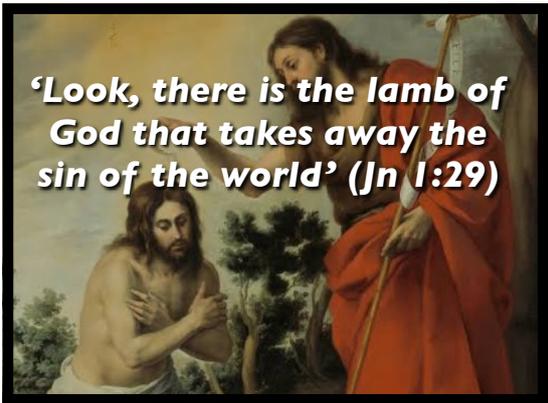
Fr John Spiteri OFM Cap

PHONE: 9690 5895 EMAIL: stspeterandpauls@gmail.com

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Emerald Hill Mission: 0409 417 412

Secretary Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:30am - 3pm



**'Look, there is the lamb of
God that takes away the
sin of the world' (Jn 1:29)**

Catholic Church national response to bushfire crisis

STATEMENT FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BISHOPS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT, ARCHBISHOP MARK COLERIDGE

Australia is facing an unprecedented calamity as fire engulfs the land in many places. We have all seen the apocalyptic images, even if we are not in the areas most affected. Lives have been lost, homes and towns have been destroyed, smoke has shrouded large swathes of our country.

And there is no end in sight to the horror which confronts us with our powerlessness before the devastating force of nature.

The efforts of firefighters have been heroic. The resilience of the communities affected has been extraordinary. This has been Australia at its best, and we all stand with those who have been most stricken and with those who are putting their lives on the line to fight the fires.

But we need more than words. Expressions of solidarity are important, but they are not enough.

The bishops are aware of the huge amount being done around the nation, led by governments and first responders. Many local faith communities, including Catholic parishes and organisations, as well as ecumenical and inter-religious coalitions, are also making a big contribution.

While the bishops typically respond to challenges at a parish or diocesan level, the scale of this crisis requires a national response from the whole Church to complement and coordinate what is happening locally.

From the Bishops Conference, that national response includes:

- The facilitation of a national network connecting people affected by the bushfires with people who can help with tasks such as preparing meals, clearing properties, rebuilding communities, as well as pastoral and counselling support.
- The distribution of special prayers and other resources for use in parishes, families and other Catholic communities.
- Collaboration with key national agencies like Catholic Health Australia, Catholic Social Services Australia, the National Catholic Education Commission and the St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) to ensure as effective a response as possible from the wider Catholic community.
- Cooperating with Catholic Religious Australia and religious institutes and their ministries.
- Parishes across the country taking up a special collection at Masses on the Australia Day weekend, with all funds to be donated to Vinnies' bushfire appeal.

Vinnies is responding in all affected states and territories. Its network of local conferences and support services has seen them rapidly respond throughout the nation as the fire crisis has spread.

As well as donations at Masses on Australia Day weekend, people are encouraged to support the immediate response and the ongoing work of Vinnies in your state or throughout bushfire-affected communities by donating here: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-nsw/vinnies-nsw-bushfire-appeal-nsw>

Our experts on the ground – from agencies like Vinnies, CatholicCare and CentaCare, in parishes and other Catholic communities, including Catholic hospitals and aged care providers – know this will be a long-term process to help people and whole towns rebuild.

With broad and deep roots across the nation, the Church stands ready to walk alongside people throughout their journey of recovery.

Facing this exceptional crisis, we renew our call for insistent prayer for those stricken by drought and fire, for those who have lost their lives in the fires and their families, for rain to quench the parched land and extinguish the fires, and for urgent action to care for our common home in order to prevent such calamities in the future.

A genuinely Catholic response to a crisis of this magnitude must draw strength from prayer which inspires concrete and compassionate action.

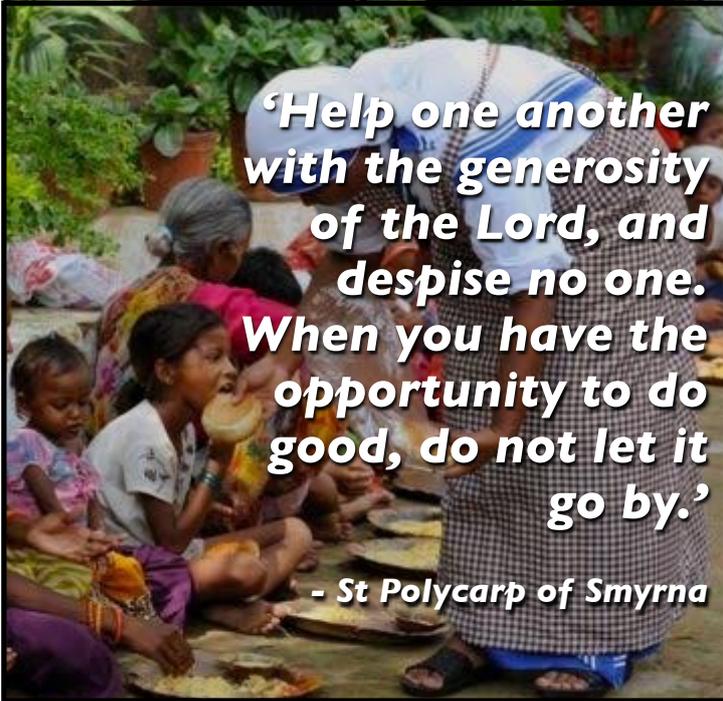
(Please also find at the back of the church a letter from Archbishop Peter Comensoli on the matter.)

BUSH FIRE COLLECTION

There will be a special collection at the Sunday 10am Mass, 26th of January.

BUSHFIRE RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the parish raffle appeal for bushfire relief. About \$800 was raised.



‘Help one another with the generosity of the Lord, and despise no one. When you have the opportunity to do good, do not let it go by.’

- St Polycarp of Smyrna

ST PATRICK CONCERT

Friday 7th February, 6-7pm. At St Patrick’s Cathedral

Featuring Thomas Heywood (organ) playing works by Handel, Vivaldi, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, and Mozart. Tickets \$25. Book here: www.trybooking.com/BHMYQ

FR JOHN AWAY

Fr John will be away from Tuesday 21st of January to Saturday 1st of February 2020. All regular Masses will continue as usual. Fr Bernard Morawski will cover most of them. Fr Ian Waters will cover Saturday morning on 1st of February.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES CONFERENCE

Wednesday 26-28 February. At Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne

Will feature many national and international speakers, focusing on mission and key issues of that day. Details and booking here: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=529956&>

PLENARY COUNCIL - CALL FOR DELEGATES

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has requested that each Diocese nominate 4 people, who may be laypersons, members of religious orders or Clergy, who are willing to be called as delegates for the Plenary Council Sessions in October 2020, and June and July of 2021. Each delegate will participate in the process of discernment and contribute to a variety of forums before, during and after the Plenary Council Sessions. This is an important and critical role for the life of the Catholic Church in Australia. If you are interested in applying, please fill out the online form and submit by **Friday 24 January 2020**. Note that the application process requires two referees including one active Priest (on appointment).

Application form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2RPTKHZ>

FEAST OF THE WEEK

The conversion of St Paul the Apostle 25th of January

The conversion of St Paul the Apostle was, according to the New Testament, an event in the life of Paul that led him to cease persecuting early Christians and to become a follower of Christ Jesus. It is normally dated to AD 33–36. Since his birth is estimated at AD 5, he would have been somewhere around the age of 28–31. The event occurred when he was on the way to Damascus to arrest Christians. As he was nearing the city, at about noon, a light from heaven suddenly blazed round him. Jesus in His glorified body appeared to him and addressed him, transforming his very soul and heart. He converted to the Christian faith, was baptised by Ananias, and changed his name from Saul to Paul. He spent the rest of his life journeying on his missions, establishing local churches across the Mediterranean, and writing to them. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, his letters are now part of the Canon of the New Testament. He is an indispensable player in the early development and growth of the Church.



