

# STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

12th Jan 2020



## The Word Became Flesh

A reflection on verses 12-14 of chapter 5, of the Gospel of St. Luke. This is a personal reflection and is not an official exegesis on the Gospel.

This reflection began in Advent when I asked myself many times how we can connect Christmas with today's way of life. Well today's Gospel of St. Luke helped me to understand that connection. When we read verse 12, "Now there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where he was; and he saw Jesus, he fell prostrate, pleaded with him and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I do will it. Be made clean." This scene immediately reminded me of Michelangelo's magnificent fresco of Creation located in the Sistine Chapel, Rome, Italy. You would most likely have seen this wonderful depiction of the beauty of Michelangelo's ability to make his painting talk and act. I see Adam sitting with this right hand extended towards God, waiting for Him to touch him, and give him something. This particular scene reminds me also of the many of the gods of ancient history who if they had anything to do with humanity it was often to take into captivity or to destroy them by the overpowering presence. Michelangelo presents in this scene a God who is personal, gentle and life-giving. In Luke's Gospel the leper has not hesitation in approaching Jesus, he show respect and prostrates himself expectantly before Jesus, and simply makes an act of faith with that expectation that his plea, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean." Here is a clear statement of who this person is, he is a leper, a dead man to many because of his disease, he is deserted by most perhaps his family is are only ones or a friend who brings him food or speaks with him. But here we see Jesus who sees him in his misery and also hears an act of faith that pleads very strongly in favour of being accepted and given. He looks on the leper and with a deep sense of compassion, he immediately answers the leper by action, "he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I do will it. Be made clean." This touching is an intimate action of comfort and concern it is a sign of the real humanness of Jesus. The connection of Christmas in another sense is that Jesus the second Person of the Holy Trinity, "...through whom all things were made..." now becomes incarnate through the Holy Spirit, in the Blessed womb of Mary, who also makes her act of faith to God through the Angel's message, she says, "Let what you have said be done unto according to thy word." Thus, Mary's act of faith is unparalleled by anyone else, yes her act of complete faith allowed The Father's Word to be flesh, so he could touch "...the leper and say to him, "I do will it. He made clean." Let us have a new look at the Crib because in it is God's invisible Son, made visible in our nature.

Fr John Spiteri OFM Cap

### 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

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

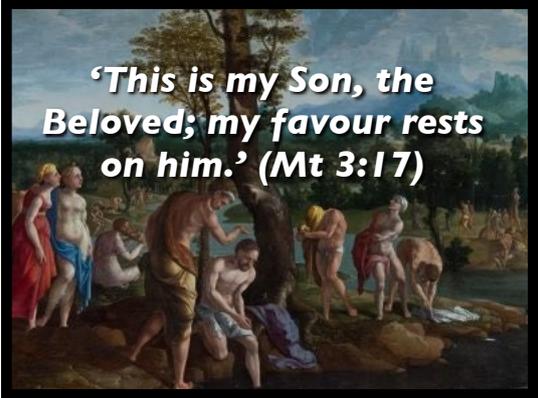
### COMING UP

#### Bush fire raffle sales

Sun 12th Jan,  
10am

#### Bush fire special collection

Sun 26th Jan,  
10am



*'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'* (Mt 3:17)

# **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.)**

## GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS ADVENT 2019

Thank you to all who participated in and volunteered for Gifts of Christmas during Advent 2019. These were beautiful evenings where we came together as a community for dinner, an engaging talk, small group discussion and prayer. It was wonderful that parishioners invited their friends and family which made the evenings vibrant and dynamic.

A special thank you to those on team who volunteered their time each week and their commitment made these evenings so special. We were blessed to have four parishioners speak on the key themes of each Advent week (Hope- Sharon; Faith- Randy; Joy- Mia; Peace- Emma)- thank you for your dedication and sharing your gifts.

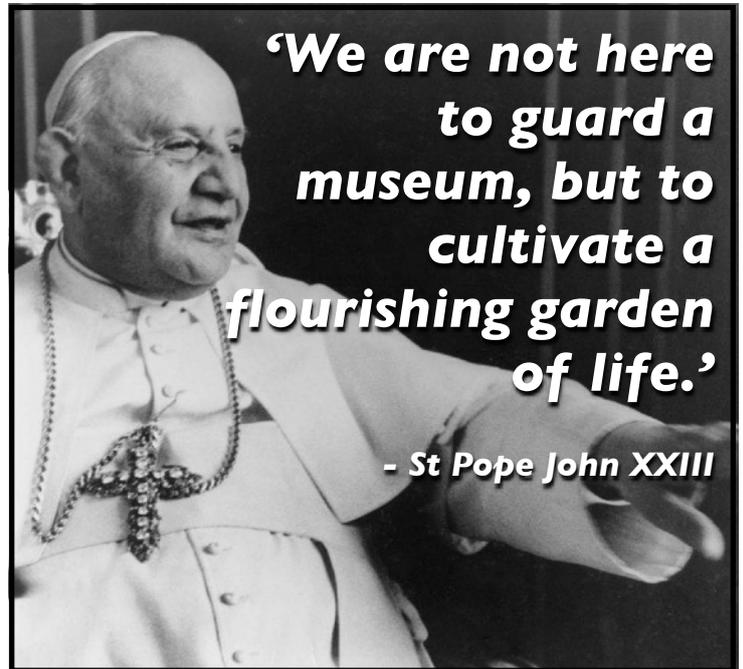
We are looking forward to hosting more events this year so please support the parish by attending and inviting your friends and family.

Happy New Year!



## BUSH FIRE RAFFLE

There will be raffle tickets available for sale after the Sunday 10am Mass at the back of the church. Proceeds will go towards bush fires relief.



## CATECHISM CORNER

“Incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ” (n. 1269)

Having become a member of the Church, the person baptised belongs no longer to himself, but to him who died and rose for us. From now on, he is called to be subject to others, to serve them in the communion of the Church, and to "obey and submit" to the Church's leaders, holding them in respect and affection. Just as Baptism is the source of responsibilities and duties, the baptised person also enjoys rights within the Church: to receive the sacraments, to be nourished with the Word of God and to be sustained by the other spiritual helps of the Church.

## FEAST OF THE WEEK

**St Hilary of Poitiers**  
13th of January



Hilary was a 4th century Bishop of Poitiers and is a Doctor of the Church. His name comes from the Latin word for 'happy' or 'cheerful'. He lived in a time when married men could become clergymen, thus why Hilary could be made bishop by the people while he was married. He was the father of Abra of Poitiers, a nun and saint who became known for her charity. Hilary is especially honoured for his ardent opposition to the Arian heresy, a view that denied the divinity of Christ. This is why he is sometimes referred to as the 'Hammer of the Arians' and the 'Athanasius of the West'. He suffered much for defending classical Trinitarian theology, even to the point of being exiled, since many rulers and politically powerful groups at that time were Arian.

Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill: Sr Annunciata, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr Joyce Stewart, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Liliana Bobadilla, Ruby Roxa, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Giovanna Santarossa, James Burnes, James Atkins, Bonnie Breen, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Alison Fraser, Steven Wallace, Elaine Wallace, Richard, Miles Buntleski, Lachlan Fahy, Colin Crawford.

## Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - Year A

**Entrance Antiphon:** After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son. With whom I am well pleased.

### 1st Reading – Isaiah 55:1-11

The Lord calls to all who are in need, inviting them to the water, where the covenant will be renewed.

### Responsorial Psalm

**You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear  
For the Lord is my strength, my song, He became my Saviour.  
With Joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to His name!  
Make His mighty deeds known to the people!  
Declare the greatness of His name.

Sing a psalm to the Lord for He has done glorious deeds,  
Make them known to all the earth!  
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

### 2nd Reading – John 5:1-9

We know that Jesus is the Christ because of the testimony of the Holy Spirit, the water of baptism, and the blood of sacrifice.

### Alleluia Alleluia!

John saw Jesus approaching him and said: this is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Alleluia.

### Gospel – Mark 1:7-11

Jesus submits to the baptism by John. With this act of obedience the heavens open and Father, Son and Spirit are seen as one.

Next week's readings: 1st	1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19
2nd	1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20
Gospel	John 1:35-42

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray together:

Lord, we pray that the Spirit will be in our hearts and his power in our hands, as our parish continues to be a community of action, which by word and deed will proclaim God's word to our surrounding community.

Lord, we pray that God's consoling and strengthening spirit will come to the victims of the bushfires and drought.

Lord, we pray for rain to bring life back to the earth, so animals and crops may once again thrive and sustain those who make living from the land.

Lord, we pray for those who struggle with illness. Help them to feel that you are with them in their journey and may they experience the love and support of their community in a new way.

Lord, we remember with compassion our family and friends who have gone before us. Hold them in your keeping, especially those who have died recently Guilo Surace and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time Paddy Campbell, Robert Thomas, Gino Mariani, Peggy Broadhurst, Salmon Taseer, Molly Connell, Peter Connell, Justin

### Collections: Jan 4/5, 2019

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1463

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$835

Online per week (Nov): \$350

1st Collection goes to the Friars, and the 2nd collection goes to the running costs of the Parish.

### EFT Donations:

Account Name: Parish SS Peter & Paul

BSB: 083 155

Account number: 515577466

	READERS	E.M.E	HOSPITALITY	FLOWERS
Sat 11	Angela			Geraldine & Sue
Sun 12	Gerry & Mario	Geraldine F & Merlyn	Colin & Geraldine	
Sat 18	Geraldine C			Doris
Sun 19	Olwen & Michele	Merlyn & Sue	Frank & Mavis	