

STS PETER & PAUL'S

CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

30th August 2020



22nd Sunday Ordinary Time A

'For Your Life'

Today's First Reading catches the prophet Jeremiah in a moment of weakness. His intimate lamentation contains some of the strongest language of doubt found in the Bible. Following God's call, he feels abandoned. Preaching His Word has brought him only derision and reproach.

But God does not deceive—and Jeremiah knows this. God tests the just (see **Jeremiah 20:11–12**), and disciplines His children through their sufferings and trials (see **Hebrews 12:5–7**).

What Jeremiah learns, Jesus states explicitly in today's Gospel. To follow Him is to take up a cross, to deny yourself—your priorities, preferences, and comforts. It is to be willing to give it all up, even life itself, for the sake of His gospel. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we have to join ourselves to the passion of Christ, to offer our bodies—our whole beings—as living sacrifices to God.

By His Cross, Jesus has shown us what Israel's sacrifices of animals were meant to teach: we owe to God all that we have.

God's kindness is a greater good than life itself, as we sing in today's Psalm. The only thanks we can offer is our spiritual worship—to give our lives to the service of His will (see **Hebrews 10:3–11**; **Psalm 50:14, 23**).

Peter doesn't yet get this in today's Gospel. As it was for Jeremiah, the cross is a stumbling block for Peter (see **1 Corinthians 1:23**). This too is our natural temptation—to refuse to believe that our sufferings play a necessary part in God's plan.

That's how people think, Jesus tells us today. But we are called to the renewal of our minds—to think as God thinks, to will what He wills.

In the Mass, we once again offer ourselves as perfect and pleasing sacrifices of praise (see **Hebrews 13:15**). We bless Him as we live, confident that we will find our lives in losing them, that with the riches of His banquet, our souls will be satisfied.

Scott Hahn

ABOUT OUR PARISH

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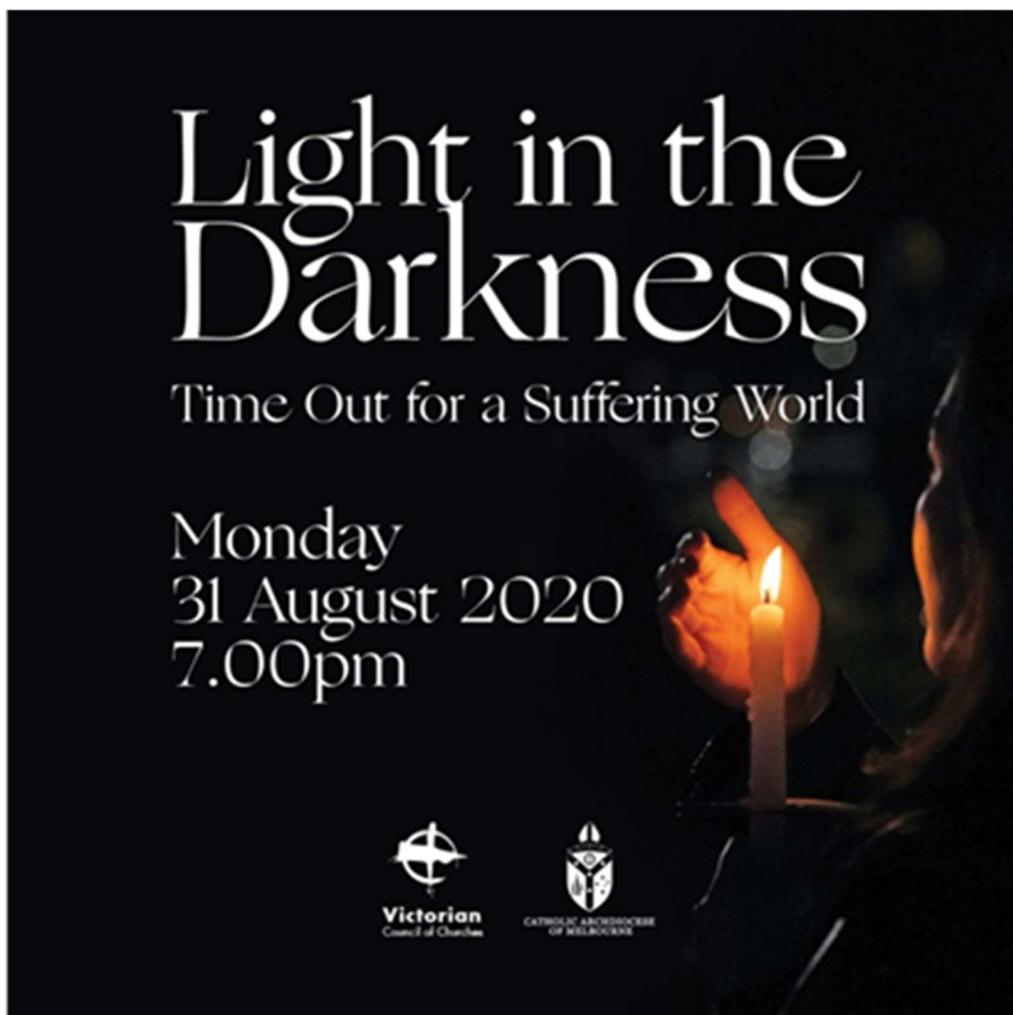
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You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Galatian 5: 13

Light in The Darkness

This weekend as we approach the eve of spring, Christians and all people of faith are invited to unite in prayer for our world. As the last light of the last day of winter fades on Monday 31 August, you are invited to light a candle, stand in your front garden and spend some time in silence and prayer to remember all those who have lost their lives to Covid-19 or to violence this year. As the first night of spring begins, let us look to the future with prayer and hope.



Standing together to see the light in the darkness

Wednesday 26 August 2020

Communications Office

As the days edge closer to the year's end, there's no question 2020 has been a difficult one, full of trying moments taking their toll on communities. Even for those whose families have not been affected directly by Coronavirus, people feel dangerously isolated under Stage 4 restrictions; housebound, lonely and cut off from their communities. That's why, as light fades on the last day of winter on 31 August, the Victorian Council of Churches is inviting all people to stand in their front garden, light a candle, and spend a moment in silence.

'We've been through a bad year and it's been a hard winter,' says Deacon Joe Leach, a member of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission (EIC) and the Archdiocesan representative on the Victorian Council of Churches. 'We want to remember all those who have lost their lives to Coronavirus or violence this year. But now we're looking to spring. And we're looking to the future with prayer and hope.'

'We're encouraging people to stand in their front garden or at their door or in a window and acknowledge that there's now a light in this darkness; the darkness of winter is fading. And now we're coming into the light of Spring.'

Spring is a time for rebirth, Deacon Joe says, and for Christians this has 'a very paschal resonance. As Easter, in the Northern Hemisphere, occurs at the beginning of Spring.'

Seeing the need for some light in the darkness of 2020, it was Sr Mary Reaburn, a Sister of Our Lady of Sion and a member the EIC, who initially suggested parish communities would benefit by doing something 'to show unity and solidarity and remember those who had died, but also hoping for the future'.

Looking for a way to mark solidarity and unity from a place of isolation, Deacon Joe and Elissa Roper from the EIC, drew inspiration from Anzac Day's 'Light up the dawn' personal reflection services, when people marked the day with a candle in their driveway instead of attending marches or dawn ceremonies.

'We knew immediately that it had to have an ecumenical focus,' Deacon Joe says. He presented the idea to the Victorian Council of Churches, who embraced it with enthusiasm, recognising the idea had broad relevance.

With individuals across the city living in isolation under Stage 4 restrictions, and missing their faith communities, Deacon Joe explains that they'd like to see a broad selection of people come away with a sense of being a valued part of the greater community.

'We wanted to make it available to the broader community – to people of any faith and none – to say this is a ritual as a symbol of hope in the community,' he says. And the collective participation in ritual is important.

'Ritual can express things that sometimes words can't,' says Deacon Joe. 'The two big themes here are remembrance and hope; so big, perhaps, they can only be adequately expressed in ritual, they can't be adequately expressed in words. People really feel that that lack of ritual sacramental life of the Church and also the personal involvement in that. You can watch the Mass on TV but it's not the same.'

According to Deacon Joe, while people can't be near under lockdown, people can still be together.

'This is a way of saying, we might be social distancing, but they're still members of the same community. We've been through these hard times together, now we can have hope together; everyone can have hope in the future. We remember the troubles affecting so many, but we look forward to the future with hope.'

FEAST OF THE WEEK

Saint Teresa of Calcutta 5th September



Mother **Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu** (born **Anjezë Gonxhe Bojaxhiu**, (26 August 1910 – 5 September 1997), honoured in the Catholic Church as **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**, was an Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun and missionary. After living in Skopje for eighteen years, she moved to Ireland and then to India, where she lived for most of her life.

In 1950, Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic religious congregation that had over 4,500 nuns and was active in 133 countries in 2012. The congregation manages homes for people who are dying of HIV/AIDS, leprosy and tuberculosis. It also runs soup kitchens, dispensaries, mobile clinics, children's and family counselling programmes, as well as orphanages and schools. Members take vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, and also profess a fourth vow – to give "wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor.

Teresa received a number of honors, including the 1962 Ramon Magsaysay Peace Prize and 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. She was canonised on 4 September 2016, and the anniversary of her death (5 September) is her feast day. A controversial figure during her life and after her death, Teresa was admired by many for her charitable work. She was praised and criticized on various counts, such as for her views on abortion and contraception, and was criticized for poor conditions in her houses for the dying. Her authorized biography was written by Navin Chawla and published in 1992, and she has been the subject of films and other books. On 6 September 2017, Teresa and St. Francis Xavier were named co-patrons of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Calcutta.

*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, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Alison Fraser, Miles Buntleski, Frank O'Connor, Maria Cimino, Teresa
Sheehan, Ann Trindade.*

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon: Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

1st Reading – Jeremiah 20:7-9

We hear the bitter reflections of Jeremiah in a time when he is down, as he considers that the word of the Lord has meant insult and derision for him.

Responsorial Psalm

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.

For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

2nd Reading – Romans 12:1-2

St Paul points out that our worship should be worthy of thinking human beings. Our Behaviour should be what God wants, not be seduced by worldly standards.

Alleluia, Alleluia: May the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel – Matthew 16: 21-27

We hear how Jesus makes clear to His disciples that He was destined to suffer death in Jerusalem. When Peter objects, Jesus teaches Peter – and us – that all followers of Himself must take up the cross with Him.

Next week's readings:	1 st	Ezekiel 33:7-9
	2 nd	Romans 13:8-10
	Gospel	Matthew 18:15-20

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray together:

We pray for our Pope, bishops and clergy: that by word and example, they may encourage the faithful, to live the values of the Gospel.

We pray on this Social Justice Sunday for all whose mental health is under stress, that they may receive the support they need to live life to the full.

We pray for ourselves as the people of Australia, that the COVID pandemic will spur us to work together for a society in which all can flourish.

We pray for all patients, residents, staff and volunteers in health-care facilities, and for their families and friends, that they will draw strength from the support of the whole community.

We pray for all who are entrusted with the care of children, that they will do everything in their power to protect them and keep them safe.

We pray for each other in our parish community, that our lives will reflect the new mind created in us by the grace of Christ.

We remember with compassion our family and friends who have gone before us. Hold them in your keeping, especially those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur about this time Bruce Jack, Les McInerney, Anthony Aliprandi Jnr, Danny Bryant, Mark Sheehan, Kevin Epple, Mavis Joyce, Kevn Wood.

Collection : \$-
Online per week (July): \$1195
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

Please note our roster will recommence when we can have mass again.

Hoping Everyone stays well and safe.

Carol