

# STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

1st September 2019



## 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The beginning of this Sunday's Gospel helps us to correct a widely diffused prejudice: "One Sabbath when he went to dine at the house of a ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, they were watching him." Reading the Gospel from a certain angle we have ended up making the Pharisees the prototype for all vices: hypocrisy, duplicity, falsity; Jesus' enemies par excellence. The terms "Pharisee" and "Pharisaical" have entered into the vocabulary of many languages with negative connotations.

Such an idea of the Pharisees is not correct. There were certainly many among them who corresponded to this negative image and it is with these that Jesus has serious problems. But not all of them were like this. Nicodemus, who comes to see Jesus one night and who later defended him before the Sanhedrin, was a Pharisee (cf. John 3:1; 7:50ff.). Saul was a Pharisee before his conversion and was certainly a sincere and zealous person then, if misguided. Gamaliel, who defended the apostles before the Sanhedrin, was a Pharisee (cf. Acts 5:34ff.).

Jesus' relationships with the Pharisees were not only conflictual. They often shared the same convictions, such as faith in the resurrection of the dead and the love of God and neighbour as the first and most important commandment of the law. Some, as we see in Sunday's Gospel, even invited Jesus to dinner at their house. Today there is agreement that the Pharisees did not want Jesus to be condemned as much as their rival sect, the Sadducees, who belonged to Jerusalem's priestly caste. For all these reasons, it would be a very good thing to stop using the terms "Pharisee" and "Pharisaical" in a disparaging way. This would also help dialogue with the Jews who recall with great respect the role played by the Pharisees in their history, especially after the destruction of Jerusalem.

During the dinner that Sabbath, Jesus taught two important things: one directed to those who were invited and the other to their host. To the host Jesus says (perhaps privately or only in the presence of his disciples): "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours ..." This is what Jesus himself did when he invited the poor, the afflicted, the meek, the hungry, the persecuted -- the persons named in the beatitudes -- to the great banquet of the kingdom.

But this time I would like to focus on what Jesus says to the invitees. "When you are invited to a wedding feast, do not take a place of honour ..." Jesus does not intend to give a lesson in good manners here. Neither does he wish to encourage the subtle calculation of those who take a lower place with the secret hope of gaining a more honourable place from the host. The parable could deceive us if we do not think about the banquet and the host that Jesus has in mind. The banquet is the most universal one of the kingdom and God is the host.

In life, Jesus wants to say, choose the last place, try to work more for the benefit of others than for your own benefit. Be modest in evaluating your merits, allow others to do this instead ("No one is a good judge of his own case"), and already in this life God will lift you up. He will lift you up in his grace; he will make you rise in the ranks of Jesus' friends and true disciples, which is the only thing that really matters.

He will also exalt you in the esteem of others. It is a surprising fact but a true one: It is not only God who "comes to the humble but holds the proud at a distance" (cf. Psalm 107:6); men do the same, whether or not they are believers. Modesty, when it is sincere and not affected, conquers, makes those who practice it loved, makes their company desirable, their opinion appreciated. True glory flees from those who seek it and seeks those who flee from it.

We live in a society that has an extreme need to hear this Gospel message of humility again. Running to take the first seats, perhaps without scruple using others as steppingstones, being opportunistic and viciously competitive -- these are things that are universally condemned but, unfortunately, they are also universally practiced. The Gospel has an impact on society, even when it speaks of humility and modesty.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap

**COMING  
UP**

**Alpha**  
Fridays in the  
hall, 7pm

**Ordination**  
Sat 7th Sept,  
10am

**Winter  
Warmer**  
Wed 18th  
Sept, 7pm

**Around the  
World  
Concert**  
Sun 15th Sept,  
2:30pm

### MASS TIMES

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

### PARISH PRIEST:

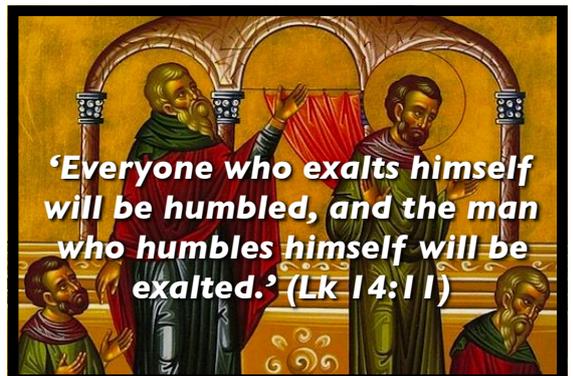
Fr Dean Mathieson OFM Cap

PHONE: 0422 852 273 EMAIL: stspeterandpauls@gmail.com

FB: @stspeterandpauls WEBSITE: stspeterandpauls.com

Emerald Hill Mission: 0409 417 412

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



# Happy Father's Day

\$660.00 has been raised through the Craft Group's Fathers Day Raffle which will be drawn at morning tea in the hall directly after Sunday 10am Mass. The money raised will go towards the cost of installing new lightning in Church. Many thanks from the Craft Group to all who so generously supported this fund raiser.

## AROUND THE WORLD CONCERT

Parishioner and pianist Ann Nguyen, along with fellow members of the University of Melbourne Conservatorium of Music, will present a concert on Sunday 15th September at 2.30pm in the church. Tickets available after the Sunday 10am Mass. You can also book on <https://trybooking.com/BEPMP>. Early Bird \$20 till August 30th, from September 1st \$25.00. Proceeds will go towards church maintenance.

## WINTER WARMER

Wed 18th Sept, 7pm at Emerald Hotel

Speaker Bernie Brophy - "The Orange Parades". Bernie has had a long involvement in the politics of Northern Ireland and a few years ago he was a member of an International Observer Group observing the Orange Parades in Belfast. Sign up sheet will be available next weekend or you can phone Carol on 9699 2892 to make a booking.

## ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD

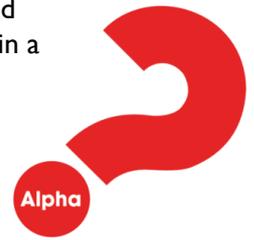
Archbishop Peter Comensoli will ordain 4 new priests to the Melbourne Archdiocese on Saturday 7th September, 10am, at St Patrick's Cathedral. Everyone is invited to support our new priests.



## ALPHA

Season has started and will be in the parish hall every Friday evening, 7pm.

Alpha is for anyone who's curious and wants to learn more about the faith in a friendly environment. It is a great opportunity to invite people who don't normally come to Mass. See parish website for details: [stspeterandpauls.com/alpha](http://stspeterandpauls.com/alpha)

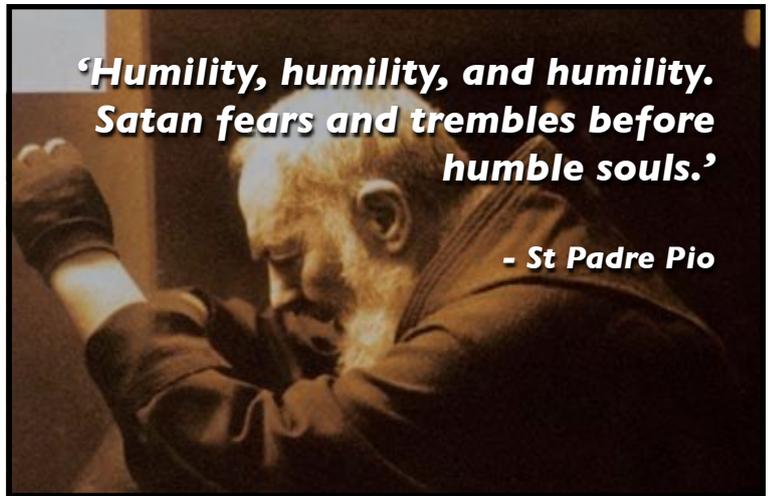


## VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH CHURCH FLOWERS

Please speak to Fr Dean or Doris if you would like to help.

*'Humility, humility, and humility.  
Satan fears and trembles before  
humble souls.'*

*- St Padre Pio*



## YMG National Conference

11-13th Oct, Kyneton



The Young Men of God group are holding a weekend conference away for 18-60 year old men to learn about and ignite their faith. Guest keynote speaker will be Tim Staples from Catholic Answers. Register here: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=532596&>

## CATECHISM CORNER

*Facing temptations in prayer (n. 2733)*

Another temptation [in prayer], to which presumption opens the gate, is acedia. The spiritual writers understand by this a form of depression due to lax ascetical practice, decreasing vigilance, carelessness of heart. "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." The greater the height, the harder the fall. Painful as discouragement is, it is the reverse of presumption. The **humble** are not surprised by their distress; it leads them to trust more, to hold fast in constancy.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION

### To Go Up Higher

We come to the wedding banquet of heaven by way of humility and charity. This is the fatherly instruction we hear in today's First Reading, and the message of today's Gospel.

Jesus is not talking simply about good table manners. He is revealing the way of the kingdom, in which the one who would be greatest would be the servant of all (see Luke 22:24–27).

This is the way, too, that the Father has shown us down through the ages—filling the hungry, sending the rich away empty, lifting up the lowly, pulling down the proud (see Luke 1:52–53).

We again call to mind the Exodus in today's Psalm—how in His goodness the Lord led the Israelites from imprisonment to prosperity, rained down bread from heaven, made them His inheritance, becoming a "Father of orphans."

We now have also gained a share of His inheritance. We are to live humbly, knowing we are not worthy to receive from His table (see Luke 6:7; 15:21). We are to give alms, remembering we were ransomed from sin by the price of His blood (see 1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

The Lord promises that if we are humble we will be exalted and find favour with God; that if we are kind to those who can never repay us, we will atone for sins and find blessing in the resurrection of the righteous.

We anticipate the fulfilment of those promises in every Eucharist, today's Epistle tells us. In the Mass, we enter the festal gathering of the angels and the firstborn children of God. It is the liturgy of the heavenly Jerusalem in which Jesus is the high priest, the King who calls us to come up higher (see Proverbs 25:6–7).

Scott Hahn

## BIBLE STUDIES GROUP

Friday's 3:30pm in the hall, starting 6th September. All materials, including readings, will be provided.

ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

**Australian Catholic Bioethics Conference**

SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER  
PARK HYATT, EAST MELBOURNE

Session One: 1–3pm  
**EUTHANASIA IN VICTORIA. WHAT HAVE WE DONE?**

Session Two: 4–6pm  
**THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM IN HEALTHCARE**

 Dan Fleming Bioethicist St Vincent's Health	 Julia Trimboli Bioethicist Mercy Health	 Fr Paschal Corby Bioethicist Catholic Theological College	 Nigel Zimmerman Principal Advisor Archbishop Comensoli
 Dr John Daffy Physician St Vincent's Health	 Paul Santamaria QC Commercial Lawyer VAD Legal opinion for CHA	 Patrick Quirk Academic Lawyer Australian Catholic University	 Bernadette Tobin Bioethicist Plunkett Centre for Ethics

Early Bird Prices until August 24th  
Dinner and Conference: \$195  
Conference Only: \$90  
BOOKINGS: [www.trybooking.com/BELLE](http://www.trybooking.com/BELLE)

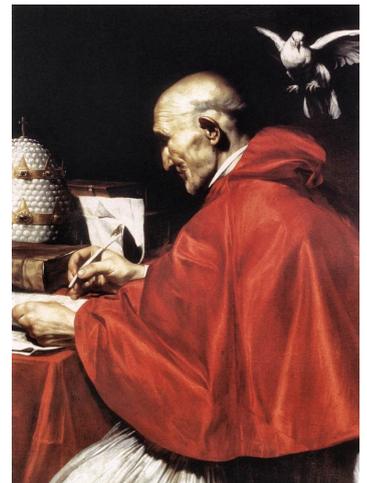
## PROJECT COMPASSION 2019 REPORT

Through parishes (including ours), schools and individuals, the Melbourne Archdiocese has raised over \$1.5 million for this year's Project Compassion. It will be distributed around to the world to those who need it.

## FEAST OF THE WEEK

### St Gregory the Great - 3rd September

St Gregory the Great was Pope from 590 to 604 AD. Gregory is well known for his radical care of the poor, liturgical reforms, large-scale mission of evangelising the then-pagan Anglo-Saxons in England, and prolific writings. Before he became Pope, he was a monastic monk. Gregory made it clear that he much preferred the monastic life in a series of writings, praising the silent, ascetic, and contemplative life over the nosiness of the world. In official documents, as his papal title, he referred to himself as 'the servant of the servants of God' (*servus servorum Dei*). This practise among Popes is still in use to this day. Gregory's relics currently remain in St Peter's Basilica in Rome.



Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill:  
*Sr Annunciata, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr Joyce Stewart, Celestina Ressia, 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 Grant, Frank Keighery.*

**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 – Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29**

When we realize our needs, we grow closer to God because we see our true relationship to Him. The ability to reflect on God's word in parables is one way of growing in wisdom and humility.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.**

The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, they shall exult and dance for joy. O sing to the Lord, make music to His name; rejoice in the Lord, exult at His presence.

Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, such is God in His holy place.

God gives the lonely a home to live in; He leads the prisoners forth into freedom.

You poured down, O God, a generous rain; when your people were starved you gave them new life. It was there that your people found a home, prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor.

**God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.**

**2nd Reading – Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24**

Through Jesus we have access to God. The author uses the images of Mount Zion and the heavenly Jerusalem to illustrate how great is the promise of heaven.

**Alleluia, alleluia,**

Take my yoke upon you; learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart. Alleluia

**Gospel – Luke 14:1, 7-14**

From good table manners, Jesus draws conclusions about the Kingdom of God. God delights in those who recognize their lowliness and need for being saved.

**Next week's readings:** 1st Wisdom 9:13-18  
 2nd Philemon 9-10, 12-17  
 Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

We pray together:

Lord, we pray for Pope Francis, his bishops, priests and religious that as leaders of the Church they may guide their people with compassion and love.

Lord, we pray that we will always be gentle to the aged, the lonely and the destitute.

Lord, we pray for families, especially of mixed faith. May the God who is the source of all life, enable them to recognise that what they have in common is greater than what divides them.

Lord, we pray for our parish community, especially for the volunteers who assist in so many ways. May their generous service for the benefit of others be respected as their genuine efforts to share their time, talent and treasure.

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 Daniel McDermot, Jude Kelada, Kevin McCarthy, and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time Kevin Epple, William & Dulcie Lee, John & Dulcie O'Neill, Gino Marianni, Serenus Vincent de Niece, Paolina Toppi.

**Collections: August 24/25, 2019**

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1107

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$941

Online per week (Aug): \$340

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 31	Angela			Doris
Sun 01	Rick & Gerry	Geraldine & Doris	Denis & Olwen	
Sat 07	Adrien			Ann & Priska
Sun 08	Olwen & Ann T	Doris & Geraldine	Donovan Family	