

STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

5th May, 2019



3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C

The teaching that is drawn from this Gospel passage is that Jesus is risen not just in “a manner of speaking,” but really, in his new body. “We ate and drank with him after his resurrection from the dead,” Peter will say in the Acts of the Apostles, probably referring to this episode (Acts 10:4).

In John's Gospel, Jesus' dialogue with Peter follows the scene in which he eats the roasted fish with the apostles. Three questions: “Do you love me?” Three answers: “You know that I love you.” Three conclusions: “Feed my sheep!”

With these words Jesus confers on Peter, de facto — and according to the Catholic interpretation, to his successors — the office of supreme and universal shepherd of the flock of Christ. He confers on him that primacy that he promised him when he said: “You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. To you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19).

The most moving thing about this page of the Gospel is that Jesus remains faithful to the promise made to Peter despite Peter's not having been faithful to his promise to never betray him even at the cost of his life (cf. Matthew 26:35).

Jesus' triple question is explained by his desire to give Peter the possibility of canceling out his triple denial of Jesus during the passion.

God always gives men a second chance, and often a third, a fourth and infinite chances. He does not remove people from his book at their first mistake.

What does this do for us? His master's confidence and his master's forgiveness made Peter a new person; strong, faithful unto death. He fed Christ's faithful in the difficult moments in the Church's beginning, when it was necessary to leave Galilee and take to the roads of the world.

Peter will be able in the end to keep his promise to give his life for Christ. If we would learn the lesson contained in Christ's interaction with Peter, putting our confidence in someone even after they have made a mistake, there would be a lot fewer failures and marginalised people in the world!

The dialogue of Jesus and Peter should be transferred to the life of each one of us. St. Augustine, commenting on this passage of the Gospel, says: “Questioning Peter, Jesus also questions each of us.” The question: “Do you love me?” is addressed to each disciple.

Christianity is not an ensemble of teachings and practices; it is something much more intimate and profound. It is a relationship of friendship with the person of Jesus Christ. Many times during his earthly life he asked people: “Do you believe?” and never “Do you love me?” He does this only now, after giving us proof of how much he loves us in his passion and death.

Jesus makes love for him consist in serving others: “Do you love me? Feed my sheep.” He does not want to benefit from the fruits of this love but he wants his sheep to. He is the recipient of Peter's love but not its beneficiary. It as if he said to Peter: “Consider what you do for my flock as done to me.”

This implicates us as well. Our love for Christ should not be something private and sentimental but should express itself in the service of others, in doing good to others. Mother Teresa of Calcutta often said: “The fruit of love is service and the fruit of service is peace.”

Fr Raniero Cantalamessa

SAVE THE DATE

STS PETER & PAUL'S FEAST DAY FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 30TH JUNE

MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil)

Mon - Fri: 8am | Saturday: 10am

Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm

PARISH PRIEST:

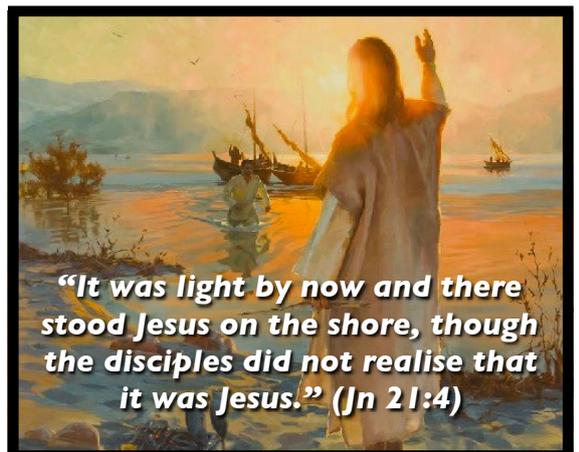
Fr Dean Mathieson OFM Cap

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Emerald Hill Mission: 0409 417 412

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



“It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus.” (Jn 21:4)

PRE MOTHERS' DAY STALL

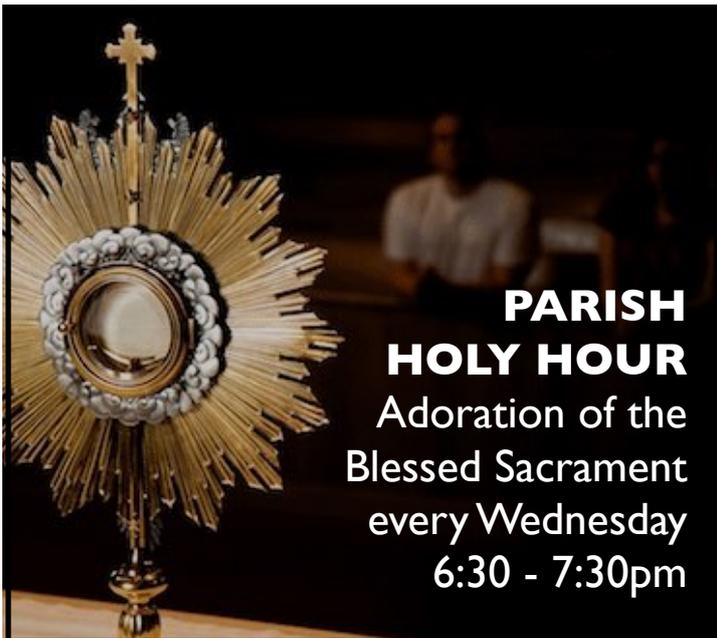
This Sunday the Craft Group will have a stall after Mass, selling items they have made in the group. All are welcome for the special pre-Mother's day/Easter gathering in the hall. There is also a raffle to raise funds for the parish. \$5 for 3 tickets.

Play Reading Group

The next meeting of the play reading group will be on Monday 20th May, 1pm

ADORATION BEFORE MASS

Each Sunday we have a time of Adoration before the 10am Mass.



**PARISH
HOLY HOUR**
Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament
every Wednesday
6:30 - 7:30pm

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Fire of Love

There are two places in Scripture where the curious detail of a "charcoal fire" is mentioned. One is in today's Gospel, where the Apostles return from fishing to find bread and fish warming on the fire.

The other is in the scene in the High Priest's courtyard on Holy Thursday, where Peter and some guards and slaves warm themselves while Jesus is being interrogated inside (see John 18:18).

At the first fire, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, as Jesus had predicted (see John 13:38; 18:15-18, 25-27). Today's charcoal fire becomes the scene of Peter's repentance, as three times Jesus asks him to make a profession of love. Jesus' thrice repeated command, "feed My sheep," shows that Peter is being appointed as the shepherd of the Lord's entire flock, the head of His Church (see also Luke 22:32).

Jesus' question, "Do you love me more than these?" is a pointed reminder of Peter's pledge to lay down his life for Jesus, even if the other Apostles might weaken (see John 13:37; Matthew 26:33; Luke 22:33).

Jesus then explains just what Peter's love and leadership will require, foretelling Peter's death by crucifixion ("you will stretch out your hands").

Before His own death, Jesus had warned the Apostles that they would be hated as He was hated, that they would suffer as He suffered (see Matthew 10:16-19, 22; John 15:18-20; 16:2).

We see the beginnings of that persecution in today's First Reading. Flogged as Jesus was, the Apostles nonetheless leave "rejoicing that they have been found worthy to suffer."

Their joy is based on their faith that God will change their "mourning into dancing," as we sing in today's Psalm. By their sufferings, they know, they will be counted worthy to stand in heaven before "the Lamb that was slain," a scene glimpsed in today's Second Reading (see also Revelation 6:9-11).

Scott Hahn



Mother's Day Gathering

Next Sunday we'll have a special gathering in the hall for Mother's Day after the 10am Mass.



Election Day Sausage Sizzle

On Election day on Saturday 18th May, we'll be having a sausage sizzle to raise money for the parish.

If you have any time during the day to help out, please let Fr Dean know.

CATECHISM CORNER

THE UNIVERSAL DESTINATION AND THE PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF GOODS

In the beginning God entrusted the earth and its resources to the common stewardship of mankind to take care of them, master them by labor, and enjoy their fruits. The goods of creation are destined for the whole human race. However, the earth is divided up among men to assure the security of their lives, endangered by poverty and threatened by violence. The appropriation of property is legitimate for guaranteeing the freedom and dignity of persons and for helping each of them to meet his basic needs and the needs of those in his charge. It should allow for a natural solidarity to develop between men. Goods of production - material or immaterial - such as land, factories, practical or artistic skills, oblige their possessors to employ them in ways that will benefit the greatest number. Those who hold goods for use and consumption should use them with moderation, reserving the better part for guests, for the sick and the poor (n. 2402 and 2405).

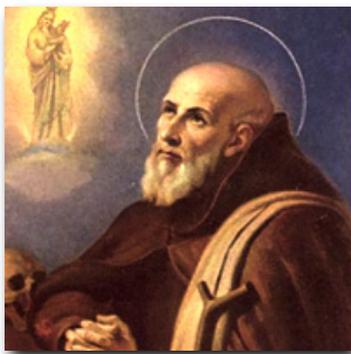
STS PETER & PAUL'S FEAST DAY FESTIVAL

**SUN
30TH
JUNE**

If you're able to help with the organisation and preparation of the day, please get in touch.



SAINTS OF THE WEEK - TWO CAPUCHIN SAINTS



St Ignatius of Laconi - 11 May

He was the second of seven children of peasant parents in Sardinia. His path to the Franciscans was unusual. During a serious illness, Ignatius vowed to become a Capuchin if he recovered. He regained his health but ignored the promise. When he was 20, a riding accident prompted Ignatius to renew the pledge, which he acted on the second time. Ignatius's reputation for self-denial and charity led to his appointment as the official beggar for the friars in Cagliari. He fulfilled that task for 40 years, despite being blind for the last two years.

While on his rounds, Ignatius would instruct the children, visit the sick, and minister to the poor. The people of Cagliari were inspired by his kindness and his faithfulness to his work. Ignatius was canonised in 1951.

St Leopold Mandic - 12 May

A native of Croatia, Leopold joined the Capuchin Franciscans and was ordained several years later in spite of several health problems. He could not speak loudly enough to preach publicly. For many years he also suffered from severe arthritis, poor eyesight, and a stomach ailment. For several years Leopold taught patrology, the study of the Church Fathers, to the clerics of his province, but he is best known for his work in the confessional, where he sometimes spent 13-15 hours a day. Several bishops sought out his spiritual advice.

Leopold's dream was to go to the Orthodox Christians and work for the reunion of Roman Catholicism and Orthodoxy. His health never permitted it. Leopold often renewed his vow to go to the Eastern Christians; the cause of unity was constantly in his prayers.

At a time when Pope Pius XII said that the greatest sin of our time is "to have lost all sense of sin," Leopold had a profound sense of sin and an even firmer sense of God's grace awaiting human cooperation.

Leopold, who lived most of his life in Padua, died on July 30, 1942, and was canonised in 1982.

