



# KYABRAM CATHOLIC PARISH

St Augustine's-Kyabram ~ St Patrick's-Tongala ~ St Sebastian's-Merrigum

St Augustine's – Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620  
Tel: 03 – 5852 1026 Email: kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Parish Priest – Fr John Paul Pasala

Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 30 October 2022



Readings for  
this week:

Wisdom 11:23-12:1  
2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2  
Luke 19:1-10



Readings for  
next Sunday

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14  
2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5  
Luke 20:27-38



## Liturgical Jottings

### Contemplative Prayer

Liturgical prayer and solitary or private are distinctive, but necessarily connected and complementary where one form enriches the other. Solitary prayer may include formal texts eg Hail Mary, Our Father etc but tends to be informal, subjective, intimate, specific, free-flowing, flexible and spontaneous. Contemplative prayer has become a specific form of personal prayer. The New Testament, Western and Eastern writers and throughout Christian history provide a wealth of insights into contemplative prayer that cannot be covered here. Contemplative prayer brings the person to an awareness of the presence of God and unites God and the contemplative in a sense of finding one's true self in relation to God. Contemplation may also bring sense of unity with creation and human activity.

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## Looking at the Readings

The change of seasons is always an opportune time to marvel at the magnificence of the natural world of which we are a part. Its colours, its textures, its smells all reflect the limitless imagination of the creator. Perhaps the most marvellous feature of the world is the interconnectedness of all the elements of which it consists. Somehow the spirit of the creator is manifested through each and every aspect of this universe. And we are part of it all. The universe may be as a grain in the balance or a drop of morning dew, but each grain and each drop contains within it the possibilities of the future.

Offering hospitality is a profound social act. When we offer hospitality, we invite another into our world, into our lives. We shift our attention from our own cares and concerns to the needs and comfort of the other. By the act of hospitality we transform strangers into friends and intimates, just as Jesus did with Zacchaeus. The hospitality that Jesus offers dissolves all constraints. Relationships disregard the biased measures of propriety, forging bonds of reconciliation and issuing everyone an invitation to intimacy. The hospitality that Jesus offers recreates the world from one of insider versus outsider to one of universal inclusivity. Sinners become friends, the lost are found, and all are restored to the rightful place as children not merely of Abraham but of God.

The creativity of the creator is matched by the compassion of the re-creator. © Dianne Bergant CSA.

### Prayer for the Week

Lord, I am often like Zacchaeus, making huge efforts to catch a glimpse of you, only to find that you are waiting for me, calling me by name, inviting yourself into my heart. Once I am with you, I find happiness in putting things right, ordering my life, finding the springs of generosity and justice that have been stifled by old habits. Sacred Space © 1999-2022 Irish Jesuits

### Quote of the Week

True contemplative prayer is not a psychological trick but a theological grace. It can come to us only as a gift, and not a result of our own clever use of spiritual techniques. *Thomas Merton, Climate of Monastic Prayer*

### On the Lighter Side

A seminarian was asked to give an impromptu homily on Zacchaeus. In three short sentences he said: "First, Zacchaeus was a man of small stature; so am I. Second, Zacchaeus was very much up a tree; so am I. Third, Zacchaeus made haste and came down; so will I."



- I would like to further update parishioners about the circumstances surrounding the parish staff concluding their employment in the parish, and to address commentary and questions being asked within the community
  - Concern about the parish spending more money than it receives in income had been raised by Fr. JP and discussed in several PFC meetings for more than a year. He had suggested reducing labour costs, which was the parish's major expense. On a few occasions, Fr JP had spoken briefly with a staff member about reducing staff hours.
  - After becoming PFC Chair about 1 year ago, I learned the parish had been operating with an operating deficit for the last 5 years. You will remember the graphs I presented here last July illustrating this.
  - Early this year, the PFC combined with the PPC and embarked on Project Recovery with an aim of reducing costs and increasing income to bring the budget back to surplus. This included asking the diocese to assist by suspending levy payments until completion. The Bishop agreed to consider this after a more comprehensive review of the parish's financial situation.
  - Parishioners will be aware from the statement read out by James Harris of the PFC on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, describing the plan the PFC has to reduce parish labour costs by 50% to repair the parish budget. The parish is responsible for its own finances and must live within its means.
  - The plan objective was to reduce paid hours by 50% and then to work through a consultation process with the staff and parish to rearrange the required tasks to minimize the impact to the parish of any reduced services. An outcome would likely include a portion of tasks being conducted by volunteers and possibly some admin tasks conducted by the chancery.
  - A decision was made for myself and Fr JP to formally meet with the staff to outline options. I received advice and support from the Diocesan HR Officer but regrettably, I chose to not accept his offer to join us in the meeting
  - In the meeting, the staff were caught by surprise, as while they had expected discussions about staffing during this year, they understood that actions would not happen until the end of the year. The message heard from me was each person needed to make the difficult decision of choosing between a 50% time reduction and redundancy, and that they had no opportunity to discuss other options. They felt shocked and that their contribution was not respected; therefore, they only asked to clarify some aspects of the statement without entering into discussion. A week later, they advised that they had all decided to take redundancy packages and unfortunately there was not an opportunity to arrange any further conversations to reconsider. The Parish and diocese respected their views, reluctantly accepted their decisions, and arranged the Fair Work redundancy pay outs to staff.
  - Project Recovery had brought the PFC and PPC together for the very first time this year with joint meetings and shared subcommittee work. The relationship between the PFC and PPC had been developing nicely and the parish was benefiting from improved transparency and co-operation. Some of the staff had participated in the consultation and collaboration processes with the PFC and PPC members led by myself during the Project Recovery subcommittee work.
  - I regret that I did not take the extra time needed to share the details of the meeting plan with the PPC members beforehand
  - After the staff communicated their decisions, the parish and the diocese offered support to the former staff, and that support continues to be available as and when needed.
  - I admit I mishandled the meeting and gave the staff the wrong impression that decisions needed to be made urgently. I apologize to the staff members for the misunderstanding and hurt they have experienced, and to the parish for the disruption that has been created.
  - I want to also thank the many parishioners who are assisting Fr JP and the parish operate whilst we transition to new office administration and pastoral support arrangements.
- Thank you for your attention.

Wayne Mulcahy  
Chair, Parish Finance Committee

## FUNDRAISER FOR St Augustine

There are few more wood scroll Calendars 2023 available at the back of the church. , after the weekend Masses. \$20 each and 5 different calendars, **Divine mercy, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Anthony, Sacred Heart and our Lady of Perpetual Help.** All money raised will go to St Augustine Parish. Please contact **Veronica Fox.**



## ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS MASS IN THE CHURCH

There will be a special Mass **on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November** 5pm for the Feasts of All Saints and All souls. All are welcome to offer the Masses. There are envelopes available at the back of the church for the **MASS FOR THE HOLY SOULS.**

**Please collect it after the Mass.**

## MASS TIMES & ROSTERS – NEXT WEEKEND

**Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30am:**

**Commentator – S Carroll**

**Lector – T Hehir**

**Special Minister – P Hehir**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Sick:** Steve Doherty, Amy Nicholson, Philip Bowman, Trevor Price, Anne Dodd, Julie Shaw, Kady Mitchell-Treacy

**Recently Deceased:** -

**Anniversaries:** Mark Bourke

(Please email the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list.)



## PRIEST RETIREMENT FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF SANDHURST SUPPORT

You will find envelopes at the back of the church for the support of the Priest Retirement Foundation, please collect after the Mass. There will be special collection the weekend of 12&13 November.

Mon	31st Oct	-
Tues	1 Nov	No Mass.
Wed	2 Nov	All Saints & All Souls Mass 5:00pm
Thurs	3 Nov	Anointing Mass 10:00 am
Fri	4 Nov	-
Sat	5 Nov	No Mass
Sun	6 Nov	Mass 8:30am Mass 11:30 Tongala
Mon	7 Nov	-
Tues	8 Nov	Rosary 4:45pm, Mass 5:00pm. PPC meeting 5:45pm.
Wed	9 Nov	-
Thurs	10 Nov	Mass 9:15am (Grade 3&4, Year 10)
Fri	11 Nov	-
Sat	12 Nov	Mass 6pm (Cuppa after the Mass)
Sun	13 Nov	Mass 8.30am

## Parish Priest

**Fr John Paul Pasala**

Kyabram Presbytery: 5852 1026

Tatura Presbytery: 5824 1049

Parish Office email address:

**kyabram@sandhurst.catholic.org.au**

Parish Office website:

**www.kyabramcatholicparish.org.au**

### Principals

St Augustine's College

**Jay Sutton** – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary

**Jackie Stockdale** – Phone 5859 0371

### Parish Pastoral Council

Fr John Paul Pasala,  
Alana Brennan (Chairperson)  
Maurie Finn, Veronica Fox,  
Brendon Lane, Finola Price,  
Jackie Stockdale, Jay Sutton

### Parish Finance Committee

Fr John Paul Pasala,  
Wayne Mulcahy (Chairperson),  
James Harris (Deputy Chair) .Naomi Hehir,  
Peter Ryan, Angela Shaw, Mary Zobec

## Past Students and Friends of St. Augustine's Memorial Mass

Today we remember Past and Friends of St. Augustine's.  
We entrust them to God's loving care. May they Rest In Peace.

## Anointing Mass

The next anointing Mass will be held on Thursday 3rd November at 10am in St. Augustine's Church. All welcome. Please note that on this day, there will not be a 9.15am Mass

## CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with the Parish Child safety officer on .....

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we come to worship, we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honoured. May we join together and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith and reconciliation.

## Mass Times

### Kyabram

**Week Day Masses** (Tuesday and Thursday): see Diary Dates

**Saturday** (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month): 6.00pm

**Sunday:** 8.30am

### Tongala

First Sunday of month 11.30am

### Merrigum

Third Sunday of month 12.00 noon

**Reconciliation** – Second Saturday of the month at 5.30pm (before 6pm Mass) in St Aug's Church Kyabram.

**Mass of Anointing** is held the first Thursday of the month at 10.00am in St Augustine's Church.

# Breaking Open the Word

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
In 3:16  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
God loved the world so much, he gave  
his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have  
eternal life.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke.

*The Son of Man came to seek and to find that which  
was lost.*

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

## ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**  
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THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

## FIRST READING

Wis 11:22-12:2

A reading from the book of Wisdom

*You have mercy on all things because you love everything that exists.*

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground.

Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent. Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it.

And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist,

how be conserved if not called forth by you? You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life,

you whose imperishable spirit is in all.

Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend,

you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

## ■ The word of the Lord.

**RESP PSALM** Ps 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14. R. cf. v. 1

**R.** I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

1. I will give you glory; O God my King, / I will bless your name for ever. / I will bless you day after day / and praise your name for ever. **R.**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, / slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

# THE SAVING WORD

30 OCTOBER 2022



3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, / and your friends shall repeat their blessing. / They shall speak of the glory of your reign / and declare your might, O God. **R.**

4. The Lord is faithful in all his words / and loving in all his deeds. / The Lord supports all who fall / and raises all who are bowed down. **R.**

## SECOND READING

2 Thess 1:1-2:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*The name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him.*

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of his call, and by his power fulfil all your desires for goodness and complete all that you have been doing through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we shall all be gathered round him: please do not get excited or too soon or alarmed by any prediction or rumour or any letter claiming to come from us, implying that the Day of the Lord has already arrived.

## ■ The word of the Lord.