



Our Parish is a Christian community which welcomes all to walk together in a spirit of compassion, justice and hope.

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 / 3 November 2024

Gospel Reflection by the Carmelites Australia and Timor-Leste, www.carmelites.org.au

The Great Commandment

The first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy and the Gospel today are linked by the words of the Shema – the creed which observant Jews pray every morning and evening. These words come from the Book of Deuteronomy: Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength.

The title, Shema, comes from the Hebrew word for 'listen', the very first word of the prayer.

In a way, Shema is a call to conversion: to listen deeply with the heart and to respond to God's grace and mercy with love, faithfulness and obedience. When a scribe asks Jesus, "Which is the first of all the commandments?", Jesus replies by quoting the Shema and then adds a quotation from the Book of Leviticus (19:18), "You must love your neighbour as yourself". According to Jesus, there is no commandment greater than these.

The scribe is impressed by Jesus' reply. His words to Jesus show he has grasped what Jesus means. In repeating what Jesus has just said in his own words, the scribe also adds, "this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice". Now it is Jesus who is impressed with the scribe's depth of understanding: that love is the very heart of obedience to God and more important even than ritual worship.

The scribe's correct understanding of the Old Testament Law means he is very close to the Kingdom of God. It also means that true faith, as Jesus teaches it, is about being in loving relationship with God and other human beings. Religious rituals are meant to be ways of reflecting on, savouring, remembering, celebrating and expressing that love. Sometimes they just end up as 'empty' rituals, when love has been replaced by fear, when we are trying to bargain with God, or when we are just 'going through the motions'.

The Kingdom of God is not some far off place, but the moments when God's life breaks into the human story. Those moments bring love, wisdom, grace, compassion, generosity, forgiveness and peace. Those practiced in the things of God recognise God's presence most of all in loving relationships. If our rituals grow out of and express our sincere love for God and neighbour then they have value. We are always at risk of putting ritual above the practise of love, of thinking that we are at rights with God just by attending a liturgy, by 'paying God off', in a sense.

The words of Jesus remind us of the importance of the other part of our religious lives – the liturgy of everyday life in which we make present and visible the love, mercy and compassion of God.

Acknowledgement of Country

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old. May we acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Kulin Nations, who are the traditional custodians of our parish land, whose cultures and customs have nurtured, and continue to nurture, this land since men and women awoke from the great dream. We acknowledge their continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Warm Welcome to all who celebrate the Eucharist with us today, to the church communities across our parish and a special welcome to all who happen to be visiting our Parish.

The month of November is traditionally a time when the Catholic community remembers those who have died.

The end of November marks the end of the Liturgical Year with a new year starting on the First Sunday of Advent, which is the four-week period of preparation before Christmas.

The Church uses this end-of-year period as a time to think of the end of life and the end of all things and the great hope that our earthly end transitions into a new life in God's heavenly reality. Pope Francis states: "The remembrance of the dead, the care for graves and prayers of repose are a witness of the confident hope, rooted in the certainty that death is not the final word on the human fate, since 'man' is destined to a life without limits which has its roots and its fulfillment in God."

Sadness at the loss of a loved never entirely goes away but remembrance lives on. The desire to be remembered lives within our genetic makeup. It is the age-old reason people carve their initials in trees, place their hands in cement, and chalk their names on rocks. They want to leave their mark. They want to be remembered. But for the living, the real marks they leave are the ones they've left on us. A hug. A smile. A timely word of advice. We want to remember those we've loved and lost, not only for them but also as importantly for ourselves, to mend, to heal, to live and never to forget.

Remembrance month provides us with a chance to remember, celebrate, and honour our ancestors and explore how to commemorate losses experienced in our own lives. It can be a time of deep connection and reflection.

This month in our parish, we invite all to remember the loss of loved ones by writing

their names on the coloured crosses, which you will find at the back of the church and stick them up on the cross at the front of the church. They will be someone at the cross to assist you. We also encourage you to take a



sprig of Rosemary – a symbol of Remembrance – for those you have named.

A Prayer by Joyce Rupp

Let us remember the ones who lived and loved deeply, who found the source of their inner strength from you, the Divine Beloved.

Let us remember the light-filled ones, who enkindled our spirits with their teachings and the spark of their beliefs.

Let us remember the risk-takers, who faced their fears and took action, who sought justice even though they had to pay a price for it.

Let us remember the vulnerable ones who allowed us to care for them, to be with them in their time of need.

Let us remember the faith-filled ones who brought us to the Holy One, who led us, by their words and example, into deeper relationship with God.

Let us remember the brave ones who walked through their struggles with hope, who taught us how to trust and have confidence during our times of sorrow and difficulty.

Let us remember the great lovers of life, whose humour and enthusiasm lifted our spirits and brought us joy. Amen.

Let us remember the nurturers, who birthed us physically or spiritually who gave us sustenance by their caring presence.

Calling all Would-Be Grandparents!



St. Columba Primary school is having their Grandparents/ Special Person Day on **Friday, 8 November**. We begin with an assembly at 9.00 a.m. and then the visitors spend some time with the children in the classrooms. This will be followed by a morning tea for our guests. Some children will not have a grandparent who is able to join them on this special day. We invite any parishioners who are able to be a 'stand in grandparent/friend' to join us for a very special morning. If you are interested, please contact Bern by email: bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au or call the school on 95316560.

Synod on Synodality in Rome Closes

Pope Francis' three-year consultation on the future of the Church has now concluded. Recommended changes include overhauling training for future priests, greater lay involvement in selecting bishops, expansion of women's ministries and a revision to Church law to mandate greater transparency and accountability throughout the Church. The 51-page Final Document was approved and published after three years of tens of thousands of listening sessions, continental assemblies and two major summits in Rome. Pope Francis said that he hoped the document would be a "gift to the people of God".

According to *National Catholic Reporter*, "It stops short of proposing certain dramatic changes – such as the restoration of the female diaconate or greater recognition of LGBTQ Catholics – that many reform groups have sought during the multi-year project known as the Synod on Synodality. But neither does it close the door on such possibilities. The Synod's document notes that access to the diaconate for women "remains open" and calls for a Church that does not exclude

people because of their "marital situation, identity or sexuality."

Pope Francis said, "We cannot remain inert before the questions raised by the women and men of today, before the challenges of our time, the urgency of evangelisation and the many wounds that afflict humanity... A sedentary Church, that inadvertently withdraws from life and confines itself to the margins of reality, is a Church that risks remaining blind and becoming comfortable with its own unease... The Church must listen to men and women "who wish to discover the joy of the Gospel," he said, but it also must listen to "those who have turned away" from faith and to "the silent cry of those who are indifferent", as well as the poor, marginalised and desperate."

The report, written in Italian will soon be translated into other languages, including English.

From The Catholic Women's League:

Pray & Paint: Thérèse of Lisieux's "Little Way of Love"

This event includes Mass, a talk, morning tea, a painting session and small group discussions.

Date: Saturday, 16 November

Time: 9.30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Venue: St Joseph's Church and Hall,
45 Stanhope St, Malvern**

Cost: \$30 (\$20 for CWLVWW Members)

RSVP by 13 November (or unless sold out)

To book: www.trybooking.com/CUHSJ or

Emai: info@cwlvicww.org.au

Safeguarding Commitment

Our Parish supports the recommendations of the Royal Commission and all endeavours to bring healing to and justice for the victims of abuse. Our Parish Leadership & Development Team and Safeguarding Committee work proactively to ensure the safety of all children, young people and vulnerable adults in our community.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6: 2-6

Responsorial Psalm:

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading: Hebrews 7: 23-28

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them, and we will
come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 12: 28-34

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday 4 Nov – Sunday 10 Nov 2024

Monday: 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart
Community, 101 Grey St St Kilda

Thursday: 11.00am MASS Sacred Heart Church.

Friday: 9.00am MASS in the Parish House

Saturday: 6.00pm MASS at St Columba Church

Sunday: 9.00am MASS at St Columba Church

11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
(this mass is also live streamed)

Gospel: Mark 16: 15-20

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

9 / 10 November: Thirty-second Sunday in
Ordinary Time

St Columba Welcomes:

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer needed

C / L: Bronwyn Ilott, Volunteer

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheet, Frances Pititto

C / L: Priscilla No, Tony Lopes

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Granier &
Priscilla No

Hospitality: The Brazilians

Sacred Heart Welcomes:

11am Mass:

M: Christina Siciliano

C / L: Volunteer, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalia Setyawan

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy team

All Recently Deceased: Raymond Lucas (Christine's
cousin); Carol St.

1st Anniversaries:

Nicholay Solochen Ko, Daniel Planke, Diane Cist,
Sebastian Maximillian Johann Fitzgerald.

2nd Anniversary: John Ensabella

Anniversaries: Ron McColl, Ross

Hargreaves, Bernadette Jennings, Elaine Barker,

Anne Hennessy, Immaculate Maio, Bruna Skerl,

Mary Fisher, Therese Mannix, Stephen Bolger,

Jason Knowles and Jason Currie, Bill Hill, Manny

Cassar, Patricia Featherstone, Max Jackson,

Malcolm Gerber, Cassie Bricknell, Molly McKay,

Tram Champion, Josef Bogner, Nicholas Dobrotwir

3.11, Eric Mousey, Dick Martin, Els Hendricks,

Maria Ulehla 7.11, Betty Rogers, Bob Hunter, Denis

McCarthy, Maria Rosa Contino, Giuseppina Barnao,

Brian Solis, Eric Walter Peters 4.11.2015, Kathleen

Redman, Sean Atkinson, Charlie Noble 16.11,

Monsignor James Murray, Christopher Gamble

Moloney, Sydney Pyster, Domenico Cerasuolo

23.11.03, Ian Stewart 24.11, Gordon Hill 6.11,

George Thomson, 5.11, Rachael DeSilva, Luta

Skorwider, John Brown 16.11, Carl Hofler 17.11,

Sofia Czarnowaj 27.11, Norman Pittari 2.11.52,

Maria Rosa Contino 3.11, Kathleen Sullivan

11.11.01, Margaret Upfold 24.11.05, Alberto Dos

Santos, Clara Santini-Marcon 5.11.07, Sheila Keogh

26.11.00, Denis Halden 24.11.93, Michael Sylvester

Ryan, Guiseppina Ranieri, Gabrielle Ranieri,

Giuseppe Lo Piccolo, Concetta Lo Piccolo, Nunziata

Panettieri, Francesco Panettieri, Rosario Russo,

Antonio Russo, Sonia Battaglia 15.11.09, Amelia,

Emma & Aida Carretta, Herbert Summers, Tom

Wilczewski, Ella Blumeris, Aileen Palmer, Pasko

Lena, Nikola Lena Saindra

Sick: All in or connected with our Parish who are
unwell. Giovanna Morgan; Lol Patten (UK), Jackie
Pyster, Ramon Lopez, Colin Meanwell, Luke Dennis,
Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Tony Wright
(Sydney), Chail and her husband Callum, Patrick
McCaffrey, Seamus Quinn, Sue McLennan, Fr Terry
Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg, Sophia,
Ned Connors, Jean Cropley, Rose Fonti,
Alexander, Felipe and Anne, Pat Ficcaro, Seamus
Quinn, Lyn Crossly.

***If you have someone you would like on the sick
list please contact Jane at the office. 9531 6120
or jane@shscparish.org.au***

PLEASE PRAY FOR: