

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
12th Feb 2023

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,
to behave faithfully is within your power.
He has set fire and water before you;
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.
Man has life and death before him;
whichever a man likes better will be given him.
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is almighty and all-seeing.
His eyes are on those who fear him,
he notes every action of man.
He never commanded anyone to be godless,
he has given no one permission to sin.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

They are happy who follow God's law!

They are happy whose life is blameless,
who follow God's law!
They are happy who do his will,
seeking him with all their hearts.

You have laid down your precepts
to be obeyed with care.
May my footsteps be firm
to obey your statutes.

Bless your servant and I shall live
and obey your word.
Open my eyes that I may see
the wonders of your law.

Teach me the demands of your statutes
and I will keep them to the end.
Train me to observe your law,
to keep it with my heart.

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: *the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.*

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: 5:17-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, not one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not kill*; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: *You must not commit adultery*. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: *Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal*. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: *You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord*. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Welcome to the Parish of Cororooke...

St Brendan's Coragulac &
St Joseph's Pirron Yallock

727 Corangamite Lake Road
Coragulac, VIC 3249
Email: cororooke@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Moderator: Maureen Finn 0428329231
Leadership Team: Pat O'Shea, Jill O'Dowd,
Michelle Gorwell, Marg Allan, Bronwyn
Hickman & Delia Melville
Supervising Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole
School Principal: Leanne Eastman
Parish Sec: Gracesyn Perrett 52331464
Child Safety Officer: Leanne Eastman
**St Brendan's: 9.30am Sunday/
5pm 4th Sunday**
**St Joseph's: 10:30am Lay-led /
Mass 1st Sunday**

St Brendan's: 19th Feb Lay led @9.00

Communion Minister: Denise McCarthy
Commentator: M McCarthy
Reader: A McCarthy
Leaders: M O'Shea/C Finlay

St Joseph's 19th Feb Lay led @10:30

Family: Mulheron
Minister: P Mulheron
Lay Leaders: T & D Ryan


ALTAR & SACRISTY DUTIES

St Brendan's: Feb: O'Dowd/Holland
St Joseph's: Feb: Hickman

Counters: 15 Feb: L Darcy

RECENTLY DECEASED:

ANNIVERSARIES: Paul Ferguson,
Barbara & Kevin Meehan, Clifford Olney,
Michelle Gooden, Kevin Hickey, Frank Page Snr

**Feb 14th: Feast days of St Cyril and
St Methodius and
Happy Valentines Day to all** 

International Day for the Sick – 11 Feb 2023

We keep in our thoughts and prayers all those who seek healing and wellness. May they feel valued and supported especially...

**Leah Spokes, Geraldine Finn,
Goldie Elsum, Leo Embrey, Kathleen O'Donnell**



Pope's intention for February - For parishes: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Dates to Remember:

Note change of date - 22nd Feb: PLT meeting @5pm

22nd Feb: Ash Wednesday Mass @ 12.05

26th Feb: Trinity College Colac @3-4.30pm

**Invitation to members
of St Brendan's and
St Joseph's Communities**



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 3 - 4.30PM

Trinity College Colac invites you to join us in a prayer service led by Fr Michael (3.30 in the Chapel for 15 minutes), to enjoy afternoon tea, meet with some of our College Leadership Team and to view some of the incredible facilities developed in recent years.

RSVP for catering purposes to Steve O'Dowd: sodowd@tcc.vic.edu.au

Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

Explore 35 positions on our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: RING: 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567. WEB: www.palms.org.au

discernment on the Document for the Continental Stage should email the NCPR's Stephen Reid (stephen.reid@catholic.org.au) to express interest in coordinating a group that meets the following criteria:

- Groups should be comprised of a mix of clergy, laity and religious.
- Group members are expected to be aware of Church matters at the diocesan and national level.
- Group members should be able to read and reflect prayerfully on the document and have experience doing so with similar documents.

BULLETIN NOTICES – OTHER NEWS

Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
We pray for the people of Ukraine.
We pray for peace and the
laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
That your Spirit of comfort would
draw near to them.
We pray for those with power of war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your
precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince
of Peace. Amen

Groups invited to prepare for next phase of Synod on Synodality

The National Centre for Pastoral Research is inviting groups of seven to 10 people to express their interest in participating in the next round of consultation for the global Synod of Bishops on Synodality. Groups – using the working document and assisted by a reflection guide being produced by the national Synod of Bishops committee to support prayer, discernment and response – will be able to gather and share their feedback through an online portal. People wishing to coordinate groups for

Word of God Sunday – February 5, 2023

The Church in Australia marks Word of God Sunday on February 5 this year – **THIS SUNDAY**. Several resources have been prepared to assist with the promotion and commemoration of the day. They include homily notes, liturgical notes, prayers of the faithful, musical recommendations, reflection by Fr Tom Elich, bulletin notice and images for promotion. Resources available at <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Word-of-God-Sunday>

Aid to the Church in Need Australia (ACN)

Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to aid sisters in Kenya in building a new mother house and formation centre for their local community. Hunger, illiteracy and lack of medical provision, combined with desperately poor roads and a lack of clean drinking water make life incredibly difficult for many people in Kenya. The diocesan congregation of the Visitation Daughters of the Immaculate Heart were established in order to help this needy population - but to continue their work they need your help! The Sisters' work includes caring for expectant mothers, acting as midwives, providing counselling, caring for the sick and looking after the elderly and orphans who are frequently abandoned by society. Your support will help these sisters to continue their mission by providing them with a permanent convent. To make an offering and learn more visit <https://aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject>

LETTER FROM THE VICAR GENERAL

Greetings. The move into 2023, from my point of view, has come with a bit of gusto. It seems to be disappearing fast. When I sent my December 12

Christmas newsletter I was imagining a very different Christmas/New Year to the one I had. I managed a fall on the morning of December 23 ending in a hospital stay. I left St John of God hospital late Christmas Eve after a couple of operations sporting a broken wrist and a new pacemaker. Recovery has been slow and of course everyone is mentioning age. I am hoping people will show a little patience. You never know what's around the corner. In 2013 Pope Francis wrote

Evangelii Gaudium in response to the 2012 meeting of the Synod of Bishops devoted to the subject of the new evangelization. Many believe the document can be best summed up in the statement: "I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation" (#27). Evangelii Gaudium touches on many of the themes of Francis' papacy, including obligations Christians have to the poor and the duty to establish and maintain just economic, political and legal orders. This is a huge statement. The Pope believes the Church has been in self-preservation mode for too long. Pope Francis is calling for our Church to thrive by choosing the missionary option in everything

that we do. The Plenary Council and the process for the Synod of Bishops reflect some of the insights of Evangelii Gaudium. They have incorporated the involvement of the grass-roots church community in relation to setting the agenda. Forever Church hierarchy structures have presented decisions and process to be followed. This shift towards more consultation has been appreciated by many. Both agendas arouse from universal dialogue recognising the Pope's desire for sodality in diversity of opinion. We are at the beginning of this synodal process. A lot more thought and development needs to occur before these processes are perfected. The more people participating in the decision making, the more diversity. There usually is greater learning if those taking part are from a variety of backgrounds. The Church seems to be in a learning spiral at the moment with the current ecclesial crisis making people so aware of clericalism and its dangers. It is now imperative to find a way of collaborative leadership.

Nathalie Becquart, the first-ever woman undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, says Church decisions must involve listening to as many Catholics as possible. She says that synodality means walking together along a common path. A synodal Church is one in which everyone has a voice. Synodality is an inclusive Church concerned with relationships and diversity. Pope Francis has made it clear that the coming Synod must result from a process that emanates from the very roots of the Church. The gathering in October 2023 will be the final step for the Synod of Bishops after discussions at the diocesan, national and continental levels have taken place. We are called to listen first to one another and then to the Holy Spirit. The Church is both a human and a divine reality; it is the Body of Christ, the People of God and the Temple of the Holy Spirit, a special and unique organisation. In order to understand all the dimensions of the Church we need to appreciate its human and spiritual dimension. Sr Becquart stresses the importance of decision makers do not see themselves as a separate body but as part of the community. She said true synodality means listening to one another even if, in the final instance, one person has to shoulder the sole responsibility. "It makes a great difference if someone decides alone or listens to the community." Most of the recipients of this email are associated with ministry in the diocese in one form or another. The events of recent years are

**moving the Catholic Church Community towards
new forms of association. As old structures
disappear and new ones' form there will be
grieving but also joy-filled new beginnings and
hopefully, a quickening of the heart. With every
blessing and best wishes, Kevin Maloney VG**