

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

4 September 2016



Jubilee Year
of Mercy
2015/16

Next Week's Readings

1st Reading: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

2nd Reading: Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel: Luke 15:1-32

RESPONSE

*In every age, O Lord,
you have been our
refuge.*

ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia!
Let your face shine on your servant, and
teach me your laws. Alleluia!*

The cost of discipleship

Why does Jesus say we must 'hate' our families and even ourselves? The expression 'to hate' often meant to 'prefer less'. Jesus used strong language to make clear that nothing should take precedence or first place over God. God our heavenly Father created us in his image and likeness to be his sons and daughters. He has put us first in his love and concern for our welfare. Our love for him is a response to his exceeding love for us. True love is costly because it is willing to sacrifice all for the sake of the beloved.

The cost of discipleship - Jesus willingly embraced the cross, not only out of obedience to his Father's will, but out of a merciful love for each one of us in order to set us free from sin, Satan, and death. Jesus knew that the cross was the Father's way for him to achieve victory and glory for our sake. He counted the cost and said 'yes' to his Father's will. We, too, must 'count the cost' and be ready to follow the Lord Jesus in the way of the cross if we want to share in his glory and victory.

What is the 'way of the cross' for you and me? It means that when my will crosses with God's will, then his will must be done. The way of the cross involves sacrifice, the sacrifice of laying down my life each and every day for Jesus' sake. What makes such sacrifice possible and "sweet" for us is the love of God poured out for us in the blood of Jesus Christ.

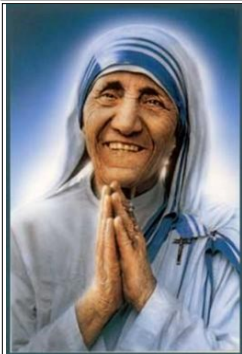
The wise plan ahead to avert failure and shame - What do the twin parables of the tower builder and a ruler on a war campaign have in common? Both men risk serious loss if they don't carefully plan ahead. In a shame and honour culture people want at all costs to avoid being mocked by their community for failing to complete a task which they have begun in earnest.

We must count the cost if we want to invest in God's kingdom - Jesus tells his would-be disciples that they, too, must count the cost if they want to succeed as his disciples. Jesus assures success for those willing to pay the price. All it cost is everything we have - the entirety of our lives and all we possess! What does Jesus have to offer that's worth giving up everything else? More than we can imagine! Jesus offers the gift of an abundant joy-filled life and the promise of everlasting peace and happiness with God for ever

Who do you love first - above all else? - The love of God compels us to choose who or what will be first in our lives. To place any relationship or any possession above God is a form of idolatry. Jesus challenges his disciples to examine what they love first and foremost. Jesus' way to glory and power is opposite the world's way of glory, power, and success. The choice is ours, but the Lord does not leave us alone if we choose to follow him.

"Lord Jesus, may your love transform me that I may truly desire nothing more than life with you. May you always be first in my thoughts and intentions, and in my words and actions."

Full text at www.dailyscripture.net; image from www.sahayaselvam.org



Live from Rome this weekend: Canonisation of Mother Teresa

Blessed Mother Teresa will be canonised a saint by Pope Francis this weekend. Watch live on the Melbourne Catholic website: www.melbournecatholic.org.au. You can view Pope Francis live from 6pm Melbourne time Sunday, 4 September.

The entire Missionaries of Charity family, volunteers, benefactors, friends of different faiths, and especially the poorest of the poor - rejoice and is grateful to Pope Francis for this significant event in its history and in the life of the Church during this Jubilee of Mercy.

Even in her lifetime, Mother Teresa was an icon of God's tender mercy, radiating the light of God's love to so many through the works of mercy, both material and spiritual. From heaven she continues to fulfil her mission as she "lights the light of those in darkness on earth." With her canonization, the Church presents her as a model and intercessor of those

who, like her, "long to light the fire of love and peace throughout the world." She can be taken as a patron saint especially for those who are most in need of God's mercy.

With much gratitude let us pray, Blessed - and future Saint - Teresa, pray for us!
Full text at www.melbournecatholic.org.au and www.motherteresa.org

THANKSGIVING

CHURCH: 1,916.95
PRESBYTERY: 1,287
(RETIRED PRIEST & ARCHDIOCESE)



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES

RECENTLY DECEASED: The parish family offers its prayers and condolences to the family of Lois Anne Rolfe

ANNIVERSARIES: Matilda Willersen-Frieling, Maurice Angland, Joe Steane, Mark Kowacki, Godwin Silveira, Vernon Lamb, Moira Hudson.

SICK: Mary Edmonds, Brian Taggart, Pauline Muscat, Marta Kristan, Kala Lindsay, Geoff Bell, Stan Piergrosse, Peter Himing



A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.

Billy Graham

Happy Father's Day



Pope meets with Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg



Continuing his dialogue with leaders in the world of social media and technology, Pope Francis met with Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg.

Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, met the pope 29 August in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where the pope lives.

'It is an honour to be with you today,' Zuckerberg told the pope, adding that he hoped to help spread the pope's 'message of mercy and tenderness.' He also presented Pope Francis with a model replica of Aquila, a solar-powered aircraft that will beam internet connectivity to areas with limited or no connection.

Greg Burke, Vatican spokesman, said the pope and Zuckerberg spoke about 'how communications technology can be used to alleviate poverty, encourage a culture of encounter and help deliver a message of hope, especially to the most disadvantaged people.'

Pope Francis presented Zuckerberg and his wife with a copy of 'The Name of God is Mercy,' a book-length interview he did with Italian journalist, Andrea Torielli. In the book, he told them, 'are my thoughts on tenderness and mercy.'

In a message posted on his personal Facebook page, Zuckerberg expressed his admiration for the pope and 'how he's found new ways to communicate with people of every faith around the world.'

'It was a meeting we'll never forget. You can feel his warmth and kindness, and how deeply he cares about helping people,' Zuckerberg wrote.

Full text at www.melbournecatholic.org.au

ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD

On Saturday September 10, the Archbishop will ordain Rev Tao Pham as a priest and Marcus Goulding and Toan Nguyen and Anil Mascarenhas as deacons for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The Ordination Mass starts at 10am at St Patrick's Cathedral and all are welcome.

Please keep these men in your prayers, and pray that many others will follow them. Pray daily for vocations!



OLOL NARTHEX DINNER

9 September 2016, 6pm

Nibbles, Spit Roast Dinner & Dessert
Music by Aquinas College
BYO Drinks & glasses
Tickets \$25

If you put your name down for tickets, please pay at the pious goods stall. Tickets still available. Final numbers required by this Sunday.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S FATHER'S DAY

2016 Collection for Retired & Sick Priest

Please give Generously
(All donations of \$2 and more are fully tax deductible)



Some of the retired priests at George Maher House, Clifton Hill

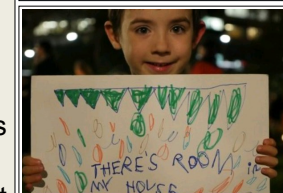
Back row L to R: Fr Arnold Heredia, Fr Noel Mackay,
Fr Peter Carrucan, Fr Joe Browne, Fr Allan Mithen
Front row L to R: Mons Bill McCarthy, Fr Bob Coghlan,
Fr Kevin Mogg, Mons Peter Kenny (standing),
Fr Len Thomas

Feast of the Week



The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8 September 2016

Holy Mass at 9am and 7:30pm



STANDING IN SOLIDARITY:
A NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND ACTION
National Child Protection Week
4-10 September 2016

The Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) is an advocacy project of Jesuit Social Services that seeks to change hearts and minds in the Catholic community towards a more just and compassionate welcome of people seeking protection. CAPSA is encouraging schools across the country to take part.

This is an opportunity for a united Catholic voice across the country calling for a more just and humane welcome of people seeking asylum in the Australian community, and particularly for the rights of the child to be upheld. Details at: <http://capsa.org.au/standing-in-solidarity-resources/>