



8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 February 2017

Year A



Next Week's Readings	RESPONSE	ACCLAMATION
1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7 2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19 Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11	Rest in God alone, my soul.	Alleluia, alleluia! <i>The word of God is living and active; it probes the thoughts and motives of our heart. Alleluia!</i>

HOW NOT TO BE ANXIOUS

"Today's trouble is enough for today!" These are the concluding words of the gospel for this Sunday. We are "not to be anxious". Rather, we are invited to be single-minded in our commitment. The challenge of this gospel is to live in the present, in right relationship and connection with the whole Earth community and to trust in the goodness and providence of God. That is not always easy, especially for certain personalities and under certain difficult circumstances. In What Makes us Tick? The Ten Desires That Drive Us, Hugh Mackay claims that there is an epidemic of anxiety in the Western world. He reflects on our need to embrace our connectedness with ourselves, with each other, and with nature. If our innate desire to connect is frustrated or neglected, Mackay believes that the desire to control and the desire to be taken seriously will "expand unhealthily". It is all a question of balance and of daily attention to the right ordering of our relationships with the material world, with one another and with God. Anxiety inhibits healthy living and impacts negatively on ourselves as well as on our community environments.



The challenge not to be anxious appears six times in various forms in this one gospel reading. Three times in this passage Jesus tells the assembled crowd, including his disciples, not to worry. They are not to be anxious about food or drink or clothing. Neither are they to worry about what tomorrow might bring. It is clear that Jesus does not discount the human need for food and drink and clothing, for he states explicitly that God knows that they need all these things (6:32). Jesus' concern is with their "little faith" or their lack of trust in God's capacity to provide for the needs of all living beings. He challenges his listeners to be attentive to the processes among all living things, such as the way the birds of the air are fed and the lilies of the field are clothed. He also invites attentiveness to the life-sustaining processes at work in our own bodies. The hairs of our head, for instance, grow without any effort or anxiety on our part.

Excerpts from the Gospel reflection written by Sr. Veronica Dawson, rsm. Full text at www.catholicrelegiosaustralia.org. Image by <http://stmarypncc.ca>

POPE SAYS: "GOD WILL ASK AN ACCOUNT FOR BLOOD SPILLED IN TODAY'S WARS"



Humankind will have to answer to God for the bloodshed of the innocent victims of war, and the blood spilled by greed and arms trafficking, Pope Francis said. While God has given peace to the world, inside all human beings 'there is still that seed, that original sin, the spirit of Cain who out of envy, jealousy, greed and the desire for domination, makes war,' the pope said on 16 February during his early morning Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae.

bigger piece of the earth; they want a little bit more power or want to gain a bit more through arms trafficking,' he said.

The pope centred his homily on the day's first reading in which God makes a covenant with Noah and all of humanity after the flood and warns that he 'will demand an account for human life.' This covenant, along with the rainbow and the dove holding an olive branch, are signs of 'what God wanted after the flood: peace; that all men and women would be in peace,' the pope explained. The rainbow and the dove are symbolic of peace not only because of their beauty, but also because of their fragility, he said.

Full text at www.melbournecatholic.org.au

THANKSGIVING

* CHURCH : \$ 1,939.40 * PRIEST: \$ 1,155.00
(RETIRED PRIESTS & ARCHDIOCESE)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES

- ANNIVERSARIES:** Ben Laurito, Carla Papillo, Edward Gray, Bernard Rees, Mario Munafo, Jason Wentworth, Tom Carey, Luke Scudds
- SICK:** Mary Edmonds, Brian Taggart, Pauline Muscat, Marta Kristan, Kala Lindsay, Geoff Bell, Stan Piergrosse, Peter Himing, Dorothy Reilly



HOLY MASS AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

1 MARCH 2017

9:00 am (with school) and 7:30pm

Station of the Cross

Every Sunday during Lent after the 5:00pm Mass



Autumn Ember Day, 3rd March

(SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER AND PENANCE)

EMBER DAYS (from the German Quatember, 'quarter day or, as the Irish used to say, Quarter Tense) mark the beginning of each of the four seasons. Kept in the Roman Church since the fifth century, they are observed in Australia on the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring (March and September) as special days of prayer and penance.

On Rotation and Ember days the Church is accustomed to entreat the Lord for the various needs of humanity, especially for the fruits of the earth and for human labour, and to give thanks to him publicly.

GNLYC 45

Prayers for the Sick of our Parish

On Saturday 4TH MARCH at 9.00am - In the church we are having continuous rosary as well as the surrender prayer and also the divine mercy for our very sick parishioners and people needing prayer for their families. This will be for about 2 hours - if you can't make it for the 2 hours - if you can't make it for the 2 hours please come along for as long as you can manage. Make a note of it in your diary.

Men's Group

Monday, 27 February 2017 at 7:30pm in the Narthex.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11:00 AM Sunday, 05 March 2017 In the Narthex



All parishioners please come and participate



See you all tonight at the Parish Dinner 6:00 pm in the Narthex

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Please do not forget to pick-up your envelopes from the Narthex table.



The Season of Lent

Lent is the most appropriate time for celebrating the Sacrament of Penance. Already on Ash Wednesday the people of God will hear the solemn invitation, Turn away from sin and believe the good news. It is therefore fitting to have penitential celebration during Lent, so that all the faithful may have an opportunity to be reconciled with God and their neighbour and so be able to celebrate the paschal mystery in the Easter Triduum with renewed hearts.

The Sacrament of Penance

It is better celebrated before rather than during the Easter Triduum. The wonderful gift of the Lord's merciful love is offered in a special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Lent is a most appropriate time to receive this Sacrament. All the faithful who have reached the age of discretion are bound faithfully to confess their grave sins at least once a year. Our II Rite of Reconciliation is on April 5, 2017.

ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY ARE DAYS OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT.

The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year, until the beginning of their 60th year. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain from meat (Canon 1252). All other Fridays, except solemnities, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:

- Prayer - for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways.
 - Self-Denial - for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country or elsewhere; or in other ways. Project Compassion is a major means of expressing our self-denial in Australia.
 - Helping Others - for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or over-burdened; or in other ways.
- Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, in Australia it is between Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

Volunteers needed for flower arrangement

We need reliable volunteers at least once in 2 months

Archbishop's Message on Lent 2017

Copies are on the Narthex table, please take one and read.



Project Compassion 2017

Love your Neighbour

Through your generosity during Project Compassion, you are supporting our neighbours worldwide, empowering the most vulnerable people to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities. Boxes available in Narthex.