

# ST MARY OF THE ANGELS - GEELONG

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**Bulletin Notices:** Due by: Thursday 1.00pm Email: [rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au](mailto:rhay@stmarysgeelong.com.au) or call Parish Office: 5222 1977



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A - July 5, 2020

Readings for this week:

2 Zechariah 9: 9 - 10 ; Romans 8: 9.11 - 13 ; Matthew 11: 25 - 30

**ST MARY'S BASILICA & OUR EUCHARISTIC CHAPEL REMAIN CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AT THIS STAGE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PATIENCE. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE IF YOU REQUIRE CLARIFICATION.**

**ST MARY'S PARISH OFFICE  
OPEN 9.00am - 5.00pm  
(Monday - Friday).  
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES  
or REQUIRE OUR HELP,  
PLEASE CALL US ON:  
5222 1977**

**SUNDAY MASS  
FM RADIO BROADCAST  
SUNDAY 10.00am on  
The Pulse 94.7 FM (from  
St Mary's Basilica, Geelong)**

**St Mary of the Angels Parish  
Weekly Gospel & Homily  
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Mary-of-the-Angels-Parish-103118478011107/>**



## REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

By Greg Sunter

When we hear the term, yoke, we tend to think about the yoke that is used to harness oxen together or the yoke that someone might carry on their shoulder to balance a heavy load. This yoke across the shoulder was adopted into tailoring and so the shoulder piece set into a shirt is also called a yoke. However, in the Jewish tradition there is a completely different meaning to the term. The yoke of a rabbi was his particular interpretation of Torah (the Law); his particular teaching. Disciples who followed a particular rabbi sought to take on his yoke; his particular interpretation. The yoke of any rabbi was best identified by asking him, 'Which is the greatest commandment?' A rabbi's answer to this question revealed his interpretation of Torah. When Jesus is asked that question, he answers, 'Love God and love your neighbour,' and goes on to say that all of the rest of the Law and the prophets flows on from these two commandments. This is the yoke – the interpretation of Torah – that Jesus taught. In today's gospel, Jesus calls to him all those who labour and are overburdened. It is the Pharisaic interpretation of the Law that burdens these people. Trying to maintain the Law was burdensome and complicated for the everyday person. Jesus says, 'Shoulder my yoke and learn from me ... my yoke is easy.' The yoke of Jesus was easy: Love God and love your neighbour. Compared to the 613 mitzvot (commands) set out in the Torah and strictly maintained by the Pharisees, the yoke of Jesus was incredibly easy to understand and adopt. So simple, in fact, that it required a child-like simplicity to accept this yoke.

## Historical Context – Jewish education

Education in Galilee at the time of Jesus was highly valued. From the age of five, all boys and girls studied to memorise in totality the five books of the Torah (the first five books of the Bible). This period of study was called Beth Sefer. From about 10-14 they continued studying and memorising the remaining books of scripture (Beth Talmud). From about 14 or 15, only the very best students would enter Beth Midrash and apply to a rabbi to become his talmid – disciple – and seek to take on that rabbi's yoke.

## Living the Gospel – Shoulder my yoke

Jesus invites us to shoulder his yoke and learn from him for he is gentle and humble in heart. The yoke he invites us to shoulder is the deceptively simple teaching: love God and love your neighbour. To love God is to consciously make a place in our lives for God. The busy spin that tends to be characteristic of so many people's lives today does not allow room for God; does not allow room for prayer and quiet; does not allow room for compassionate response to others. To love God and love our neighbour we must first make room for them.



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## **A MESSAGE from Fr Joseph & Fr Jim**

14th Sunday Bulletin Message: Rest for Your Souls

Dear friends in Christ we are in the 14th Sunday of Ordinary time. This Sunday Jesus invites us, "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened".

First of all we all have to agree that in life we labour and are burdened. I think our Lord is referring here to when things are getting more difficult than usual. Sure we have to work every day. But I think He is especially referring to the times when the work or the burdens get bigger or harder than usual. And that can happen in so many ways. And when that does happen, how often do we think to take them to our Lord?

Recently I was conducting the moving and difficult funeral service of thirteen year old girl Zoe. Her death was an unexpected tragedy in the family. I understand how difficult it was for her family and friends. Zoe was so young and so full of potential; therefore the feelings of grief and loss can be even more overwhelming. During these times we turn to our friends and family for support, for a shoulder to cry on and for someone to walk that road of pain and anguish with us. This Sunday Jesus invites us 'Come to me! And I will give rest for your souls'. Do we ever think to just take and pour them out to our Lord in His presence?

What do you think our Lord meant when He said, "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened?"

He meant that we should take our burdens to Him, offer them to Him, and talk to Him about Him, asking for a solution. Jesus invites us to come to Him just as we are.

There is a deep emptiness within us only God can fill. He recognises the busyness of our lives, how we labour and are overburdened, and draws us into his loving and gentle presence. He wants to listen to all of our troubles, and assures us that his yoke is easy and his burden is light. When we spend time with Jesus we find rest for our souls. He speaks to us in the silence of our hearts and gives us inner peace. We can speak with Jesus as we would with any friend, sharing our joys, our struggles, our hopes, and our fears. He never grows tired of listening to us and constantly renews us with the gift of his love.

Jesus knows that he only is our salvation, our fortress, our mighty rock, our refuge. He is the one answer to every question, concern, and fear we will ever have. And so he simply and comprehensively offers us himself.

For our hope is from him. Only in him will we find rest for our soul. Let me also share with you Psalm 62: which call us to find refuge and rest in God.

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,  
for my hope is from him.

He only is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my salvation and my glory;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is God. (Psalm 62:5-7)



### **Tax Time Update - Notification**

Please note that there is a change to the income tax deduction for contributions to the Thanksgiving Program. Where in previous years the deduction was 70%, for this year ending June 30, 2020 it will be only 60%. The Parish Office is finalizing payment details for 2019/2020 and receipts for 2019/2020 Thanksgiving contributions will be posted out to within the next 2 weeks. Thank you.

### **MASSES @ ST MARY'S BASILICA**

Under the current restrictions the Basilica and the Eucharistic Chapel remain closed to the public. Please use the back page of the Bulletin as reference to local Mass live feeds, Parish webpages and Facebook page updates.

For those without internet access, each week we record a Sunday Mass, from the Basilica, for Radio on PULSE FM 94.7 which is broadcast at 10.00am on Sunday mornings. Printed copies of the Bulletin are available from outside the Parish Office.

### **REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

– by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

According to Jesus, children know more about some of God's secrets than do the most clever adults.

Have you ever held a crying baby? Have you seen anyone else do it? Can anything be done to stop a baby crying? When the baby finally stops crying, is it because the pain has gone away? How can rocking, singing and cuddling help?

As we grow older, we perhaps don't cry when we skin our knees or drop our toys, but we still have plenty of pain in our life. We never outgrow the ability to hurt or the need for comfort.

What might be one of God's secrets about dealing with suffering or about comforting someone in pain?

Jesus doesn't promise us a life without pain, but he says that the yoke and burden will be light and easy to bear.

When have you had to deal with great physical pain? What happened?

When have you had to deal with great emotional pain? What happened?

Which is easier to deal with – physical pain or emotional pain? Why?

How does living in the spirit of Jesus affect the way we deal with our pain?



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With the current Covid-19 restrictions as they are the regular St Vincent de Paul **Winter Appeal** cannot go ahead as it has in past years. If you wish to donate non perishable food, goods, blankets, or other winter items please contact St Mary's Parish Office 5222 1977.

#### DONATE ONLINE

With over two million people living below the poverty line in Australia, including over half a million children, your donation allows the St Vincent de Paul Society to provide more than immediate help, it provides something much more valuable – the opportunity of a better life. Regular financial donations play a crucial role in our ability to help 1.3 million people each year. Visit the Vinnies webpage to more access information on their works within the community, or to set up a donation. <https://www.vinnies.org.au/donate> or call 131812 - Vinnies COVID-19 Winter Appeal.

#### **An Act of Spiritual Communion** - Prayer

By St. Alphonsus de Liguori

My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

#### **MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**

Married couples, the COVID-19 lockdown may have encouraged you to spend time together. You may have realized that your marriage could do with some polish! Come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing! The weekend is based around Catholic values, but couples of all faiths are welcome. The next scheduled weekend is for 24 -26 July 2020 in Melbourne. It starts 7.30 pm on Friday and ends 5.00 pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided. For more information and to book please call: Mercy & James on: 0409 183 676 or email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) or visit the website Worldwide Marriage Encounter: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

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If you are struggling and require help with a meal, or know anyone who could use our help, please do not hesitate to contact us. This can be done via email: [admin@bayleafkitchen.com.au](mailto:admin@bayleafkitchen.com.au) or you can call this mobile number: 0419 528 495

#### **ST MARY OF THE ANGELS PARISH GEELONG PRAYER CHAIN**

It can be very comforting to know that someone is praying for you, and that Jesus is present in that prayer. You are invited to send prayer requests to Cheryl Douglas. **The prayer chain is completely confidential.** People can use just first name and/or initials. You can leave your prayer details at the Parish Office (Call: 5222 1977), or email to: [cheryledouglas50@gmail.com](mailto:cheryledouglas50@gmail.com)

#### **QUOTE OF THE DAY**

Like the disciples, we too, wish to follow Jesus. Like them, we also, are challenged to remember that, no matter how turbulent and frightening the storms of our lives may be, no matter that Jesus may appear asleep or unresponsive, he remains present beside us, active and caring at every moment of our lives.  
- Sr Chris Koellhoffer, I.H.M.

#### **JOKE OF THE DAY... are you kidding me?**

While at a convention, Bill, Jim, and Scotty shared a hotel suite on the 75th floor. After a long day of meetings, they travelled back to their hotel to find that the hotel elevators were broken and that they'd have to climb the stairs all the way up to their room.

"I have a way to break the monotony," said Bill. "I'll tell jokes for 25 flights, Jim can sing songs for the next 25, and Scotty can tell sad stories the rest of the way."

As they started walking up, Bill told his first joke. At the 26th floor, Jim began to sing. At the 51st floor, it was Scotty's turn. He took a deep breath and began...

"I will tell my saddest story first," he said. "Once there was a man who left the room key in the car."

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**AS A COMMUNITY WE PRAY FOR :**

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Rosaria Djordjevic, John Cummins, Gary O'Connor

**CURRENT ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Nick Scaffidi, Charles Benson, Gaston Hector, Michele Vannata, Elizabeth "Betty" Meade, Peter Bensted, Edward "Bill" Moon, Robert Oliphant, Bradley Cowdery, Evelyn Mary Falkingham, Gregory VanSlageren, Jenette Bekker, Emmanuel Bernardo, Maria Fernandes, James & Phyllis Gebbie



**THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE UNWELL:** Gary Read, Jenny Wolfe  
Loving God, we pray that you will be comfort in their suffering, and lead them to know your healing grace. As they place their trust in you, grant them peace of mind, body and spirit. Amen .

St. John of God Hospital Chapel Mass: **CANCELLED** until further notice

**RADIO MASS BROADCAST: SUNDAY 7am on Light FM, 89.9 and 10am on The Pulse 94.7 FM**



Televised on Channel 10 at 6.00am on Sunday June 7, 2020



Televised on Channel 173 at 6.00am on Sunday June 7, 2020

Repeated at: 8.00am; 10.00am; 1.00pm; 3.00pm; 6.00pm &

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A - July 12, 2020

Readings for next week:

Isaiah 55: 10 - 11 ; Romans 8: 18 - 23 ; Matthew 13: 1 - 23

**Sunday Mass at Holy Trinity Parish - Queenscliff**

Live on their Parish Facebook Page at 11.00am Sundays

<https://www.facebook.com/Holy-Trinity-Queenscliff-105514061120399/>

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'St Mary of the Angels Parish' is our official Facebook page for the people of our Parish to stay connected. Receive updates and posts, view reflections and resources. To get full value from the page you do require your own Profile. Then use the following link to access the page.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Mary-of-the-Angels-Parish-103118478011107/> 'Follow' the page and like our updates & articles.

You can also visit our regularly updated and very informative webpage: [www.stmarysgeelong.com.au](http://www.stmarysgeelong.com.au) and scroll down till you find the link. On the webpage we include updates & current information sent out to us from the Government and Melbourne Archdiocese, daily reflections, prayers, images, links and even something for the kids.

*We continue to encourage you to be active in growing your faith, through personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, or participating in a Mass online - either through local parishes or other online sources. Thank you for your patience and understanding, as you await the opening of our worship centres. May God bless you and keep you safe and well. Take care of yourself and others. Peace be with you.*

**DAILY Mass at St Joseph's Catholic Church - Meredith**

Live on their Parish Facebook Page at 11.00am **EVERYDAY**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Religious-Organization/Catholic-Parish-of-Meredith-St-Josephs-217771215762342/>

**Local Sunday Mass Live on Facebook from St Thomas' Parish, Drysdale**

Saturday Vigil Mass @ 6pm & Sunday Mass @ 10.30am

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasdrysdale/>

**St Michael's Parish, Bell Park** has established a Facebook page to live stream and record Sunday Mass.

The link for St Michael Parish is: [www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st](http://www.facebook.com/michaelparish.st) or simply search St Michael Parish.

The Mass will be live-streamed via Facebook each Sunday at 10.00am.

A video of the Mass will remain available to view at a time that suits until the following Sunday.

**St Bernard's Parish Belmont**

Fr Sang is recording Sunday Mass each weekend for parishioners.

It is available as a **link** sent to your **email** (on request). For a copy of the Mass you can contact the Parish via email: [belmont@cam.org.au](mailto:belmont@cam.org.au)

Please remember to include your **name & address**.

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