





PARISH BULLETIN Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 10 September 2023

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Response: (R)Lord, hear our prayer

CELEBRANT/LEADER:

Dear friends, Jesus encourages us to be of one mind when we ask for what we need. United in faith and hope, let us turn to our loving God in prayer.

READER: For Pope Francis, bishop of Rome, and all church leaders, that they will never cease to proclaim the good news of God's saving mercy. We pray to the Lord. **(***R***)**

For rain in due abundance, so that being supplied with what sustains us in this present life, we may seek more confidently what sustains us for eternity. We pray to the Lord. We pray to the Lord. (**R**)

For all who are involved in the development and use of artificial intelligence, that a strong code of ethics will guide their discernment of its benefits and dangers. We pray to the Lord. (R)

For the relatives and friends of people who have taken their own lives, that with timely help they will find a way through their pain and grief. We pray to the Lord. **(***R***)**

For our sick relatives and friends and those who care for them. We remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rejoice in the blessings of God's kingdom. We pray to the Lord. (*R*)

For Our Lady's intercession for all our needs and especially for the people of Ukraine. We pray Hail Mary...

CELEBRANT/LEADER:

God of life and love, you reconciled the world to yourself in Christ. Help us be true ambassadors of your peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**



PRAYER INTENTIONS

POPES INTENTION SEPTEMBER For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser

We pray for rural dioceses and parishes struggling with limited resources, that they will find creative ways to build community and continue proclaiming the Gospel.

We pray for judges, magistrates, lawyers, police officers and all who administer the law, that they will seek true justice with unfailing integrity.



We pray for the sick and suffering, may the healing sacraments and pastoral care of the Church always be available to them:

Donna Nash, Sally-Ann Thompson, Sue Minchin, Jane Nash, Keith Brownlie, Ashton, Danielle & Stewart Hurley, Barry & Alma Reed, Wendy White, Anna & John Vincent, Jim Parkes, Marlene Kennedy, Bill McIntosh, Kim Peisley, Val Perkins, Natalie Lestone, Merilyn Knight, Jen Farrell, Betty Cowell, Tom Kennedy, Patricia Guthrie, Joyce Cotterill, Peter Hopkins, John Elliott, Heather Whitby, Larry Bedingfield, Erika & Margo Birmingham

PARISH CALENDAR

Tue: Holy Name of Mary

Wed: Mass Bombala 9.30am Saint John Chrysostum

Thu: Exaltation of the Holy Cross EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Fri: Our Lady of Sorrows
Sat: Saints Cornelius & Cyprian
Sun: Mass Delegate 8am
Morning Tea to follow in
St Joseph's School Centre
Mass Bombala 10am

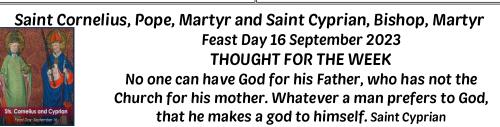


REMEMBERING THEIR FAITH AND LOVE

September Anniversaries John Bates, Toby Black Kevin Casey, Marge Casey Angela Clear, Millicent Crotty Elizabeth II, Jack Elton Eva Eppelstun, Ben Ingram Sr Margaret Keane Sr Loretta Kilmartin, Maud Kilmartin Kathleen Mulligan, Cheryl Mustard Rita Rayner, Julia Reed Darcy Ryan, Maurice Stevens Jack Thornton



"We have loved them in Life: Let us not forget them in death."



God loves generous souls. Let us try to be the generous ones. (12.8.1881) God loves us all. (2.9.1906)

Do not let sorrow and care dishearten you. (14.9.1869) May the spirit of unity and love reign amongst us. (12.9.1884) With God on our side, what need we fear. (15.9.1890)

READINGS

FIRST READING: FROM THE PROPHET EZEKIEL

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(*R*) O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (**R**.)

SECOND READING: LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

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1. PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS Various

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, only light, And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek, So much to be consoled as to console. To be understood as to understand. To be loved as to love with all my soul.

2. SEEK YE FIRST Karen Lafferty

 Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness;
 And all these things shall be added unto you.
 Hallelu, Hallelujah!

2. Ask, and it shall be given unto you; Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!

3. Man shall not live by bread alone, But by every word That proceeds out from the mouth of God. Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Reflection by Father Michael Tate



Our Lord acknowledged that the community he was establishing had to set boundaries. Who is to decide who is within or outside those boundaries?

In today's Gospel, Our Lord teaches that a nuanced step by step process should be invoked. First, there is private conversation, then slightly extended to bring in two or three others, then a sort of church community jury before a person is put beyond the pale. Our Lord promises to be with them to help guide their decision. We all know of marriages which are fractured and where one partner has found intimacy and security in a second (civil) marriage. Pope Francis has not suggested that the second marriage be regarded as valid. But he has suggested a process of discernment to allow a divorced person to receive "the Eucharist . .. a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak." Could a jury of ordinary Catholic lay people help make that discerning judgement, and then advise the Bishop as to the next step? We could pause for a moment to ponder the promise: "Where two or three are gathered into my name, I am there with them."