

Wodonga Catholic Parish

Including Bethanga, Dederang, Mt Beauty, Tangambalanga, Tallangatta & Corryong Communities



September 27th -2020 - The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
~ YEAR A ~

WODONGA PARISH CENTRE

283 Beechworth Road
Wodonga Vic 3690:
Phone: 02 6024 3366
E-mail Address:
wodonga@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
wodongacatholicparish.com.au

OFFICE HOURS

9:30 am - 4:00 pm
Monday to Friday

PRESBYTERY

55 High Street Wodonga Vic

PARISH PRIEST

Father Junjun Amaya
0459-356-917

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Father Shibu
Pezhumthottathil
0432 591 551

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Sister Eileen Reardon
0458 327 554 (Mt Beauty)

WEEKEND MASSES

WODONGA

Sacred Heart Church

Saturday 5:00 pm.
Sunday 8:30 am 11.00 am
4th Sunday of each month
Youth Mass 5:00 pm

TANGAMBALANGA

Our Lady Help of Christians
2nd & 4th Sunday 10:30 am

BETHANGA

St Francis No Masses

DEDERANG

St Joseph's NO MASSES

MT BEAUTY

St Joseph's NO MASSES

WEEKDAY MASS:

NO MASSES

Sacred Heart Church
Mass: Tuesday to Friday
9:15 am

RECONCILIATION:

By arrangement only.



Season of Creation 4

Today, we celebrate the grace of God loving us into existence and giving Earth as our home. As we come to worship, we ask forgiveness for the times we have failed to forgive the people around us.



REFLECTION: Believers remember the loving kindness of God as they use material things in prayerful actions to convey sacred mysteries - signs and symbols. The water of baptism and oils of anointing; bread and wine bringing spiritual nourishment: these are all gifts of Earth and work of human hands.

Refugee & Migrant Sunday.

This week we celebrate with the universal church, Refugee & Migrant Sunday.

On this occasion, Pope Francis says "In the light of the tragic events that have marked 2020, I would like this Message to embrace all those who are experiencing situations of precariousness, abandonment, marginalisation and rejection as a result of COVID-19... This is not a time for self-centredness, because the challenge we are facing is shared by all, without distinguishing between persons. To preserve our common home and make it conform more and more to God's original plan, we must commit ourselves to ensuring international cooperation, global solidarity and local commitment, leaving no one excluded." We give thanks for the variety of gifts with which our migrant & refugee brothers & sisters have enriched the tapestry of Australian life. We pray that Australians will work together to "welcome the stranger".

Looking at the Readings:

We have heard Jesus warning "***I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you***" to the chief priests, elders, scribes and Pharisees several time in various passages and over numerous occasions in private reading and public liturgy. So the shock factor for us has been greatly diminished. But the leaders and elders of the community, hearing it for the first time, would really be shocked and so react with plots of retaliation. How dare he make the most despicable traitors and grossly immoral people not only comparable to them but precede before of them! Several elders recognised John the Baptist as a holy man. But did they recognise, acknowledge and rejoice in those persons who repented through John's baptism of conversion?

Matthew includes this parable in his Gospel for the nascent church community of his day. Faults in human nature, erroneous teachings and bad practices tend to re-emerge from time to time in society and church. Also John the Baptist, Christ, apostles and prophets, preachers and teachers, spiritual writers and proverb-smiths repeat similar warnings and the need for conversion of heart and personal integrity. Our first response to the Gospel is "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!" may our actions be our enduring response and say "Thanks be to God" for our conversion and the conversion of our brothers and sisters.

Priests Retirement Foundation – Appeal 2020

The Annual Appeal of the Priests Retirement Foundation will be held on Sunday 20 September 2020, an opportunity for the faithful people of the Diocese to consider a donation. Currently we have 14 retired priests in the Diocese and we thank you for your support in recent years where many substantial donations and legacies have enabled the foundation to build. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and receipts available on request. Wishing you all continued health and safety and know you are in our prayers. *Chair: Mons Frank Marriott*

To make a donation:

By cheque with your full name and address post to:

Priests Retirement Foundation
C/- St Therese's Parish
25 Albion Street
Kennington VIC 3550

By direct bank transfer to the account below:

Account Name: Priests Retirement Foundation of the Diocese of Sandhurst

BSB: 083-543

Account No: 13-833-7378

Reference: PRF and your surname

Then please email afewings@sandhurst.catholic.org.au with details of your transfer.

Thank you

Outdoor Mass For Wodonga: Starting this weekend.:

September 26th & 27th

Saturday 5pm

Sunday

- 8:30 am

- 10:00 am

Please wear a Mask and maintain social distancing

St Augustine's garden 10 people only

Strictly by booking only... weather permitting

Please book with the Parish Office 60243366.



First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling
to his equality with God but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet, even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

Readings this week

Ezekiel 18:25-28
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

Readings next week:

Isaiah 5:1-7
Philippians 4:6-9
Matthew 21:33-43

Responsorial Psalm: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Prayer of the Faithful: Lord, hear our prayer.

Recent Deaths: Eileen Battye

Anniversaries: Joseph McFarland, Darren James Elliott-McFarland, Vera Gehrig

Sick Zak Oliver, Kath Twycross, Salome Ramirez, Ric Glavocih, Mary Shaddock, Ricky Ellul, John Radcliffe, parishioners who are ill, their families & Carers

ENGAGING YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

From 14th September – 31 October 2020.

Catholic Theological College (Melbourne) is offering a rich array of short courses via Zoom, with highly qualified presenters (**including our own Dr Jake Mudge**).

Courses are 90 minutes or 2 hours duration, \$20 each.
To choose your course(s) and register go to:

www.ctc.edu.au

Feast of the Feasts

29 Sept: Archangels Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

30 Sept: St Jerome

01 Oct: St Therese of Lisieux

02 Oct: Guardian Angels

Prayer:

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.
Psalm 24:4-5

Liturgical Jottings:



Gospel Sequence

For the last two Sundays the Gospel of Matthew gave us two parables addressed to the disciples. This Sunday and the next two have three parables addressed to the chief priests and elders of the people: 26th Sunday: the two son; 27th Sunday: the wicked tenants; and 28th Sunday: the wedding banquet. The religious and civil leaders, especially, must cooperate with God, be true to His Word and be faithful in word and action. Promises can be empty if not put into practice. We are encouraged to attune ourselves to way of the Lord.

**Can't Attend a Mass ?
then....
It's time to get social!**



Find us on FaceBook -

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

Morning Mass, Tuesdays to Friday—Weekend Mass, Holy Hour - Evening Prayer, Holy Rosary and Benediction will be live streamed at Wodonga Catholic Parish Facebook Page.

For more query ring myself Ph: 0459356917
Fr Junjun Amaya or the Parish Centre:
Ph: 60243366.



A Safe Parish Is a Shared Responsibility:

Wodonga Catholic Parish Safety Officers. Our Parish safety officers are Jacinta Bartlett Ph: 0418470532 and Sonia La Motte-Schubert Ph: 60243366 **Towards Healing help line 1800 816 030 (free call)**

Lifeline is a non-profit Organisation FREE 24-hour: Crisis Support Phone: 13 11 14

Catholic College Year 12 PARISHIONER PRAYERS

As you would be aware this year has thrown many challenges at us all and especially to our Year 12 students.

We are hoping that you might take up an invitation from us to send a message or motivating words to the student you are praying for in order to help them through the coming weeks.

If you e-mail your message to

chris.telford@ccw.vic.edu.au or daniel.sobolewski@ccw.vic.edu.au

we will forward them on to the student you are praying for.

Thanks again for your participation in this Parish initiative. Our students do appreciate that someone is thinking about and praying for them.

I wish you all well and look forward to the time when we can once again gather as a community.

May we continue to embrace "Life in Jesus" through this difficult time for us.

Confirmation & First Eucharist 2020

We would like to inform our Wodonga Catholic Parish and the families of those young people intending to celebrate their Confirmation and First Eucharist in 2020, that it has been decided to suspend the program for 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

With the Premier's announcement on Sunday where he laid out his Roadmap for Regional Victoria in regard to COVID-19, it became clear that it is not feasible to celebrate these Sacraments this year. Hopefully, we will be able to celebrate these Sacraments along with Reconciliation in 2021. In addition, all those eligible for these Sacraments in 2021 will have the opportunity to prepare and celebrate these Sacraments. Early in 2021 we will publicize the programme and dates for these Sacraments. Thank you for your understanding.

Fr. Junjun and the Sacramental Team



Catholic Calendar

29 Sept: Archangels Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael: The liturgy celebrates the feast of these three archangels who are venerated in the tradition of the Church. Michael (Who is like God?) was the archangel who fought against Satan and all his evil angels, defending all the friends of God. He is the protector of all humanity from the snares of the devil. Gabriel (Strength of God) announced to Zachariah the forthcoming birth of John the Baptist, and to Mary, the birth of Jesus. His greeting to the Virgin, "Hail, full of grace," is one of the most familiar and frequent prayers of the Christian people. Raphael (Medicine of God) is the archangel who took care of Tobias on his journey.

30 Sept: St Jerome: One of the greatest Biblical scholars of Christendom, Saint Jerome was born of Christian parents at Stridon in Dalmatia around the year 345. Educated at the local school, he then studied rhetoric in Rome for eight years, before returning to Aquilea to set up a community of ascetics. When that community broke up after three years Jerome went to the east. He met an old hermit named Malchus, who inspired the saint to live in a bare cell, dressed in sackcloth, studying the Scriptures.

1 Oct: St Therese of Lisieux: In more recent times, St. Therese of Lisieux shows us the courageous way of abandonment into the hands of God to whom she entrusts her littleness. And yet it is not that she has no experience of the feeling of God's absence, a feeling which our century is harshly experiencing: "Sometimes it seems that the little bird (to which she compared herself) cannot believe that anything else exists except the clouds that envelop it.... This is the moment of perfect joy for the poor, weak little thing.... What happiness for it to remain there nevertheless, and to gaze at the invisible light that hides from its faith."

2 Oct: Guardian Angels: Angels are servants and messengers from God. "Angel" in Greek means messenger. In unseen ways the angels help us on our earthly pilgrimage by assisting us in work and study, helping us in temptation and protecting us from physical danger. The idea that each soul has assigned to it a personal guardian angel has been long accepted by the Church and is a truth of our faith. From the Gospel of today's liturgy we read: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father" (Matthew 18:10). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that "the existence of the spiritual, non-corporeal beings that Sacred Scripture usually calls 'angels' is a truth of faith (328)." From our birth until our death, man is surrounded by the protection and intercession of angels, particularly our guardian angel: "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life (336)." The Church thanks God for our helpers, the angels, particularly on this feast day and September 29 which is the feast of Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael, archangels. Today's feast appeared in Spain during the sixteenth century. It was extended to the universal Church and made obligatory in 1670.

.....We Pray.....

Lord, may your love and light shine in and through me today
in a way that no mask can hide.

May my eyes dance with laughter and joy,
replacing my hidden smile.

May my actions of care and concern
speak louder than my muffled voice ever could.

And may the generosity of my heart
radiate out through who I am
and how I respond to the world around me,
so that others may not see my mask
but your image shining out,
moving in and through me today.

Amen.

Written on the first day masks became compulsory in Metropolitan Melbourne, by a teacher on bud supervision, who noticed how much is lost from our encounters when faces are hidden.

