

Featurettes

Ferials and Feasts this week

Sunday—21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday—*Saint Monica*

Tuesday—*Saint Augustine*

Wednesday—*The Passion of Saint John the Baptist*

Thursday—Thursday of Week 21 in Ordinary Time

Friday—Friday of Week 21 in Ordinary Time

Saturday—Saturday of Week 21 in Ordinary Time

Expression of Gratitude

Many thanks for your ongoing assistance to the special collections and to the bake sales in the last weeks. I am pleased to announce the following amounts:

Bake Sale—5th August 2018—\$1826.00

CatholicCare Collection—12th August 2018—\$933.65

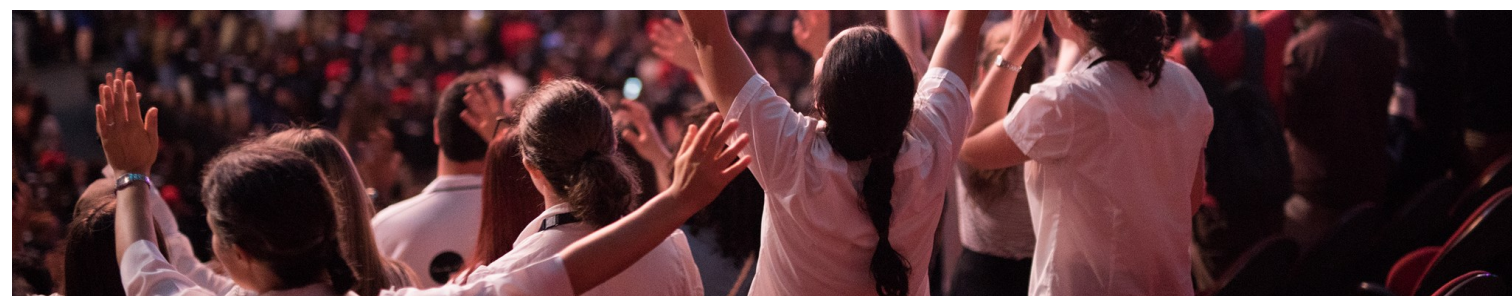
Bake Sale—19th August 2018—\$1933.00

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to those who give so generously in help, assisting, getting their hands wet and clean to assist our parish to make our bake sales such a great success.

New way of thinking is needed

With a steep decline in the contributions to our parish thanksgiving program and higher costs in running our parish, we need new ways of thinking to keep our parish sustainable and manageable. We are open to your ideas to make this happen as we are all responsible for our parish.

Youth



Sunday Night, Holy Hour at Sacred Heart, Carlton

Join the seminarians for Holy Hour and Vespers at 6pm on Sundays, during term.

For further info: www.cam.org.au/melbournepriest

Information Night

Calling on all Parish men to attend the Knights of the Southern Cross Information Night. At St Peter's Community Hall, on Monday 27th August 2018 from 7.30pm. The Knights serve the Parish Priest in many areas:

- Involved in fundraising to offer assistance with parish projects (e.g. Scholarships for children and their families)
- Services to assist at major parish masses & major parish events (e.g. Dinner Dances, Car Boot Markets, Fetes).
- Organise parishioners during major letter writing campaigns.

Wives are welcome to attend the Information Night and gain an understanding of the Knights Order.

Contact the parish office for further details.

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Peter Comensoli

The Archbishop has issued a letter to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and has asked that it be widely circulated in the Archdiocese. Copies are available as an insert into the bulletin. The letter can also be accessed online at <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/News/letter-to-the-faithful-from-archbishop-peter-a-comensoli> or via the www.cam.org.au website.

Vocations View

Jesus, teach us about life everlasting: "Your words Lord are spirit and life..." It is this that gives us hope when we despair, a way of living when we stray from God's way. "The words I have spoken are spirit and they are life." It is God's words that we need to hear to lift our spirit and give life. Pray for vocations.



Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Andrew McCarter | **Assistant Priest:** Rev. Fr Thomas Kuruville

| DETAILS | | MASS SCHEDULE | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| PARISH | | Weekend Mass Times | |
| Address: | 258 Clayton Road, Clayton, 3168 | Saturday (Vigil) | 6:00pm |
| Phone: | 9544 1516 | Sunday | 8:00am |
| Fax: | 9544 1089 | | 9:30am |
| Email: | clayton@cam.org.au | | 11:15am (English & Italian) |
| Website: | www.stpetersclayton.com | | 4:30pm (Malayalam) |
| Parish Secretary: | Lisa Smith | Weekday Masses | |
| Domestic Support: | Seda Peters | Monday | 9:00am |
| Office Hours: | | | 7:00pm (Malayalam) |
| Monday | 11:00am—5:00pm | Tuesday | 9:00am |
| Tuesday—Friday | 9:00am—4:00pm | | 7:00pm (Italian) |
| PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL | | Wednesday | 9:00am |
| Address: | 16 Mary St, Clayton, 3168 | | 7:00pm (Mass & Novena) |
| Phone: | 9544 3032 | Thursday | 9:00am |
| Email: | principal@spclayton.catholic.edu.au | Friday | 9:00am |
| Principal: | Therese Stewart (Acting Principal) | | 2:30pm Divine Mercy |
| Secretary: | Margaret Nahon | Saturday | 9:00am |
| CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL | | Other Sacraments | |
| Sacred Heart College, Oakleigh: | 9568 5488 | Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30am (or by appointment) | |
| Mazenod College, Mulgrave: | 9560 0911 | Marriages and Baptism: By appointment | |
| Salesian College, Chadstone: | 9807 2644 | Anointing of the Sick: Please call parish office | |
| Killester College, Springvale: | 9547 5000 | | |

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year B

26th August 2018

The Holy One of God: Today, as we celebrate the marriage feast of Christ with his Church, we consciously choose him who is the Holy One of God.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord
SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:21-32
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia!
 Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life.
 Alleluia!
GOSPEL: John 6:60-69

NEXT WEEK'S READING:
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year B

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
SECOND READING: James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27
GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

St. Peter's Parish is committed to the safety, well being and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults. If you see something that concerns you, say something. Need advice? Call the office of *Professional Standards and Ethics* for assistance on 9926 5677, or call the *Department of Health and Human Services* on 131 278.

From the Desk of the Parish Priest

The Abuse Scandal As The Dark Night Of The Soul

Rev. Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI

For the church in the Western World, particularly in the United States, the recent sexual abuse scandal is probably the biggest crisis we've yet faced, though it's not so much a crisis of faith as one of credibility.

In effect, this is a "dark night of the soul" and, like most dark nights of the soul, it wounds at a particularly vulnerable spot. It's easy to be scandalised, especially religiously, when sex is involved.

And if this is a dark night of the soul, and it is, we will learn its lesson and undergo its purification only if we are clear on some things:

1) A dark night of the soul comes from God.

God doesn't cause accidents, spread viruses, induce depression, break legs, have people die prematurely, or abuse innocent children. A conspiracy of accidents (brute history, human freedom, and sin) does that. But God speaks through all of this. For the authors of scripture, there are no pure accidents, God's finger is everything. If Israel loses a war it's not because the Assyrians have a superior army. No. She loses because she's been unfaithful and God is purifying her.

That's true too in the present situation. Put biblically, it's not the press that's causing this scandal. God's hand is behind this, humbling and purifying us. The real issue is not inflated, anti-clerical press- coverage, but our infidelity and God's pruning hand.

2) Contending with a dark night is not a distraction to our ministry, it is our real ministry.

"I was always upset by distractions in my work," Henri Nouwen once said, "until I realised those distractions were my real work!" That is true too for this scandal. This isn't a distraction to real ministry, it is the real ministry of the church.

Carrying this scandal properly is something that the church is invited to do for the sake of the world. Jesus said, "My flesh is food for the life of the world." The church exists for the sake of the world and we must keep that in mind as we face this crisis. What does that mean?

Put simply: Right now priests represent less than one per-

cent of the overall problem of sexual abuse, yet they are on the front pages of the newspapers and the issue is very much focused on the church. While this is painful, it can also be fruitful. The fact that priests and the church are (in a way) being scapegoated is not necessarily a bad thing. If our being scapegoated helps society to bring the issue of sexual abuse and its devastation of the human soul more into the open, then we are precisely offering ourselves as "food for the life of the world".

There are very few things that we are doing as Christian communities today that are more important than helping the world deal with this issue. If the price tag is humiliation and a drain on our resources, so be it. Crucifixions are never easy.

3) A dark night asks us to "sing a new song".

Sing to the Lord a new song! But what's the old song?

Jesus specifies this when he says that unless our virtue goes deeper than that of the scribes and pharisees (the "old song") we can't enter the kingdom of heaven. What was the virtue of the scribes and pharisees? Theirs was an ethic of strict justice: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, give back in kind. What's wrong with that?

It's too easy. Anyone, Jesus says, can live the virtue of strict justice at a certain level. A paraphrase of Jesus might read like this: Anyone can be nice to those who are nice to them, can forgive those who forgive them, and can love those who love them. But can we love those who hate us? Can we be gracious to those who curse us? That's the litmus test of Christian orthodoxy and it's what's being asked of us in this scandal: Can we love, forgive, reach out, and be empathic in a new way? Can we have compassion for both the victim and the perpetrator? Can we have compassion for some of our church leaders who made mistakes? Can we give of our money when it seems we are paying for someone else's sin? Can we help carry something that doesn't make us feel good and clean?

This is a dark night of the soul. Like every dark night it's meant to stretch the heart. This is always painful and our normal impulse is to do something to end the pain. But it won't go away until we learn what it's meant to teach us. And what is that, beyond a new humility?

That there is a terrible pain within the culture today, a soul - devastation caused by sexual abuse, and we, the church, are being asked, like Christ, to have our flesh be food for the life of the world so that this wound might be opened to healing.

We remember in our prayers

Recently deceased: Fr Joseph Dargan, Fr Tom Brophy

Anniversaries: Irene Manuel, Anita Mortejo, Ador Mortejo, Guelerma Palomares, Candido Palomares, William Emmett Murphy, Frank Di Somma, Ugo Di Somma, Vito Veneziano, Guiseppina Raschilla, Yeo Yak, Michelangelo Cerminara, Annunziata Perri

Sick & their carers: Paul Lemalu, Marina Hanz, Armando Ravelo, Robert Holdsworth, Warren Beaton, Ricardo Dayonot, Margaret Iringan, Bernie Perabo, Rodrigo Bugtai

Parish Notices

New worker in the Parish Office— To assist with the prompt processing of payments to the parish and to assist those who only use EFTPOS or credit cards, the parish has acquired an EFTPOS machine. I hope that you will make good use of this facility to move our parish forward.

Memorial Wall for the Interment of Ashes—The St Peter's Clayton Memorial Wall is especially for parishioners who wish to have theirs or loved ones ashes interred OR theirs or loved ones names placed on a remembrance plaque. The cost of a spot for Parishioners is \$1,500 and Non Parishioners \$2,000. Please see Fr Andrew or Fr Thomas to discuss further.

Priest's Retirement Foundation—Father's Day weekend is the traditional time for this collection and this year on the 1st and 2nd September. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Envelopes will be available in the Church and for the Thanksgiving Envelope contributors, there is a special insert envelope for Father's Day, in their set of envelopes.



Although St Augustine's conversion was not to take place for many years, his mother St Monica did not lose faith. She continually fasted, prayed, and wept on his behalf. She implored the local bishop for help in winning him over, and he counseled her to be patient, saying, "God's time will come." Monica persisted in importuning him, and the bishop uttered the words which have often been quoted: "Go now, I beg you; it is not possible that the son of so many tears should perish."

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK | 2 September—Sunday Year B

| | 6:00pm | 8:00am | 9:30am |
|---|---|--------------------|---------------|
| Reader | 1 Luan Viegas | Imeleta Lemalu | Rose Merita |
| | 2 | | |
| Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion | 1 Savitri Ratnasabaphy | Marlene Marshall | Roni Asalemo |
| | 2 Doreen Hickey | Yvonne Hepponstall | Tuala Asalemo |
| | 3 Volunteer | Volunteer | Reji Abraham |
| Hospitality | Fr Andrew McCarter (Father's Day) | | |
| Monash Medical Centre | <i>(Team 2)</i> Jackie Hayman, Rodney Narcis | | |
| Counters | <i>(Team 1)</i> Laeta Tabak, Peter Jones | | |
| Church Cleaners | <i>(Team 3)</i> Betty Holdsworth, Val Manuelpillai, Lucy Arajuo | | |
| Linen | Arlene De Souza | | |