

We Respond

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 102)

ANTIPHON: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

RESPONSE: The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

LECTOR: My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

LECTOR: It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

LECTOR: His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

LECTOR: For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Or

The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing in the body of the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Sirach 27:30-28:7; Roman 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35

NEXT WEEK (25th Sunday of Year A) Is 55:6-9; Ps 144; Philippians 1:20-24, 27; Mt 20:1-16

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Majellan Christmas Cards

Our Christmas cards have always proved popular. Only \$7.50 per packet of 10, including postage. Don't miss out! Go on line now to order: majellan.media/product/christmas-cards-2020/

Or fill in the order form in the Spring issue of *The Majellan* and post back to us at PO Box 43 Brighton Vic 3186.

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God of Pardons



13 September 2020 24th Sunday Year A

The prophet Nehemiah (9:17) describes the Judeo-Christian deity as "a god of pardons". This expression is later picked up by other prophets (e.g., Joel 2:13), the Psalmists (86:15; 103:8-14), and even St Paul (2 Corinthians 1:3) – with good reason. Both the Ancient Israelites and the early Christians experienced the presence of God in significant events of liberation, mercy and forgiveness.

The God revealed to Moses was concerned for the plight of the Israelites enslaved in Egypt and wanted to see them liberated. The God that the Jewish prophets and mystics encountered in their prayer was one who sought to lead Israel both into and out of Exile in Babylon to cleanse them of their sins. The divine Word that the Apostles found expressed in Jesus was an offer of forgiveness to sinners.

The collective wisdom of the Biblical record is that the defining characteristics of Yahweh are mercy, compassion and forgiveness. One of the most beautiful expressions of this insight is found in Exodus 3:6-7, which describes Yahweh as "merciful and gracious, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness".

This is a key passage highlighting the fact that the concepts of mercy and forgiveness are related to that of faithfulness; that is, the faithfulness or "steadfast love" of Yahweh

vis-a-vis his covenantal promises. The story of the Bible is one of a people who constantly fail to live up to their side of the covenant with Yahweh; but Yahweh continues to forgive them and call them back into relationship.

Of course, this doesn't mean that the people of Yahweh are free to do as they will. The parable Jesus tells in today's gospel contrasts the merciful actions of a king with the duplicity and miserliness of his servant who, despite being the recipient of royal largesse, demands immediate payment from his debtors. The king reacts by renegeing on his promise of forgiveness.

The point of this story is that repentant sinners are forgiven, while the impenitent, whose lives are not transformed and who continue to act without mercy to others, are not.

This story illustrates one of the lines of Matthew's Our Father, where Jesus suggests that we pray: "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12 NABRE). Similarly, in the Matthean Beatitudes, Jesus proclaims "blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy" (Matt 5:7). The message of today's readings is that the first and best path to evangelisation is to mirror in our own lives the characteristics of our God, who has consistently been revealed to be a "god of pardons."

Ian J Elmer
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CURRENT PARISH NEWS

WEEK START SUN **SEPT 13, 2020**

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

REGINA CAELI CATHOLIC PARISH

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TUES, WED, THURS, 9.30AM-2.30PM

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ALL ENQUIRIES RE BOOKING BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS,
FUNERALS & SACRAMENT OF PENANCE PLEASE
CONTACT PARISH OFFICE.

NEXT BAPTISM ENROLMENT TALK SUN OCT 4 AT 4PM
IN PARISH HALL. NO APPT NECESSARY!

Sat ~ 9am, 6pm; Sun ~ 6.30am & 8.30am

Mon & Wed ~ 6.30am;

Tues & Fri ~ 9am

MASS TIMES

Thank You to all who support Regina Caeli in any way, be it practically or financially. All assistance is valued & important. For new practical helpers contact p/office. For financial support facilities please contact office or you may also deposit online: BSB 064 786 A/c: 006171102 (Please incl ref)

or Parish Giving app available now, support

your parish at any time, downloadable to phone

<http://parishgiving.brisbanecatholic.org.au/>

Click on links for resources & articles:

Archdiocese of Brisbane:

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/>

Webcast schedule: www.archbne.org/bzw

The Catholic Leader & Catholic Kool Kids [CKK]

Visit parish website under: "Stay Connected"

Weekend of Sept 19 & 20

Be blessed and bless others with your gift

Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Your gift today will be a blessing to struggling local families, to seminarians and retired priests; and children in our community in dire need of the love and care of a Catholic community.



catholiccampaign.com.au

Newsletter

Regina Caeli Parish will deliver newsletters to those

who may find themselves isolated and/or unable to visit parish itself. Contact us to have a copy emailed or a hardcopy delivery to your home.

A parishioner reflection on Social Justice Statement:

Throughout the next seven weeks, sections of the Australian Bishops Social Justice Statement 2020-21, from 19 Aug, '20, will be printed for consideration. Statement explores *Mental Health in Australia Today* Key ideas from the *Foreword* from Archbishop Mark Coleridge, President of Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, are presented here. COVID-19 pandemic is a threat in many ways – physical, social, political & economic. It is putting pressure on the mental health of many people in ways both seen and unseen. Those who are at high risk, may be especially anxious. Loss of jobs & income from businesses, together with underemployment & insecure work, place enormous pressure on people trying to provide for themselves & their families. Isolation has been difficult for many, & dangerous for people suffering family strife & domestic violence. Decision-makers are balancing care for both public health & safety & for social connection, economy & other essential activities, incl. worship. *Many of us experience a mental health problem at some time in our lives – and this may well be the time. In this Statement, the Bishops encourage faith communities, governments & each one of us, to make mental health a priority.*

We want to say clearly that mental ill-health is not a moral failure, the result of a lack of faith, or of weak will. Jesus himself was labelled *mad* (Mark 3:21; John 10:19) &, like us, he suffered psychological distress (Luke 22:44; Matt 26:37; Mark 14:33; John 12:27).

People experiencing mental ill-health are not some 'other' people, they are 'us'. People are suffering mental ill-health, & may be any age/socioeconomic background. We need everyone's understanding & support. We commend the mental health support provided by volunteers & staff of all organisations, hospitals, schools, & community health services, & encourage all reach out to those in need of support. **A commitment to the common good means attending to the good of all of us, without exception.**

Link video to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DE3U4WUWCxQ>

Our parish supports the Annual Catholic Campaign this year because we know how hard it has been for many in community. Through prayer & action, we can be a blessing to those in need. If you are able, please donate online at: <https://bit.ly/2QnUzvi>

The 'New Norm'

1. Sanitise your hands
 2. Sign In
 3. Sit on stickered seats only
 4. Sanitise your space with wipes
 5. Social Distancing enforced (1person or family/4m²) limit 100p
- ◆ Only Priests to distribute Communion
 - ◆ Stay home if unwell
 - ◆ Sign of Peace spoken greeting only
 - ◆ Gifting boxes available at all doors;
 - ◆ Take newsletter home with you
 - ◆ No Hymn books used.



RECENTLY DECEASED: BART GAFFNEY, LUCY HOUGHTON, CECILY McMAHON, MARY TWOMEY, DOMINIC VU, PATRICIA ZEMEK

ANNIVERSARIES:

JACK & MARGARET ALTHAUS, HELEN SHAW
SPECIAL INTENTIONS: Augusto Cesar, Joshua Chester, James Clifford, Pat Cochrane, Veronica & Cathy Comiskey, Neil Cremin, Pat & Clare Dugger, George D'Allura, Robbie Dicker, Susan Donald, Loye Gardiner, Paul Heathwood, Philomena Hegarty, Allaura Hows, Kate Jennings, Kath Keogh, Nicky Logan, Pat Logan, Katie Loveday, Cheryl Loveridge, Enid McCarthy, Trish McConnell, Peter McLaughlin, Fr Ron Mollison, John Morgan, Christopher Mothershaw, Marie-Louise O'Brien, Pam O'Reilly, Peter Reid, Wal & Joyce Smith, Lester Steen, Nathaniel Williams, Zelina & family

This w/e, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families & supporters. We recognise & apologise for the harm done by priests, religious & lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors & make the Catholic Church & its ministries the safest possible place for children & people at risk. Find out more at: www.catholic.org.au/childprotectionsunday&www.catholicreligious.org.au/safeguarding



ENTRANCE HYMN

SING OF THE LORD'S GOODNESS

1. Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom, come to him and bless his name. Mercy he has shown us, his love is for ever, faithful to the end of days.
- R/. *Come then, all you nations, sing of your Lord's goodness, melodies of praise and thanks to God. Ring out the Lord's glory, praise him with your music, worship him and bless his name.*
- 3: Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow, Spirit of our God most high; solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner, splendour of the living God. R/. Ernest Sands

OFFERTORY HYMN

A TRUSTING PSALM

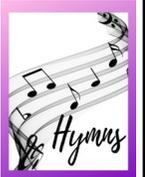
R/. *Lord, let your mercy be on us as we place our trust in you.*

1. The word of the Lord is faithfulness and love. This love can never be measured. God's beauty is like knotting we have ever seen, so let us place our trust in God. R/.
2. The world of the Lord means a patient, gentle God. Whose love can never grow weary. God's mercy is as though our sins have never been, If we place our trust in God. R/. Kevin Bates

REFLECTION HYMN

AS GENTLE AS SILENCE

1. Oh, the love of my Lord is the essence of all that I love here on earth. All the beauty I see, He has given to me, and his giving is gentle as silence.
2. Every day, every hour, every moment, Have been blessed by the strength of His loves. At the turn of each tide, He is there at my side, And his touch is as gentle as silence.
3. There've been times when I've turned from his presence, And I've walked other paths, other ways, But I've called on his name, in the dark of my shame and his mercy was gentle as silence. Estelle White



COMMUNION HYMN

EAT THIS BREAD

RECESSIONAL HYMN

TAKE THE WORD OF GOD WITH YOU

1. Take the **word** of God with you as you go. Take the seeds of God's **peace** and make them grow.
- R/. *Go in peace to serve the world, in peace, to serve the world. Take the love of God, the love of God with you as you go.*
2. Take the **peace** of God... R/.
 3. Take the **joy** of God... R/.
 4. Take the **love** of God... R/.
- James Harrison, Christopher Walker

