



St. Josephs Wonthaggi Our Lady Star of the Sea Inverloch



27-29 Dowling Street,
Wonthaggi,
Victoria 3995

Tel : - Presbytery
Office
Fax :-
Email : -

03 5672 2923
03 5672 1111
03 5672 1111
wonthaggi@cdsale.org.au

All correspondence to : -

PO. Box 70, Wonthaggi, Victoria 3995.

www.cdsale.org.au/wonthaggi

BULLETIN NOTICES: 7th August, 2020

- We hope that you are finding this online bulletin helpful as we continue to stay connected in these isolating times. 'Remembering we are never alone.'
If you have something you would like to share in this way, please contact the Parish Office on 03 56 721 111. Thank you!
- AS OF MIDNIGHT WEDNESDAY 5TH AUGUST, 2020 THERE WILL NOT BE MASSES AVAILABLE IN OUR PARISH, THIS IS DUE TO THE CHANGES ANNOUNCED REGARDING THE STEPS TAKEN REGARDING COVID-19.
- PLEASE REMEMBER TO VISIT THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE TO ACCESS THE MASSES ONLINE.
- What wonderful news we received, with the announcement of Mgr. Greg Bennet as Bishop-elect to the Diocese of Sale. We look forward to being able to welcome and share our Parish with the Bishop-elect.
Here is the link to the News story/Diocesan Statement regarding the appointment on the diocesan website.
<https://www.cdsale.org.au/news/diocese-of-sale-welcomes-the-appointment-of-bishop-elect-greg-bennet>
- He will be ordained and installed in Sale on 20 October 2020.
- Please pray for Maureen Brennan who passed away recently and ALL those who have passed away due to the Covid-19 Virus. The anniversaries of Bill Munro and Bishop

Patrick Lyons and of our own loved ones. May God's merciful love shine on them and on their loved ones left behind.

- **CATHOLIC CARE: This Weekend** launches the CatholicCare Sunday 9th August, 2020 Appeal. As our parish's social service agency, CatholicCare delivers family and relationship counselling, refugee and settlement support, education and school programs, and pastoral services. Donations from our parish community will help care for the most vulnerable families in our community.

Please donate to CatholicCare Sunday Appeal. Your support and generosity will help break barriers to social inclusion and strengthen families and communities to live life to the full.

You can donate online at www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal or call 03 9287 5513.

(All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible)

Envelopes are available at the Parish Office during the week.

- **PRAYER FOR 2020 WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS:**

Pope Francis has stated that human trafficking is "without any doubt, a crime against humanity". "Trafficking seriously damages humanity as a whole, tearing apart the human family and the Body of Christ." (St. Peter's Square, Rome, April 10, 2019).

Let us pray for all who have been robbed of their God-given dignity: Loving God, may our prayers and actions cast light on this crime and help bring it to an end. May those who suffer know the blessings of true justice and peace. Amen.

Please find below a link to the prayer for World Day against Trafficking.

<https://acrath.org.au/wp-content/uploads/020/07/Prayer-for-World-Day-Against-Trafficking-in-Persons-2020-1.pdf>

- Due to the recent changes with Covid-19 Father Darren Howie will now be saying Mass on our behalf and including special intentions. Please do not hesitate to contact Father Darren Howie on 03 56 722 923 or Kristine at the Parish Office on 56 721 111 to pass on your requests.

Thank you for your patience and understanding!!!!!!

- A list of live streams across the Diocese is on www.cdsale.org.au/coronavirus page. This page has listed the Mass times which occur regularly, ie. Don't change from week to week.
- If you are in need of urgent assistance, then please phone either:

Father Darren Howie 0356 722 923 or Kristine on 03 56 72111 or 04999 15 784.

- No Meditation Group until further notice.
- No Prayer Group until further notice.
- Prayer Shawl Group: Our wonderful “creators” of beautiful shawls and rugs, caps & socks have been very busy in lockdown, and our warmest thanks go out to them. Fr. Darren Howie has blessed the items. If you know of anyone who is struggling with life in any way & who would benefit from a shawl or rug (cap or socks) then please contact the Parish Office (56 721 111) or Kristine (0499 915 784), Maureen Maartensz (0407 055 447) or Philippa Warby(0408 331 340).
- ALL donations to the 1st Collection, Planned Giving envelopes can be brought to the office, passed through the secure slot into the Presbytery near the front door. The next roll out of Planned Giving Envelopes will take place at the end of August. Thank you for your continuing generosity.
- The Vatican has recently published a helpful booklet ‘Strong in Tribulation’, containing prayers, homilies from Pope Francis, prayers for the sick and other resources that may be of help to you in your ministry or personal prayer in this time of pandemic.
<https://www.vaticannews.va/content/dam/lev/forti-nella-tribolazione/pdf/eng/bis-27-aprile-inglese.pdf>
- We have been emailing and sending out important communications from the Diocese and if you would like to be involved with this please contact the Parish Office on 56 721 111 or email your details to wonthaggi@cdsale.org.au.
- We are a Child Safe Parish. Any children, young persons and vulnerable adults have a right to feel safe and be safe.
If you are concerned about any form of abuse, or believe that someone is at significant risk, you should immediately raise your concerns with one of our

Parish Safeguarding Officers. Contact Kristine McRae via the Parish Office: 03 56 721 111 or St. Joseph's School Safeguarding Officer 03 56 721 052. Take care, we are here to help.

**Father Darren Howie
Parish Priest
St. Joseph's Parish
Wonthaggi**

**Mrs. Kristine McRae
Parish Secretary**

7th August, 2020

In the storms of life, we need to have a refuge where there are more than just the necessities to maintain life, most importantly we need to feel safe, welcome, wanted, valued and loved. To quote Pope Benedict in his encyclical God is love (Deus Caritas Est): Saint John also offers a kind of summary of the Christian life: “We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us”. This is a love in which people are not treated as collateral damage but in which every person matters because they are made in the image and likeness of God. Meatloaf when he sang, I will do anything for love, but I won’t do that, expressed how important love is. Forest Gump who said I may not be a very smart man, but I know what love is, showed incredible courage.

In the compendium of the Catholic Catechism there are the following questions. 377. What is a virtue? A virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. “The goal of a virtuous life is to become like God” (Saint Gregory of Nyssa). There are human virtues and theological virtues.

God is love and we are called to live and love like Him. We need the help of the Church’s teaching to guide our hearts and minds in the right direction. Pope Francis wrote of the fact, which is not to deny the Church’s teaching, but of the fact that often it is presented in all too technical manner, a way which people find hard to grasp. Thinking of analogies when you have someone work on your car you want them to be able to read and follow the technical manuals, so you don’t have to. When we go to the dentist we want to be told in simple language, if we are not aware of the importance of gum hygiene to prevent heart disease, we do not want a university level lecture presentation on the matter.

The compendium tells us about courage in the following question. 382. What is fortitude? Fortitude assures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It reaches even to the ability of possibly sacrificing one’s own life for a just cause.

To try and dumb this down in everyday language, courage is necessary if we are to live the Christian life, if we are to remain faithful to Christ, not merely as a leader, the God whom we should fear but as one with whom we have come to know and experience through prayer. There will be times when we will make mistakes but with the help of God we get up and get going again. There can be no authentic Christian life without courage.

If you think someone should be able to explain God, then try and explain how you appreciate, feel, your favorite piece of music or learn to play

music, other than pushing a button. Some things can only be known through experience and they cannot be demonstrated like a mathematical formula.

Some people may recall the series Band of Brothers based on the lives of members of the elite 101st Marine Airborne Division, which parachuted into France for the D Day invasion of Europe. For a person to become a member of this elite volunteer group they had to voluntarily jump out of an airplane. There were men who could not bring themselves to jump out of an airplane, they were petrified, some of these men would later earn awards for incredible bravery in the regular army. An airborne soldier had to be able to jump voluntarily because the experience was that if he could not and was gripped by fear in the doorway of a plane, bracing himself against the door way out of fear, it was incredibly difficult, almost impossible even for a dozen men lined up behind him to push him out the door.

St. Peter denied Our Lord 3 times out of fear. And no doubt otherwise good people have done seriously bad things because they were under the influence of fear, which can cripple people and make them refuse to acknowledge difficulties in their lives and others which are just too hard to face.

In this Sunday's gospel we heard of how St. Peter was worried about drowning. And we know that he was a man who could swim because after the Resurrection of Jesus we heard how he jumped out of the boat to swim to Jesus on the shore. And yet when St. Peter saw Jesus walking on the water and himself started to walk on the water he felt the force of the wind and fear began to take a vice like grip on him, so that-one moment he could with the help of Jesus walk on the water-and the next he who could swim because he was frightened of drowning. And this was in spite of the fact that Our Lord was right in front of him.

If we concentrate on the obstacles to faith, and the ridicule of non-believers they can gain a power they should not have. St Paul said ours is not a spirit of fear and timidity but a spirit of power, of love and of self-control. And this from someone who preached a crucified Christ, which was a stumbling block for the Jews and sheer madness for the Greeks, and he was happy to do this before crowds of people who laughed at him and tried to kill him. If we worry about what other people think of us for our faith, then we can be in danger of being overcome by fear and making bad choices. The fact of the matter is we have no power about what other people, think, do or say. If St. Paul worried about what other people thought about him, he would have done

very little. He kept in mind that he could do all things in him who strengthened him.

The acronym for fear is false evidence appearing real. When St. Peter was overcome by fear the waves and wind seemed more powerful than Jesus. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow, everything else passes away. Not without reason did St. John Paul II on becoming Pope quote to the people gathered in St. Peter's square the words of Our Lord: Courage do not be afraid. Those words of Our Lord are found over 250 times in the New Testament. We heard Our Lord say them in this Sunday's gospel.

When Charles Lindberg flew for the first time from the States to Paris across the Atlantic in 1927 and Charles Kingsford Smith and his crew flew the even greater distance from the States to Australia over the Pacific Ocean in 1928, it gave people confidence to follow in their path. In reading the lives of the saints we find examples of people who faced incredible odds and with the help of God overcame them. This can give us confidence that we too can follow in the steps of those who followed Christ.

This Sunday's gospel concludes with the words: Truly, you are the Son of God-those words put everything in perspective. For when it is all said and done it is our faith in Jesus as God which gives us the confidence the courage, we need to be different in the right sense, the yeast in the dough, salt of the earth, to be counter cultural. If we do not believe he is God, if we do not have faith in his words then we are condemned to sink, blend and become part of the crowd.

We need to have an unshakeable conviction that God is present in our lives. Our Lord who calmed the storm can also calm the storm of inappropriate desires and affections in our hearts if we ask for his help, but we must believe we must focus on Christ and have him before our minds, not people good as they may be who do not have faith. St. John Paul II said we should not even be afraid of own weaknesses because Christ can help us. To accept our failings because we cannot seem to overcome them, is to allow our hearts to become coarsened, instead of falling into the trap of thinking we cannot follow Jesus commandments, we should reach out and call to Him even more. Remember that Christ guides us through his Church, Scripture and helps us through prayer and the sacraments.

Father Darren Howie
Parish Priest

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