



The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner
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19th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 9, 2020

Life messages:

- **We need to call Jesus in the storms facing the Church and our lives.** Let us approach Jesus with strong Faith in his ability and willing availability to calm the storms in the life of the Church and in our lives. Church history shows us how Jesus saved his Church from the storms of persecution in the first three centuries, from the storms of heresies in the 5th and 6th centuries, from the storms of moral degradation and the Protestant reformation movement in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and from the storms of sex abuse scandals of the clergy in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It is the presence of Jesus which gives us peace even in the wildest storms of life: the storms of anxiety and worries about the future we are suffering now in the ongoing Corona Virus Pandemic (Covid-19), storms of sorrow, storms of doubt, tension and uncertainty, storms of anxiety and worries, storms of anger and despair, storms of temptations. Storms reveal to us our inability to save ourselves and point us to the Infinite ability and eagerness of God to save us. When Jesus shows up in our life's storms, we find that we gain strength to do the seemingly impossible. For example, when Jesus shows up, he makes marriages out of mistakes, he invigorates, restores, and empowers us to reach the unreachable, to cross the un-crossable. Storms let us know that without him we can do nothing, without him we are doomed to fail. Yet, when Jesus shows up, we gain the strength to join Paul, saying, "In Christ I can do all things." But this demands a personal relationship with God, with Jesus, enhanced through prayer, meditative study of Scripture and an active Sacramental life. Experiencing Jesus' presence in our lives, let us confess our Faith in him and call out for his help and protection always.
- **We need to imitate the short prayer of sinking Peter:** We are expected to pray to God every day with trusting Faith for strengthening our personal relationship with Him and for acknowledging our dependence on Him. But when we have no time or mental energy for formal prayers, let us use the short prayers in the Gospels like Peter's prayer: "Lord, save me!" or the prayer of the mother of the possessed girl: "Lord, help me!" or the blind man's prayer: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" or the repentant sinner's prayer: "Lord, have mercy on me a sinner!" We get plenty of time during our travels to say the short prayers like the "Our Father", "Hail Mary" and "Glory be..." We may begin every day offering all our day's activities to God and asking for His grace to do His will; then we may conclude every day before we go to sleep, by asking God's pardon and forgiveness for our sins. Keeping a Bible on our table will encourage us to read at least a few words of the Bible and thus listen to what God is telling us to do. "Hail Mary" and "Glory be..."
- **We should not limit God's saving presence:** There are those who would limit God's presence for their own comfort or security or to keep themselves in power. In years past there were those who would deny God's presence in slaves. There have been those who would ignore God's presence in their enemies. There are those who would refuse to believe that God is present in the murderer sitting on death row, in those who are marginalized by our society: the gay person, the addict, the person living with AIDS, the illegal alien, the handicapped. It is in situations like these that we have to get out of the boat, surprise others, and show them the reflection of God in such people. Let us always look for ways to be surprised by our God and opportunities to wake one another up to the beauty, the power and the nearness of our loving, providing and protecting God. Let us also pray for a deepening of God's gift of Faith within us, that we may be able to recognize Him in the ordinary situations of our lives, and humbly pray to Him saying, "Lord, let us see Your kindness, and grant us Your salvation."

Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

We especially pray for all the recently deceased and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. All those whose names are on the Church pews and in the Resurrection Chapel

Please pray for the Sick: John, Leanne, Raphaella, Diana, Robert, Nola, Natalina, Gianna Rossettini, Lia Pierazzi, Phyliss Flood, Shirley & Gertrude.

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION (Pope Francis encourages us to pray this prayer daily)

PROTECT, O HOLY GUARDIAN, THIS OUR NATION OF AUSTRALIA. ENLIGHTEN THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMMON GOOD, SO THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW—LIKE YOU DO—HOW TO CARE FOR THOSE ENTRUSTED TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. **GRANT** INTELLIGENCE OF KNOWLEDGE TO THOSE SEEKING ADEQUATE MEANS FOR THE HEALTH AND PHYSICAL WELL BEING OF THEIR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. **SUSTAIN** THOSE WHO ARE SPENDING THEMSELVES FOR THOSE IN NEED, EVEN AT THE COST OF THEIR OWN SAFETY: VOLUNTEERS, NURSES, DOCTORS WHO ARE ON THE FRONTLINES IN CURING THE SICK. **BLESS, O ST. JOSEPH, THE CHURCH:** BEGINNING WITH HER MINISTERS, MAKE HER THE SIGN AND INSTRUMENT OF YOUR LIGHT AND YOUR GOODNESS. **ACCOMPANY, O ST. JOSEPH, OUR FAMILIES:** WITH YOUR PRAYERFUL SILENCE, CREATE HARMONY BETWEEN PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN, IN A SPECIAL WAY WITH THE YOUNGEST. **PRESERVE** THE ELDERLY FROM LONELINESS: GRANT THAT NO-ONE MIGHT BE LEFT IN DESPERATION FROM ABANDONMENT AND DISCOURAGEMENT. **COMFORT** THOSE WHO ARE THE MOST FRAIL, **ENCOURAGE** THOSE WHO FALTER, **INTERCEDE** FOR THE POOR. WITH THE VIRGIN MOTHER, **BEG** THE LORD TO LIBERATE THE WORLD FROM EVERY PANDEMIC. AMEN.

Prayer when you cannot receive Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

Pope Francis Quote: "Although the life of a person is in a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God. Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and in each of our hearts. God's love calls us to move beyond fear".

Humour: "Have Faith my child": For the umpteenth time Mrs. Youngston came to her pastor to tell him, "I'm so scared! Joe says he's going to kill me if I continue to come to your Church." "Yes, yes, my child," replied the pastor, more than a little tired of hearing this over and over. "I will continue to pray for you, Mrs. Youngston. Have Faith – the Lord will watch over you." "Oh yes, he has kept me safe thus far, only....". "Only what, my child?" "Well, now Joe says if I keep coming to your church, he's going to kill YOU!". "Well, now," said the pastor, "Perhaps it's time for you to check out that little parish on the other side of town."

St Matthew's daily mass is live streamed. Go to: Facebook at : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/206102420820791/> or search for "Mass at St. Matthew's Fawkner North, Melbourne" on Facebook.
 Links to the recording of the Masses are also available on the Parish website : <http://stmatthewsparish.org.au/Mass> times are as usual.