



The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner
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30th SUNDAY – October 25, 2020 (Year A Ordinary Time)
The greatest commandment in the Bible, is to respond to God's infinite love for us by loving Him

Life messages:

- **We need to love God:** Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength as our response to His Love for us means that we should place God's will ahead of ours, seek the Lord's will in all things, and make it paramount in our lives. There are several means by which we can express our love for God and our gratitude to Him for His blessings, acknowledging our total dependence on Him. We must keep God's commandments, and offer daily prayers of thanksgiving, praise and petition. We also need to read and meditate on His word in the Bible and accept His invitation to join Him in the Mass and other liturgical functions when we can.
- **We need to love our neighbour:** God's will is that we should love everyone, seeing Him in our neighbour. Since every human being is the child of God and the dwelling place of the Spirit of God, we are actually giving expression to our love of God by loving our neighbour as Jesus loves him or her. This means we need to help, support, encourage, forgive, and pray for everyone without discrimination based on colour, race, gender, age, wealth, personal attractiveness, or social status.
- Forgiveness, too, is vital. We love others by refusing to hold a grudge for a wrong done to us. Even a rebuke can be an act of love, if it is done with the right heart. We also express love through encouragement and by helping each other to grow. We express *agápe* love by meeting a need that God has given us the power to meet, by comforting each other, by teaching each other and by sharing the Gospel, in deeds and in words. We express our love for our neighbour by waiting upon the aged, nursing the sick, patching up quarrels, and listening to the broken-hearted. In short, loving our neighbour is feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, meeting the basic needs of the poor, helping the unemployed, educating the young and taking care of the old.
- **To love our neighbour:** Jesus underlines the principle that we are to love our neighbour as we love ourselves because both of us bear God's image, and to honour God's image is to honour Him. The love of God has priority and is our source of love for neighbour. In our neighbour we see something of God, His creature, His image and likeness, and His adopted child. So, if we love God, we must also love His image, the work of His hands. God makes daily contact with us through the people around us. Love for our neighbour is a matter, not of feelings, but of deeds by which we share with others the unmerited love that God lavishes on us. This is the love for neighbour that God commands in His law. Since the Jews considered only their fellow-Jews as neighbours, Jesus, challenged, used the parable of the Good Samaritan, as reported in Luke's Gospel, to show them what God means by "neighbour."

Recently Deceased: Mimma Muni, Michele Malarbi, Carmelita Mangaliman, and, Damiano Ambrosini
Anniversaries: Antonio Esmaquel, Johanna, Eugene & Hans Herrmann & Ludwig Weifritz, Maria Bonadio, Leo Montealegre
The sick in our parish: Teresa and Con Lamonaca, Carmela Bovezza, Eleanor Priest, Nola and Leanne Branchflower, Kathy Romanow, Judiel Teodoro, John Markis, Frank Cichello, Rosa Latanzio, and, Peter Corcoran.

- There is a legend handed down from the early Church about John, the beloved disciple of Jesus. Of the twelve original apostles, only John lived to a ripe old age. In his later years, not only his body but also his eyesight and his mind began to fail him. Eventually, according to the legend, John's mind had deteriorated to the point that he could only speak five words, one sentence, which he would repeat over and over. You can imagine the high regard in which the early Church must have held the last surviving apostle of Jesus. The legend says that every Lord's Day, John would be carried into the midst of the congregation that had assembled for worship in the Church at Ephesus, where John spent the last years of his life. Total silence would fall over the congregation, even though they already knew what John was going to say. Then the old man would speak the words, "My little children, love one another." Over and over, he would repeat them until he grew tired from talking, and no one yawned or looked at his watch or gazed off into space absentmindedly. They listened as John preached his five-word sermon over and over: "My little children, love one another." Source: Fr. Tony Homilies (<http://frtonyshomilies.com/>)
- **Christians love one another."** In the second century AD, a non-Christian named Aristides wrote to the Emperor Hadrian about the Christians. He said, "Christians love one another. They never fail to help widows; they save orphans from those who would hurt them. If one of them has something, he gives freely to those who have nothing. If they see a stranger, Christians take him home and are as happy as though he were a real brother. They don't consider themselves brothers in the usual sense, but brothers through the Spirit, in God. And if they hear that one of them is in jail or persecuted for professing the name of their Redeemer, they give him all he needs. This is really a new kind of person. There is something Divine in them." No wonder the non-Christians of the first century used tell one another, "See how these Christians love one another."
- **Love them anyway:** In Calcutta, India, there is a children's home named Shishu Bhavan (Children's Home), founded by Mother Teresa. The home continues to be operated by her community, the Missionaries of Charity.

ON THE WALL OF THE HOME HANGS A SIGN WHICH READS:

People are unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered.

LOVE THEM ANYWAY.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

DO GOOD ANYWAY.

Humour: Spousal love: One Sunday the pastor was finishing up a series on marriage. At the end of the service he was giving out small wooden crosses to each married couple. He said, "Place this cross in the room in which you fight the most and you will be reminded of God's commandment of love and you won't argue as much." One woman came up after the service and said, "You'd better give me five crosses."