



The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner
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21st Sunday of Ordinary Time — August 22, 2021 Year B)



As a result of Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist "many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him." The Eucharist was the deepest and most beautiful teaching Jesus had given, but for some it was more than they could handle. So many left Him. But this passage also reveals the beautiful faith of the Apostles, especially Peter. First of all, Jesus does not back down in any way from His beautiful and very deep teaching on the Holy Eucharist. What He said He stands behind, namely, that "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you" (John 6:53). He goes on to say, "For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink" (John 6:55).

From there, Jesus turns to His disciples and gives them the freedom to accept or reject what He just taught. This freedom He gives to them is essential to them entering into authentic faith. If Jesus would have pressured or manipulated the disciples, it would have been hard for them to freely choose to accept Him and all He taught. The same is true with us. Jesus does not require us to follow Him. He will not force or manipulate us into believing. He will not pressure us. Rather, Jesus offers Himself and His teachings and invites us to believe. Within this context, Peter makes a profound statement of faith. "Master, to whom shall we go?" In other words, Peter was saying, "Lord, even if the teaching is hard, and even if it is unpopular to follow you, and even if we must suffer, be rejected, be misunderstood...you are the best option." Think about it. What other option even comes close to the option of accepting the full and deep teachings of Jesus? Is it better to only take part of what He says? Doing that is a form of rejection of Him. Peter gives us the witness of one who has come to believe that there is only one good option in life. That option is the choice to follow Jesus no matter what. Nothing in life is worth choosing over Christ. We should strive to discover this truth that He is the only one worth choosing. Reflect, today, upon these words of Peter. "Lord, to whom shall we go?" Jesus is God, the Messiah and Savior. He has the words of everlasting life. He is the best "option" to choose. Say those words of Peter and, in saying them, make the choice to choose Him no matter how popular or unpopular that choice is and no matter if others are making it. Going with the flow leads us down the wrong river. Making the right choice sets us on solid ground. (*mycatholic.life*)

XXI Domenica del Tempo Ordinario (ANNO B)

Non è facile credere nel nostro mondo d'oggi.
 La verità che ci è rivelata da Dio in Gesù Cristo, agli uomini e alle donne del nostro tempo appare spesso un "discorso insostenibile", a cui non si può chiedere a nessuno dei nostri sapienti contemporanei di credere. Così è, per esempio, per la dottrina della presenza reale del corpo e del sangue del Signore nella santa Eucaristia. Essa sembra essere una sfida al buon senso, alla ragione, alla scienza. Noi diciamo: "Vedere per credere", esattamente quello che disse san Tommaso: "Se non vedo... e non metto la mia mano, non crederò". Gesù ci ricorda che il corpo di cui parla è il suo corpo risorto e salito al cielo, liberatosi, nella risurrezione, dai limiti dello spazio e del tempo, riempito e trasformato dallo Spirito Santo. Questo corpo non è meno reale del suo corpo in carne ed ossa, anzi lo è di più. Questo corpo risorto può essere toccato e afferrato personalmente da ogni uomo e donna di ogni tempo e luogo, perché lo Spirito si estende, potente, da un'estremità all'altra. In Gesù Cristo e tramite Gesù Cristo, credere significa vedere e toccare: un modo di vedere più profondo, più vero e più sicuro di quello degli occhi; un modo di toccare più in profondità e un modo di afferrare con una stretta più salda di quanto si possa fare con le mani. Credere significa vedere la realtà al di là del visibile; significa toccare la verità eterna.
 In questa fede e grazie ad essa, possiamo dire con Pietro; "Signore, da chi andremo? Tu hai parole di vita eterna". (*lachiea.it*)

The sick in our parish: Teresa & Con Lamonaca, Nola, John Markis, Kathy Romanow, Elda Taranto, Maurizio Pierazzi, Panfilo Ambrosini, Carmela Renda, Peta Wright, Herrmann Family, Helen Rakuscek, Angelina Butera, Antonina Paulus, Bob Brown, Denis Robinson.

Recently deceased: Joe Medalle, Dulcie Mooney, Judith Karistianos, Luciana Raffaeli, Grazia D'Alessandro, Concettina Foti, Vincenza Tabacco, Carmela Bovezza, Vincenzo Gatto, Giovanni Capasso

We pray for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Gabriele Torchia, Richard Robinson, Paola Cutello, Wladyslaw Stopa.

We especially pray for all the deceased whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel.

Rosters for weekend masses August 28/29

Lectors:
 Saturday 5.30 pm : J. Butera

Sunday 10.30 am : C. DiGiulio

Mass times (Livestreamed)

Weekday:
 Tuesday-Friday 9.30 am

Novena mass: Wednesday 6.00 pm

Weekend:
 Saturday Vigil mass 5.30 pm
 Sunday 10.30 (Italian and English mass)

Vinnies Winter Appeal

"Australia is in the middle of a homelessness crisis. Each night, over 25,000 children are experiencing homelessness across the country. Their safety, their education, their emotional and physical health are all suffering. If we don't help now, this moment of pain may turn into a lifetime of struggle. By supporting our Vinnies volunteers, you will help ensure that families at risk of homelessness get the financial and emotional support they need to keep their children safe".

There will a collection for the Vinnies Winter Appeal at masses during August.

Please donate

St. Matthew's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

The electronic version of the Parish bulletin is available on the Parish website @ <http://stmatthewsparish.org.au/>