



ST THOMAS MORE PARISH, HADFIELD

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Love one another
as I have loved you
John 13:34

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A - 8th & 9th August 2020

DO NOT BE AFRAID. I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS.....

The readings for this week speak of God's saving presence among His people, our need for trusting faith in our loving and providing God who always keeps us company, and our need for prayer in storms of life.

We all need to call Jesus in the storms facing us in our lives. The Gospel of this Sunday is a story of faith that is tested in a real life situation. The spread of the Covid-19 virus is getting worse with more people infected and more deaths recorded. *We need to realize that 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 Covid-19 pandemic, storms of sorrow, storms of doubt, tension and uncertainty, storms of anger and despair, storms of temptations, and storms in family relationships. But this peace flows only from a personal relationship with God, with Jesus, enhanced through prayer every day but when we have no time or mental energy for formal prayers, let us use the short prayer in today's Gospel like Peter's prayer: "Lord, save me!" and remain strong in faith and steadfast in hope. (Excerpts from [cbci homilies.org.au](http://cbci.homilies.org.au))

Excerpts from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli's letter to the clergy on 4 August 2020 (Feast of St John Mary Vianney—Patron Saint of Parish Priests)

...I suppose this time around in lockdown—and the looming prospect of a significantly restricted life remaining in place for a period of time—has raised the question, what now?...It is indeed a strange time we are negotiating.

...I don't consider this time of COVID as something that has so much changed the world, but more akin to something that has revealed the world to us, and us in it. One such revelation to me is that we are indeed living in a time of exile. It is an exile from the familiar, the regular, the comforting: a kind of captivity of spirit, mind and body, but on home soil and in our own locations. Yes, it has all the feel of something foreign and unknown to our lives. We struggle to find the words and melodies we need to sing with hope and joy in the Lord.

As you know, the Book of Nehemiah is full of lists. One of them is the list of the returned exiles (Neh 7.5-73). Here we find the identification of God's People by family name, tribe, sex, profession, location, possessions....This is a list of the individual identities of a people, where no one is left out....Each person has a purpose—a personal place to occupy—and each mattered in the re-gathering of God's people.

I find a deep consolation in this list. God does not forget his people, and He will raise up among us those who will not forget either. God raised up for us his Son, who remembered each of us from the Cross, that we might always be re-gathered in Him. Through times of exile, the Lord remembers; his list includes each of us and all of our people. It is a personal list, not a rough calculation; we are each known and named, each called and loved.

In our current state of both exile and captivity, everyone comes with their own anxieties, pressures and concerns. The familiar and the safe, like the ancient walls of Jerusalem, have crumbled around us...

Our own calling as mediators of God's grace is to find the depths of compassion and care given to each of us, and to share those gifts with others. As I read last week. "By practicing solidarity, we will be better placed to face the impact of the pandemic...while relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, who gives us the grace to love and to be compassionate." (Cardinal Philippe Ouedraogo from Burkina Faso)...

...While we cannot physically gather with the assembly of God's people, the Lord is finding his way to us nonetheless. May this be our strength and hope, and the gift that spurs us on....

STAY SAFE
STAY HOME
SAVE LIVES

OUR CHURCH IS CLOSED until further notice

DO NOT FACE THE DAY,
UNTIL YOU HAVE
FACED GOD IN PRAYER

see advice on: www.cam.org.au

Please visit our website at pol.org.au/hadfield for regular updates

PARISH OFFICE—due to Stage 4 Restrictions, the Parish Office will be unattended.
During this period of increased restrictions and for any urgent matters please contact Viviana on 0402 249 117, otherwise you may either phone or email the Parish Office.
Please leave a message on the Parish Office answering machine on 9357 1422 or email us on admin@stmhadfield.org.au. We will attend to your call/email asap.

“GOD SOMETIMES WHISPERS”

There is a story told about a young man and an old preacher. The young man had lost his job and didn't know which way to turn. So he went to see the old preacher. Pacing about the preacher's study, the young man ranted about his problem. Finally, he clenched his fist and shouted, "I've begged God to say something to help me. Tell me, Preacher, why doesn't God answer?"

The old preacher, who sat across the room, spoke something in reply – something so hushed, it was indistinguishable. The young man stepped across the room. "What did you say?" he asked. The preacher repeated himself, but again in a tone as soft as a whisper. So, the young man moved closer until he was leaning on the preacher's chair. "Sorry," he said. "I still didn't hear you." With their heads bent together, the old preacher spoke once more. "God sometimes whispers," he said, "so that we will move closer to hear Him."

This time the young man heard, and he understood. We all want God's voice to thunder through the air with the answer to our problem. But God's is the still, small voice... the gentle whisper. Perhaps there's a reason. Nothing draws human focus quite like a whisper. God's whisper means I must stop my ranting and move close to Him, until my head is bent together with His. Then, as I listen, I will find my answer. Better still, I find myself closer to God.
(<http://frtonyshomilies.com/>)

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop - Feast Day 8 August

"Never see a need without trying to do something about it"



If Saint Mary MacKillop were alive today, she would be a household name, not seeking the limelight, but for simply wanting to serve the poor wherever she found them in her native Australia.

Despite her struggles with Church authorities, Mary MacKillop and her Sisters were able to offer social services that few, if any, government agencies in Australia could. They served Protestants and Catholics alike. They worked among the aborigines. They taught in schools and orphanages and served unmarried mothers.

Money, actually the lack of it, was a constant worry. But the Sisters who begged from door to door, were bolstered by faith and by the conviction that their struggles were opportunities to grow closer to God. By the time Mary was approaching the end of her life, the congregation was thriving. She died in 1909 at the age of 67.

Mary's qualities were many especially faithfulness, generosity, bravery, compassion, holiness, righteousness and her strong will and independence. In 2010, when Pope Benedict XVI canonized her, she became Australia's first saint. (Excerpted from franciscanmedia.org)



Congratulations to a wonderful parishioner and gentleman

Peter Mommsen

celebrating his 90th Birthday this week.

May God bless you with good health, happiness and serenity.

FEASTS DURING THE WEEK

Mon	10 Aug	St Lawrence
Tues	11 Aug	St Clare
Wed	12 Aug	St Jane Frances de Chantal
Thur	13 Aug	Sts Pontian & Hippolytus
Fri	14 Aug	St Maximillian Kolbe
Sat	15 Aug	The Assumption of the BVM

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER.....



THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Pamela di Giorgio, Josie Abela, Carl & Michael Ceddia, Goretty Soares, Joe Asdagi, Maureen Canino

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES:

Ottilia & Gaetano Meli, Sacco Family, Stefano & Anna di Giorgio

