

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 31

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

29th August 2021

Surprised, perhaps, by the turn of events in Afghanistan: the hasty withdrawal, the backlash, and people scurrying for safety. I believe that whatever becomes of the nation, this has succeeded in bolstering the ego of the Taliban. Seldom does a group with extremist posture change because, underlying their motive, is the powerful desire for a Caliphate. It is similar to Nigeria, a country with two visible regions - northern and southern. Amalgamating these two polar opposites in 1914 - each with a different approach to religion, cultural beliefs, sociology, temperament and way of life - by the British was not only evil and selfish, but an "unholy matrimony" steeped in obvious impediments and so was destined to crumble like a cookie. The only solution was instant divorce based on irreconcilable differences, meaning the two regions should exist separately. A civil war broke out from 1967-1970 [the Vietnam war was on and overshadowed everything] and ever since then the two regions have never seen eye to eye despite the pretension towards imaginary unity. And this pretence has led to spates of flaring nerves yearning for closure.

Matters are complicated further when the only mineral resource that the two regions glory in - crude oil - comes from the predominantly Christian south. With the Western world's insatiable appetite for this oil - as companies [Shell, Mobil, Total] drill and spill excesses to pollute the fields and farms of the locals - it is evident that whatever complaints were raised by the Christians of the southern region (known for their loud expression of Christian faith and "happy-clapping" style of worship), about having their own nation-state before 1914 will keep falling on deaf UN, US and British ears. The truth is that the amalgamation of north and south has brought more woes than blessings. Boko Haram, Fulani herders, Islamic state west Africa [ISWAP] - extremist sects are emerging from the North with one purpose in mind; to establish a Caliphate. With this potpourri of local dictators often unchecked, it makes what is happening in Afghanistan a mere sideshow. While penetrating the Christian -dominated South has proved difficult for these groups, the incessant destabilisation of the Northern region by creating panic and pandemonium with an emerging massive human crisis and onward drift to the Southern region could be labelled a tactic of infiltration. Some experts in jihadist trenchant believe it is a possibility, as do some EU nations who think of the movement in the wake of Syrian crisis and now the Taliban seizing power. It is in this terrain I hope to resume my priestly life after here. Although it is not all doom and gloom while people are still existing within the geographical space, ministry can be tough. That's why every support counts for any priest and can be another way of sharing the love of God.

Not all is lost, says the author of the First reading, as he encourages his fellow country people. There is nothing wrong with the word of God. Its value and essence remain intact and what must be avoided is the arbitrary and undue interpretations which seek to undermine its message even when it appears difficult for our human self to accept. This is why we can stand and condemn over-zealous religious practices in the name of God often the result of placing human traditions over and against God's. One can decide to reject the logic of God - love in our heart - but never modify it to suit one's ideologies. At the heart of all this, in the area of morality and religion, is the purity of the human heart, the Gospel says. The heart, unless aflame with the love of Christ can only be lying to itself. There's nothing from the outside that defiles it but rather what comes from the inside - for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks and actions are engineered. So, a religion that is pure and unblemished is the one which cares for people and keep the shenanigans of the world at bay to avoid being corrupted (2nd reading).

Fr Christopher

COVID REMINDER - Don't forget to:

- ✓ Sign in via the Check-in QLD QR Code before entering the church. If you don't have access to Check-In QLD, there is a paper sign-on sheet at the main entrance.
- ✓ Sanitise your hands on entry
- ✓ Wear your mask
- ✓ Try to leave 1.5 metres between yourself and others where possible

Thank you for all you do in helping us to stay safe...and open!

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 *You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.*

2nd Reading: James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27 *Be doers of the word.*

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 *You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.*

Parish News & Notices

**SLEEP IN PEACE TONIGHT.
GOD IS BIGGER THAN
ANYTHING YOU WILL FACE
TOMORROW.**

~ Dave Willis ~

Gospel Focus – The things within

We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors; some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret.

Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person ‘unclean’ – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop.

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StThomasCatholicParishCampHill/](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasCatholicParishCampHill/)**

Office hours

8:30 am - 1:30pm: M/T/Th/F

MASS TIMES:

Sunday Eucharist

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 8.30am

Sunday 5.30pm

Weekday Eucharist

Monday 7.00am

Tuesday 7.00am

Thursday 9.00am

Friday 9.00am

Public Holiday 9.00am

Reconciliation

Contact the Parish Office

Adoration and Benediction

1st Friday After 9am Mass

Anointing of the Sick during Mass

Thursday 9th Sept 2021 @ 10.30am

PARISH TEAM:

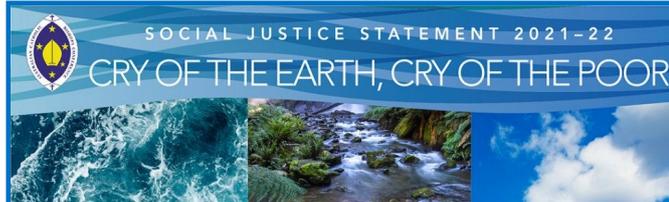
Parish Priest - Fr Christopher Obi
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Children's Ministry Coordinator

Sr Analissa Balderama
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Parish Secretary

Ms Lisa Moroney
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the Poor, invites us to join in responding to Pope Francis' invitation to take a seven-year journey towards total ecological sustainability guided by seven Laudato Si' Goals. The Statement provides theological foundations to ground and inspire our efforts to care for creation while responding to the needs of the disadvantaged and excluded.

More information: ACBC Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace, www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au or Tel (02) 6201 9845.

Social Justice Sunday Sunday 29th of August.

The Australian Bishops' Social Justice Statement, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of*



LAUREL BLOW SPEAKER SERIES # 2

Interested in how we can better embrace reconciliation as a Church?

Come to the next Laurel Blow Speaker Series event Fri 24th September! Dean Parkin (Director, *From the Heart*), will unpack the Uluru Statement **From The Heart** to illuminate the true meaning of the statement and why it is of significance to all Australians.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge, on behalf of Archdiocese of Brisbane, will then publicly endorse the statement, an historic moment for the Church in Brisbane and our relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. This event will include a Welcome to Country, Mass & morning tea. It will be hosted at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, overlooking Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah), Dean Parkin's home and the location of the first Catholic mission to First Nations peoples.

Find out more at tinyurl.com/lblowseries2

We remember in our prayers



The sick: Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Jolanda Villalta, Dan Bishop, Shirley Murphy, Olive Kiely, Sue Douglas, Tom Grant, Lauren Balcombe, Lola Radford, Sonia Mendez, Fr Ron Mollison, Marjorie Cusack, Sue Lamb, Jacob Mu, Megan Bowden, Camel Horn, Fr Ian Wren, Lynn Toon, Shirley Owen

The Recently Deceased: Joe Sherlock, Joan Earl

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Joan Dennis, Arpad (Jack) Glockner, Mary Ellis, Hilda Burke, Elizabeth Ives, Corliss Newman, Terence Sullivan, Dorothy Traynor, Maureen Morrissey, Eulalie Patterson, John Seppanen, Graham Underwood, John Proudfoot, Eileen Dendle, Athol Wild, Lee Hunt, Amy Campbell, Ted Hanns, Bill O'Brien, Helen Bemrose, Fay Gee, Lurlene Kent, Annie Buckley, John Ashwell, Dermott Casey, Margaret Moffat, Peter Riley, Alice Pacey, Lynette Buesel, Diana Calvisi, Lance Fry, Shirley Tessmann, Daphne Waller and Aidan Hunt, Malcolm D'Cruz



Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

to be celebrated by
Archbishop Mark Coleridge

at the
Cathedral of St Stephen
249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane City

Saturday 25th September, 11.30am

the Mass will also be available via live-stream
with invitation extended to family & friends

tickets:
goldenweddinganniversarymass.eventbrite.com.au



SEASON OF CREATION



All are welcome to join
Queensland Churches Environment Network
in celebrating the start of

Season of Creation



Photo: Kylie Facey

St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane
Wednesday 1st September - 7pm

Preacher:

Most Rev Mark Coleridge
Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane

From September 1 to October 4,
Christians around the world celebrate Season of Creation.
The theme for 2021 is "A home for all? Renewing the oikos of God",
oikos is the Greek word for home or household.

For more information contact Jackie Fewtrell: admin@qct.org.au



SEASON OF CREATION

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Going Deeper

an online exploration of the Catholic faith

There is still time to register for Going Deeper 2021.

An initiative of Evangelisation Brisbane, 'Going Deeper' is a 10 session online series of video discussions about the heart of the Catholic faith.

It explores different aspects of what it means to live a Catholic life. Together we will dive beneath the teachings and practices and instead ponder, 'what is this all for?' Here we enter into the wonder and mystery of God's relationship with each of us individually and collectively.

No matter your faith background or experience, Going Deeper is suited for you.

To find out more or to register, go to
www.goingdeeper.org.au

Be blessed and bless others with your gift



Your support provides a safe place to those who need it, you give children living in hardship access to a caring Catholic school community, and you live the Gospel by caring for our elderly priests and educating seminarians who will lead the future Church.

There is still time to make your gift
online catholiccampaign.com.au
or call 07 3324 3200



Is care your calling?



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1300 236 822



Scan QR code to register your interest



The way to Jesus is by trying to be a good person and keep a clean heart. Help the children find their way past the obstacles to Jesus.

