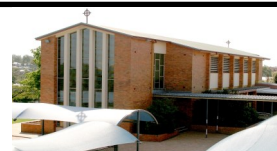


St Thomas the Apostle Parish Camp Hill



No. 4

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

24 January 2021

From *Fr Christopher*

Rainer Maria Rilke was a celebrated German poet. One of his poems, "As Long as You Catch Self-thrown Things," was probably written about 1922. The first few lines read: "As long as you catch what you have thrown yourself, it's all dexterity and venial gain; only when suddenly you become a catcher of the ball, which an eternal team-mate threw to you, to your centre, accurately and in a measured swing, in an arch from the great bridge builder of God; only then one's ability to catch becomes a fortune, not yours, one world."

Here two competing metaphors represent how humans understand their being-in-the-world: one can either catch the ball "one has thrown to oneself" or "a ball thrown by an eternal team-mate." The former is basically subjective in character, which explains how we rely on ourselves, more or less, in understanding our life journey. Often it's a one-sided way of conceiving our experience. But sooner or later, we realize that we are not playing alone but rather, with an eternal player. That is when we see that the proficiency to catch no longer belongs to us but as Rilke says, "one world" -that is, the encompassing belief in the fact that humanity is a family.

From its formal establishment, Australia Day has evolved in meaning and significance. Nowadays, it is our attestation to a very diverse world; the reality of a nation whose landscape is filled with varied community and family. We've recognised in ourselves the richer wide world we cannot divorce ourselves from. As such, "one's ability to catch becomes a fortune, not yours, one world." Our Parish bears testimony to this truth and with a dominant sense of joyful faith. Together we represent the power of communal vision as well as learning from each other to reconcile faith and life. This year we shall consolidate our Parish pastoral life and vision; and more importantly we shall rely more on our volunteers and ministries to make the year 2021 unquestionably fruitful and exciting.

What kind of volunteers or disciples did Jesus choose? The gospel says: *ordinary people chosen from among ordinary people engage in ordinary things, and who in taking up their task, do things in extraordinary manner.* So the appeal for more volunteers cannot be overstated. In other words, by calling us to become "fishers of people," Jesus did not choose us for what we are: we can be whoever; but for what we shall be by God's grace be capable of becoming--- witnesses of the joy of the gospel to those who are around us. Again, a joyful and prosperous 2021 is our prayer, Amen.

COVID UPDATE!

Great News! Thanks to the hard work of our health officials, and public support, **restrictions will be eased** from 1am on 22nd January. That means masks are no longer mandatory in the church and we are now back to one person per 2 square metres. You are still asked to physically distance where possible and are of course welcome to wear a mask if you feel more comfortable, or if it becomes difficult to physically distance. Masks are available in the church.

A full roadmap to the easing of restrictions can be found at :

<https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/government-actions/roadmap-to-easing-queenslands-restrictions>

Please Note:

Tuesday 26th January is a public holiday (Australia Day). Mass will be celebrated at 9am instead of 7am. Also, the Parish Office will be closed on Fri 22nd & Mon 25th January and reopen on Thursday 28th January.

Prayer for Our Country

Almighty God,

Bless our nation and make it true to the ideas of freedom and justice.

Guard us from war, from fire and wind, from compromise, fear and confusion.

Be close to our leaders;

give them vision and courage, as they ponder decisions affecting peace and the future of our world.

Make me more deeply aware of my heritage;

realising not only my rights but also my duties and responsibilities as a citizen.

Make this great land and all its people know clearly Your will,

that they may fulfil the destiny ordained for us in the salvation of the nations, and the restoring of all things in Christ. Amen.



Parish News & Notices

Thank you!

A quick shout out to our parishioners who stayed back after Mass last Sunday to help put away the chairs and crib from Christmas, and to those who have been so great in helping clean the church when asked. It is a true example of the wonderful parishioners we have here at St Thomas' and we appreciate your generosity very much!

Never look down
on anybody
Unless you are
helping him up

~ Jesse Jackson ~



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 *The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.*

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 *The world as we know it is passing away.*

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20 *Repent, and believe the Good News.*



World Day of Prayer
AUSTRALIA

DATE CLAIMER:

The World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on **Friday 5th March** at St James Coorparoo. This year's theme is '*Build on a Strong Foundation*' with the focus on Vanuatu. Watch the newsletter for more details.

Ordinary Time...

After the excitement of the Christmas season, we now find ourselves back in Ordinary Time, a liturgical season which celebrates a very specific time in the life of Jesus. The weeks of Ordinary Time include the miracles, the parables, the calling of the twelve, the sermon on the mount, the bread of life discourse... there is much to celebrate.



Ordinary, in this context, doesn't mean being plain or un-exciting. It comes from the Latin term *ordinalis*, meaning 'numbered' or 'ruled'. This title simply refers to the ongoing and rhythmical nature of the season.

The **liturgical colour** for Ordinary Time is green which represents the time of growth of the Church following the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Green is often a symbol for growth and new life.

Ordinary Time is meant to be lived! Participating in Ordinary Time means participating in the everyday life of Jesus. Here are a few ways you can fully embrace this liturgical season:

- 1. Examine your habits:** If you want your life to change, the first place to look is your habits. A great new habit to start: reading the daily Gospel.
- 2. Gratitude:** Joy always finds its root in gratitude. Try starting each day by thanking God for five ordinary, everyday things.
- 3. Reflection:** Use your imagination to reflect on the daily life of Jesus. Imagine Jesus doing the simple things. Eating, walking, joking with his friends. Praying. Make yourself a bystander to the Gospel stories in your imagination.

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Office hours

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PARISH TEAM:

Parish Priest - Fr Christopher Obi
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Children's Ministry Coordinator
Sr Analissa Balderama at
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Parish Secretary
Ms Lisa Moroney
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Updating Prayers for the Sick

We would love to update our prayers for the sick list, remove any names that may have happily recovered and of course add anyone who may be in need. If you wouldn't mind taking a minute to check the list below and advising the parish of any changes via email at stthomas@bne.catholic.net.au it would be appreciated. Thank you.



We remember in our prayers

The sick: Joan Scott, Humberto Villalta, Nes Mustafa, Joan Burlew, Jolanda Villalta, Dan Bishop, Shirley Murphy, Olive Kiely, Sue Douglas, Tom Grant, Lauren Balcombe, Fr Ted Houlihan, Lola Radford, Sonia Mendez, Fr Ron Mollison, Cletus Obi, Mark, Marjorie Cusack, Joe Sherlock, Sue Lamb, Peter Owen, Jacob Mu, Annette Bongiorno

Recently Deceased: Mig Watkins

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Desmond Neave, Norma Lucas, Mervyn Scanlan, Pauline De Leacy, James Brown, Margaret Jones, Ellen Clarke, Mervyn Dean, Dorothy O'Brien, Florence Harris, Kevin Gee, Leo Burton, Vivian Aguila, Kenneth Russell, Norm White, Andrew Fleming, Maud Shannon, Olive Dean, Charlotte Gordon, Evelina Puntill, Thomas Mackenzie, Lea Trainor, Glen Carter, John Barker, Leo Ryan, Dennis Scott, Catherine Goodwin, Filippa Zammit, Russell Fitzpatrick, Ernest Swan, Ronald Henry, Ronald Ellis, Victoria Mercie, Tim O'Neil, Mary Hall, Myra Dickson, Teresa Simento, William 'Bill' Spamm, Josephine Podesta and Bruce McCormack.