



Tea Tree Gully Parish - St David's Catholic Church

Incorporating - Our Lady of Hope Chapel - Greenwith

8264 4694

Under the care of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

email: secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au

22nd May 2022



The Ascension - Year C

Readings next weekend Pentecost Yr C: Acts 2:1-11, 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13, Jn 20:19-23

NAMING THE PRESENT MOMENT - SOME METAPHORS TO DIGEST

Not everything can be fixed or cured, but it should be named properly. Richard Rohr said that. James Hillman suggests something similar when he wrote that *a symptom suffers most when it doesn't know where it belongs.*

Where does our present moment belong vis-à-vis our faith in God and the relevance of our churches? Are we post-Christian? Are we witnessing the death of God and our churches? Or, is our faith being purified by the very criticisms levelled against it and, despite a massive decline in church attendance, aren't the churches making genuine moral progress on issues like racism, sexism, and social justice in general? Are we dying or maturing? How do we name our present moment?

By way of an answer, I would like simply to offer a series of "metaphors" gleaned from various commentators that attempt a naming. Some of these seemingly contradict each other, but all of them merit some thought. I leave them for you to digest.

1. *Faith is a spent project!* In essence, that's the view of the Enlightenment thinkers, classically expressed in persons like Nietzsche, Freud, Feuerbach, and Marx, who suggest that faith and belief in God are something you eventually outgrow, like belief in Santa and the Easter Bunny. This belief was needed for a time, but it's something we outgrow when we lose our naiveté. God and the churches have had their time in history, and that day is over. Today, this is the belief (or unacknowledged fear) of millions.
2. *Our world is still in diapers!* Pierre Teilhard de Chardin suggests that far from faith being a spent project, it's only in its infancy stage. In an evolutionary view of history and faith, we are still a world in diapers, emerging from the crib. Faith is far from spent! We are just beginning!
3. *A post-Christian West!* That was the view of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger before he became pope. Interestingly, he never asserted it again explicitly after he became pope, namely, that the secularized world, particularly in North America and Western Europe, is now "post-Christian".
4. *Faith in the secularized world is suffering a certain noonday fatigue!* This is an image offered by Thomas Halik. In his view, faith and the churches aren't dying; they are merely suffering "acedia", the "noon-day devil", the fatigue that the early Christian desert writers told us could afflict even the most committed believers.
5. *We are experiencing a crisis of the imagination, not of faith and fidelity.* The conditions of belief have changed radically and our imaginations haven't caught up. This is the view of the renowned philosopher on secularity, Charles Taylor. For him, as believers today we are pioneers, struggling to learn how to live in a (faith) country that we and no one else has ever before inhabited. Small wonder we are struggling.
6. *Secular culture is the adolescent child of Judeo-Christianity and in its adolescent grandiosity our culture sees only its parents' faults.* This is the view of the popular spiritual writer Kathleen Norris and is echoed by Yale philosopher Louis Dupre. As Norris puts it, if you want to visualize the relationship between our secular world and Christianity, watch how a seventeen year-old teenager who is out of sorts with her parents interrelates with them. To this, Dupre adds that grandiose adolescents aren't bad, they just aren't finished growing.
7. *Secularity is a fantasy indulged in by intellectuals.* For ordinary people there are divine whispers behind every door. In real life, religion of some sort is unavoidable. This from French philosopher Chantal Delsol.
8. *Like Jonah, we are in the belly of the whale.* This is one of Richard Rohr's preferred namings. Inside our contemporary doubt and confusion, God is taking us through a darkness to where we need to be.

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9. *Christian vision in the West is the residue of a former seeing, before suffering a detached retina.* This from Walter Kasper. His idea: if someone is born blind, he will not have visual images of outside objects inside of him. However, if someone goes blind sometime in life, he will retain the images of what he once saw, even though he is no longer seeing them. As Christians, we are living too much off past images, and no longer seeing directly with the eyes of faith.

10. *We need "The Benedict Option".* This from Rod Dreher. Heavily secularized culture is asphyxiating our faith. What's needed to save and nurture it is the "Benedict option". Like the great monastic founder, St. Benedict, those of us with a committed faith need to pull away from a culture that is eroding our faith and live out our faith in a "monastic" way, namely by withdrawing and building new kinds of "monasteries" within which to live out our faith and raise our children. Eventually, as has happened before, the world will come to us seeking help and meaning.

Who's right? What best names both our symptoms and our moment? There is something to digest in each of these images.

Fr Ron Rohleiser OMI

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Liturgy Only, will take place on Saturday 4th June at 10am and 2pm.

The celebrant will be Bishop Greg O'Kelly.

Due to Confirmation taking place, there will be **NO MORNING MASS on this Saturday 4th June**

First Communion will take place on Saturday 18th June at 10am and 2pm.

Once again, there will be **NO MORNING MASS** on this Saturday, however you are welcome to attend either 10am or 2pm Mass if you wish. These Masses do not replace the weekend Mass.

Parish Group Update

The Gospel Group was initiated by Sue Rivet some 30-35 years ago.

It is a friendly & caring group that comes together to get a deeper understanding of our Sunday Mass Readings.

The Readings are the centre of our discussion, and we also have a set Program that explains more fully each Reading.

We also offer support to each other on our Spiritual Faith Journey.

Meetings are held every Tuesday, in the Gerard Room from 10 - 12noon.

All are most welcome. For further information contact Pat 0451 550 880.

ARCHDIOCESE NEWS

Walking In the Spirit - National Prayer Pilgrimage

People across the country are invited to participate in a national prayer pilgrimage as the Catholic Church in Australia prepares for the Second Assembly of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia in Sydney from July 3-9.

We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and grace for the members who will gather and also for ourselves and the Church, that we may have the courage to follow where God is leading us. For more information visit

www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/walkinginthespirit

Caritas Australia Ukraine Appeal

Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground providing shelter, food, clean water, medicine and psychological support. Donate now to help the people of Ukraine www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free. Keep up to date on how Caritas agencies are responding to this crisis www.caritas.org.au/ukraine-news

DIARY DATES REMINDER NO MASS NEXT SATURDAY MORNING 4TH JUNE - DUE TO CONFIRMATIONS

Each weekend during May—as you enter the church, please fill out the Mass Count slips, which will be at the entrances. This is the last weekend.

Next Weekend is Pentecost Sunday - **We invite all parishioners to wear a touch of red to Mass** to celebrate the Birth of the Church.

Sacramental Meeting for Confirmation - Monday 30th May at 6pm in the church

PPC Meeting - Thursday 2nd June at 7.30pm

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP

CHURCH CLEANERS

We need cleaners for cleaning the church for 1 hour every 5th week. Please consider becoming a cleaner. Many cleaning jobs are needed each week. Contact Denise for more information. New rosters are due in June.

WASHING OF LINEN USED AT MASS

Once a week the dirty linen used at each Mass is collected taken home and washed. If you would like to be involved in this ministry just one month per year, please contact Denise to have your name placed onto the roster.

COUNTERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY COUNTING

If you can help with this ministry once every 5th week before 10.30am Mass, please contact Denise or Regina Cunningham.

MINISTERS ROSTER FOR ST DAVID'S CHURCH

New rosters have been emailed. If you did not receive an email please collect a roster from the foyer.

Thank you



Saint David's
PARISH SCHOOL

Dear Parish Families,

Saint David's Parish School is a Catholic School in the Josephite Tradition catering for students from Reception to Year 6 in a co-educational setting.

We are currently finalising Reception enrolments for 2023 and accepting enrolments for 2024. We also offer a mid-year intake for those children who turn five between 1 May and 31 October. We welcome all applications for enrolment from families and friends within the Tea Tree Gully Parish.

Please contact the school office on 8360 6300 or visit www.stdavids.catholic.edu.au/enrolments to download an Application for Enrolment, book a School Tour or find out about our popular Playgroup sessions (9.00am-10.30am every Tuesday).



The De Mazenod Family team is wanting to hear about your "Moments of Grace". Times where you might have felt a sense of God, a moment when you felt unexpected help in a difficult situation, or a time of particular reassurance or closeness to God. Or a sunset, or a baby's first smile, or a friend's hug that made you think of God's love. We would love to hear about it! In sharing these moments with others, we give examples of the ways in which a mostly invisible and intangible God, can become a little clearer, and a bit more accessible to us. These shared moments help us to remember that, yes, God is present even when we don't always feel God's presence. We invite you to write a brief account online <https://forms.office.com/r/bqziEkDZ9Z> or on paper/email and send to 649 Burke Road Camberwell 3124 or ncandappa@omi.com.au. Send it (anonymously or named) by 23 June 2022 and we will collate it into a booklet, so we can help each other to grow in faith. Forms available from the foyer.

TEA TREE GULLY PARISH

Parish Office Phone: 8264 4694 Email: secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au Web Page: <https://www.stdavidsttg.org.au>

Church Office & Presbytery: 2-4 Vizard Rd, Tea Tree Gully 5091 [facebook.com/ttgparish](https://www.facebook.com/ttgparish)

Our Lady of Hope Chapel: Cnr Golden Way & Golden Grove Rd, Greenwith. Contact via St David's Parish Office

STAFF

Priest: Fr James Jeyachandran OMI - PP (jamesjeya.omi@gmail.com)

Office Manager/Secretary - Denise Crawford - secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au

Church Sacristan - David Reynolds - contact via Parish Office

Child Safe Contacts: St David's Church - Amanda Bartels - contact 0414255458 or Parish Office

OLOH - Leah Tunks - contact 0431049947 or Parish Office

MASS TIMES

St David's Church Rosary - 8.50am daily

Weekday Mass times: Mon-Liturgy with Communion Mass Tuesday - Saturday 9.15am

Weekend Mass times: Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm Sunday 7.00am & 10.30am

Our Lady of Hope Chapel: Sunday 9.00am

Reconciliation: Saturday morning after Morning Mass and Saturday evening from 5pm - 5.20pm.

Exposition: first Saturday of the month after morning Mass

Baptism: 12 noon Sundays at St David's Church - By appointment only - contact Parish Office

Marriages: by Appointment only - contact Parish Office 6 months prior to date.



We are a 'Child Safe'
Organisation

Mass Intentions for week commencing 28 May

Saturday 28: 9.15am - Michael & family members - RIP

5.30pm -

Sunday 29: 7.00am -

9.00am - Victoria Matloob -RIP

10.30am -

Monday 30: 9.15am -

Tuesday 31: 9.15am - Michael & family members -RIP

Wednesday 1: 9.15am -

Thursday 2: 9.15am -

Friday 3: 9.15am -

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

Rosemary Penniford, Rowan Williams, John Williams, Trish Read
Judith Murray, Eva Pawliszewski, Emma Richards, Mary Howie,
Ron Foenander, Emily Budd, Pauline Read, Gloria Grew,
Michelle Furlan, Jane Banning, Tony Hollyman, Alana Brosolo,
Debbie Glover, Ros Rimmer, Julina Farrugia

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES

Rita O'Donnell, Alice Rivett, Ronald Orams, George Hart, George
Foreshaw, Fr T Hipwell OMI, Thelma Hawkshaw, Patricia
Templeton, Min McNulty, Anna Lysy, Monica Walker, Albert
Harrison, Martienus Brink, Patricia burton, Celia Walker, Elizabeth
Saleeba, Andy L'Estrange

Cleaners Roster: 1-3 June - Group 4

please come to the Parish Office to collect keys before you commence.

Linen for June - A McGuiness

Counting Roster: Next Weekend -5/6- Group 1

Baptisms: 29th May

Louis Paolo Olds, son of Benjamin & Adele

Violet Elizabeth Schiller, daughter of Scott & Rachel



Vinnie's TTG Conference.

Food requirements: Tinned Meat & Veg, Pasta Sauce, Tinned Soup, Rice, Spreads

Every day, Vinnies workers and volunteers deliver aid to people unable to find secure and adequately paid work, and they witness the financial pressure and emotional toll this puts on them and their families. Vinnies assists people who are unemployed or underemployed by conducting home visits and helping with food and utility bills. The St Vincent de Paul Society envisions an Australia that prides itself on its strong sense of justice and compassion. They aim to stand in solidarity with people who are living in poverty and experiencing disadvantage. They also strive to bring about greater awareness of the structural issues that give rise to inequality, for example, high unemployment, a weak social safety net and unfair tax structures. If you want to learn more about Vinnies involvement, you can access their website at vinnies.org.au/page/Our_Impact/Incomes_Support_Cost_of_Living/

