



Tea Tree Gully Parish - St David's Catholic Church

Incorporating - Our Lady of Hope Chapel - Greenwith

Under the care of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

email: secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au

8264 4694



30th January, 2022

4th Sunday Ordinary Time - Year C

Readings next weekend 5th SOT Yr C: Is 6:1-8, 1 Cor 15:1-11, Lk 5:1-11

MAKING LOVE WITH THE DIVINE

Kabir, a fifteenth-century Hindu mystic, writes:

What you call 'salvation' belongs to the time before death.

If you don't break your ropes while you're alive,

do you think

ghosts will do it after?

What is found now is found then.

If you find nothing now,

you will simply end up with an apartment in the City of Death.

If you make love with the divine now, in the next life you will have

the face of satisfied desire.

To make love with the divine. I suspect most of us will picture that as a warm, privatized, affective intimacy, the way we imagine romantic love, except here the other partner is God. Indeed, Christian mystical literature abounds with images of this kind, as does the Gospel of John. There's nothing wrong with that, except that such a conception is over-idealized and over-privatized. Making love with the divine, if Jesus is to be believed, is something more assessable and more communal than our affective image of intimacy.

How do we make love with the divine in this life? I have always taught that there are four non-negotiables to Christian discipleship: *moral fidelity in our private lives, a commitment to social justice, some involvement within ecclesial community, and a mellow, gracious heart.* We make love to the divine by living out these in our lives.

To make this more assessable, let me suggest that making love with the divine in this life asks *ten* things of us.

1. A moral fidelity in our private lives

Scripture tells us that those who love God keep his commandments and those who say they love him but don't keep his commandments are liars. Moreover, it tells us that we are inside a body within which even our most private actions affect everyone else. We make love with the divine by not having any dark, hidden secrets.

2. An effort to live out our lives inside of community

We are called to live our lives and come to God inside of a community. We cannot make love with God alone. It's always God, others, and ourselves. When we stand before God in judgment, as Charles Peguy suggests, we will be asked, "Where are the others?" Making love with the divine means being both spiritual and religious.

3. A mellow heart that radiates gratitude and forgiveness

Like the older brother of the prodigal son, we can do all the right things, but with the wrong energy. We make love with God by fueling ourselves with gratitude rather than bitterness, and by forgiving others (and God) for life's unfairness and all the things that have wounded us.

4. A proactive reaching out to the poor and a perennial concern for justice to the world

We cannot make love with God inside an intimacy that does not also take in the poor and the broken. Likewise, we cannot make love with God when we are indifferent to injustice. As Jesus makes clear, a private personal relationship with God never compensates for indifference to the poor and to injustice.

5. A life lived in truth which refuses to lie no matter how inconvenient

To make love with the divine is to live in the truth. Satan is the prince of lies. The single most dangerous thing we can do spiritually is to refuse to acknowledge what is true, and the single most important way we make love with God is never to lie.

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6. *A childlikeness that never falls into the illusion of self-sufficiency*

Life may never be taken for granted, but only as granted. We make love to the divine by never living the illusion of self-sufficiency, by acknowledging always that life is gift and that we are dependent and interdependent with others and with God.

7. *A perennial effort to love those who hate us, to not give back in kind*

We make love with the divine whenever we love those who hate us, bless those who curse us, and forgive those who hurt us. This is its very essence.

8. *A heart open to all*

God's eternal banquet table is open to everyone who is willing to sit down with everyone. Since God loves everyone, we make love with the divine by sharing God's universal embrace.

9. *An habitual openness to let God's energy flourish within our lives*

We make love with the divine by letting God's energy flourish through our lives, namely, when we let the divine energy inside us be joyous and generative so as to radiate life no matter what cards we are dealt.

10. *A willingness to wait, to live in patience*

We make love with the divine whenever we accept to live in patience, to wait for life and love to unfold according to their own inner dictates. We make love to the divine whenever we carry healthily the tension of chastity, not just in the area of sexuality, but also in all areas of life.

The prophet Micah puts all of this succinctly: *act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly.*

Fr Ron Rohleiser OMI



Vinnie's TTG Conference.

People's Choice Community Lottery as a fund raiser. Main Draw ticket sales close 24th February, 2022 and prizes drawn 3rd March 2022. All tickets go into the main draw. With the spread of ticket sales this means that you can buy a few tickets each week or fortnight or whatever suits your budget.

To purchase tickets online:

Go to **'People's Choice Community Lottery'**

Click **'Prizes'** to view the complete prize lists—click on **'Buy Tickets'** Scroll down and click on **'Church'**

Click on **'St Vincent de Paul—Tea Tree Gully Conference'**

Purchase your tickets.

“To begin 2022, we can reflect on the life of Frederic Ozanam, the founder of the St Vincent de Paul Society. Frederic lived from 1813 to 1853, a mere forty years. He lived an extraordinary life, witnessed three major revolutions and several minor revolutions and the conservatives' reign of terror.

On his twentieth birthday, Frederic and five other students gathered at the house of their patron Emmanuel Bailly to form a small private association devoted to works of Christian charity. This 'Conference of Charity' held its first formal meeting a few weeks later and was soon to become the St Vincent de Paul Society. Frederic and his companions visited the poor in their own homes, bringing wood and coal for fuel, using funds raised from their own donations. This was real charity. The people that Victor Hugo would later immortalise in *Les Miserables* were well known to Frederic and his companions. "

Reference: John Honner (2007): *Love and Politics. The Revolutionary Frederic Ozanam.* David Lovell Publishing, Melbourne, Australia.

Ruth Davey, President TTG Conference – contact via parish office

DIARY DATES - note: all meetings are held in St David's Church Foyer

Liturgy Meeting: Monday 31st January at 7pm in foyer.

Gospel Discussion: Resumes Tuesday 1st February in the Gerard Room at 10am. All are welcome to join this group.

St Vincent de Paul Meeting: Wednesday 2nd February at 7pm in foyer.

PPC Meeting: Thursday 3rd Feb at 7.30pm in foyer.

Exposition & Benediction: Saturday 5th February after morning Mass

R.E. Classes for State School Children: Change of Date: Commence Thursday 24th Feb in Gerard Room at 3.45pm

LENTEN PROGRAM 2022 - 'Remember' Wollongong Diocese

Time to think about Lent and if you would like to either order a book for your personal use or if you would like to have a 'group' either at the church or in your home. Books need to be ordered in the next 2 weeks. Books will be \$7 and triple CD's or Digital Download available for additional \$8. Please contact Denise at the Parish Office on 8264 4694 or email: secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au. Not available Tuesdays.

Trestle Tables for Sale.

At OLOH there are quite a few very good quality trestle tables that are for sale. Extremely good condition will sell for \$35. Any damaged tables will sell for a donation. If you wish to purchase or look at these tables to decide if you would like one, please contact Wasyl 0421 697 422



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction - next Saturday, the 5th February, after morning Mass until the end of Reconciliation.

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." St. Augustine.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event of an emergency please follow directions of the Parish Priest, reader or commentator who shall act as the Chief Warden and take control of the emergency response. The collectors shall assist as wardens.

When directed to evacuate the church/office/hall:

- Move quickly and orderly to the nearest safe exit, do not run;
- If required, provide assistance to disabled persons and the elderly;
- Alert the Chief Warden / Warden if someone is unable or unwilling to evacuate
- Proceed to the designated assembly area on lawn at front of St David's Church, and School Car Park at OLOH, and await further instructions from the Chief Warden or emergency services;
- Do not re-enter any buildings until advised by the Chief Warden or emergency services

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

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 & COVID Marshal - Denise Crawford - secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au

Church Sacristan & COVID Marshal - David Reynolds - contact via Parish Office

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

OLOH - Leah Tunks & COVID Marshal- contact 0431049947 or Parish Office

MASS TIMES

St David's Church	Weekday Mass times:	Monday - Saturday 9.15am	Rosary - 8.50am daily
	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 29 January

Saturday 29: 9.15 am - Slota family -RIP

5.30pm - Jean Guinan -RIP

Sunday 30: 7.00am - Pawliszewski family -RIP

9.00am - Holy Souls

10.30am - Luigi DiFava -RIP

Monday 31: 9.15am - Mirella Furlan - Birthday

Tuesday 1: 9.15am -

Wednesday 2: 9.15am - Michael & family members -RIP

Thursday 3: 9.15am - Holy Souls

Friday 4: 9.15am - Cesare Rulla -RIP

Website News www.stdavidsttg.org.au

Mass now live-streamed

The Sunday 10:30am Mass at St. David's is now **live-streamed** on our own **YouTube Channel**.

If you are unable to attend Mass you can participate from home (or wherever you may be). All Masses are kept on our channel, so you can watch previous weeks too if you wish.

To access the stream, go to our website and then click on the YouTube menu option.

NOTE : The area covered by the stream is the whole Sanctuary and the first 5 rows centre of church.

Send suggestions for improvement to web page

timknight1952@bigpond.com

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

Malcolm & Trish Read, John King, Ros Rimmer, Rosemary Penniford, Rowan Williams, John Williams, Brian Taylor, Eva Pawliszewski, Emma Richards, Mary Howie, Ron Foenander, Tony Callus, Emily Budd, Pauline Read, Pauline DiBrenni

Baptisms:

Stefan Thomas Skinner, son of Brandon & Sophie

Cleaners Roster: 1-3 February - Group 2

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

Linen for February - Vonnie Moffat

Counting Roster: Next Weekend -6/2 - Group 4

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES

Jane Guinan, Thomas Carty, Laurel Mickan, Ron Heap, Kingsley Hall, Norman Glenn, Cecilia McPherson, Mrs J Kilroy, Patrick Burke, William Ayres Louisa Thomas, Edward Kessner, Brenda Atkins

R.I.P.

John Erickson, husband of Wendy.

Funeral Serviced at St David's on Monday 31 Jan at 1pm

Jenny Heldna Passed 23rd January.

Funeral Mass Tuesday 1st Feb at 11am at St David's.

Assunta Centofanti, mother of Cos and Rita.

Sympathy to all families and friends of recently deceased members of our parish.

Our Parish is a Child Safe Organisation: To find out more about our child safe policies and procedures please contact the Parish Office or the Archdiocesan Child Protection Unit on 8210 8159