



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: pp@stdavidsttg.org.au

4th February 2024



Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time Yr B

Readings next weekend 6th Sunday— Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46, 1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1, Mark 1:40-45

Breaking Faith with Each Other

Is this new or are we just more aware of it? Hatred and contempt are everywhere. They are in our government houses, in our communities, in our churches, and in our families. We are struggling, mostly without success, to be civil with each other, let alone to respect each other. Why? Why is this happening and intensifying?

Moreover, on both sides, we are often justifying this hatred on moral grounds, even biblical grounds, claiming that the Gospel itself gives us grounds for our disrespect – *My truth is so right and you are so wrong that I can disrespect you and I have biblical grounds to hate you!*

Well, even a cursory look at scripture should be enough to enable us to see this for what it is; rationalization, self-interest, and the farthest thing from Jesus.

Let's begin with something already taught long before Jesus. In the Jewish scriptures, we already find this text: "I have made you contemptible and base before all the people, since you do not keep my ways, *but show partiality in your decisions*. Have we not all the one Father? Has not the one God created us? Why do we break faith with one another?" (Malachi 2,8-10) Long before Jesus, Jewish spirituality already demanded that we be fair and never show partiality. However, it still gave us permission to hate our enemies and to take revenge when we have been wronged – "an eye for an eye".

Jesus turns this on its head. Everywhere in his person and in his teaching, most explicitly in the Sermon on the Mount, he challenges us in a radically new way, telling us that, if we want to go to heaven, our virtue needs to go deeper than that of the Scribes and the Pharisees. What was their virtue?

The Scribes and Pharisees of his time were very much like the church-going Christians of our time. They were sincere, essentially honest, basically good people, who kept the commandments and practiced strict justice. But, according to Jesus, that isn't enough. Why? If you are a sincere person who is honest, keeps the commandments, and is fair to everyone, what's still missing? What's still missing lies at the very heart of Jesus' moral teaching, namely, *the practice of a love and forgiveness that goes beyond hatred and grievance*. What exactly is this?

In justice and fairness, you are still entitled to hate someone who hates you and to extract an appropriate vengeance on someone who has wronged you. However, Jesus asks something else of us: "*You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. ... If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*" (Matthew 5, 43-48)

This is the very essence of Christian morality. Can you love someone who hates you? Can you do good to someone who wishes you evil? Can you forgive someone who has wronged you? Can you forgive a murderer? It's this, and not some particular issue in moral theology, which is the litmus test for who is a Christian and who isn't. Can you love someone who hates you? Can you forgive someone who has hurt you? Can you move beyond your natural proclivity for vengeance?

Sadly, today we are failing that test on both sides of the ideological and religious spectrum. We see this everywhere – from the highest levels of government, from high levels in our churches, and in public and private discourse everywhere, that is, people openly espousing disrespect, division, hatred, and vengeance – and trying to claim the moral high ground in doing this. Major politicians speak openly and explicitly about hating others and about exacting revenge on those who oppose them. Worse still, churches and church leaders of every kind are lining up behind them and giving them "Gospel" support for their espousal of hatred and vengeance.

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This needs to be named and challenged: *anyone who is advocating division, disrespect, hatred, or revenge is antithetical to Jesus and the Gospels. As well, anyone supporting such a person by an appeal to Jesus, the Gospels, or authentic morality, is also antithetical to Jesus and the Gospels.*

God is love. Jesus is love enfleshed. Disrespect, hatred, division, and revenge may never be preached in God's or Jesus' name, no matter the cause, no matter the anger, no matter the wrong. This doesn't mean that we cannot have disagreements, spirited discussions, and bitter debates. But disrespect, hatred, division, and revenge (no matter how deeply they may in fact be felt inside us) may not be advocated in the name of goodness and Jesus. Division, disrespect, hatred, and vengeance are the Anti-Christ.

Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI

DIOCESAN NEWS

Walk for Life The Walk for Life will take place Saturday February 10 at Pennington Gardens, opposite St Peter's Cathedral, North Adelaide, commencing at 10am

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School Millicent – 125 Year Celebration Please join us for St Anthony's 125th-year birthday celebrations at our Beginning of Year Mass and Opening Ceremony on Wednesday, February 7. The event will commence with Mass at 9:15 am at St Alphonsus Church, followed by a birthday celebration at back at St Anthony's Catholic Primary School. Back at school, we will have a lovely morning tea with a birthday cake, tours with school captains, and the opportunity to mix and mingle with special guests. We warmly invite everyone and look forward to seeing you there. Please call the school office on 8733 3479 for further information. For catering purposes please RSVP by Friday, February 2, to teodc@sta.catholic.edu.au

Public Rosary – Praying the Rosary for Peace First Saturday of every month. You are invited to join Our Lady and pray the Rosary outdoors, together united, to pray for peace in Mary MacKillop Plaza (adjacent to St Francis Xavier's Cathedral) at 8.40am (after the 8am Mass). All welcome. For more information please contact: Mr Patrick Greenrod – Legion of Mary – 0414 769 635

Our Lady of Lourdes Mass Saturday February 10 at 10am in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral Each year, on World Day of the Sick a Mass is offered for those who are of ill health. This year Lourdes Day falls on a Sunday therefore, it will be celebrated on the Saturday. All are welcome to receive a blessing and anointing. For more information please contact Archdiocesan Events on (08) 8210 8106 or events@adelaide.catholic.org.au

Fringe Festival 2024 - Pipe Organ Recitals at the Cathedral of St Francis Xavier February 21, 1pm: Amir Robin-Karas February 25, 1pm: Festival of Hymns by James Lloyd February 28, 1pm: Jacinta Jakovcevic March 6, 1pm: Graham Bell March 17, 1pm: Young Organists

MISSIONARY OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE (OMI)

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE DIACONATE ORDINATION

Of

Br LUAN HA OMI

— by —

MOST REV. MARK EDWARD OMI DD

FRIDAY
16 FEBRUARY 2024
7PM MASS

ST JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH
23 POLICE ROAD, MULGRAVE VIC 3170

Refreshments to follow in the Hall
Please, RSVP for catering purposes by 10th February 2024 to lha@oblates.com.au or 0432 503 398

DIARY DATES

1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH GARDENING GROUP

Monday 5th February at 10am in Memorial Garden. Please bring some cutting tools with you.

DE MAZENOD FAMILY GATHERING -

Monday 5th February at 6pm with shared supper

CELEBRATION OF FR JAMES 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

This will take place next Sunday (11th February) after the 10.30am Mass. Please bring a small plate of shared savory food to place on the table to have a luncheon with Fr James. There will be an Anniversary Cake supplied.

ASH WEDNESDAY - 14th February

Morning Mass at 9.15am with Saint David's School and evening Mass at 7pm

WIDOW/ERS MASS

Thursday 15th February at 11am with shared lunch

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

1st March at 1.30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1215 Grand Junction Rd, Hope Valley (Lutheran Homes)

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY - 30 YEARS ORDINATION OF PRIEST HOOD

The Parish of Tea Tree Gully will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Ordination for Fr James.

- On the weekend of 3rd and 4th of February, (this weekend) we will take up a special collection for Fr James at all Masses.
- On Sunday 11th February, after the 10.30am Mass, we will have a shared morning tea/lunch in the foyer of St David's Church. We ask that you please bring a small plate of shared savory food to celebrate with Fr James. This will be your acknowledgement of the wonderful work that Fr James has done for the parish. Please feel free to bring your own drink and perhaps a glass on the day.

Children's Liturgy February 2024

St David's Church at 10:30 am - 4th and 25th February

OLOH at 9:00 am - 18th February

If anyone is interested in becoming a leader, please contact Amanda Bartels by email - gfdb@bigpond.net.au with your contact details.

CHILDREN'S/YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHOIR

If you would like to join the children's/young people's choir, Parents, please email - Amanda Bartels gfdb@bigpond.net.au with your contact details.

ALTAR SERVERS

If your child has received their First Communion and Confirmation and would like to serve at Mass, please contact Fr James.

LENT BEGINS with ASH WEDNESDAY—14TH FEBRUARY

LENTEN BOOKS are now available for purchase from the Parish Office—\$8 each.



De Mazenod Family Monthly Gathering

Meeting Monday 5th February. Join us for a shared meal/fellowship, in a relaxed environment. After sharing a simple meal and friendly conversation, we get to learn more about St Eugene De Mazenod, the Founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate—our Parish Priests.

We meet on the first Monday of each month from 6-8pm in the church foyer. We are planning additional 'Get Togethers' throughout the year at other times for those who cannot come Monday evenings. Keep watching for updates in the Bulletin. This is an open invitation to everyone in our Parish. For further information—Joan 0407441126

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

Priests: Fr James Jeyachandran OMI - Parish Priest (pp@stdavidsttg.org.au)
Fr Joshua Nash OMI—Assistant Priest (jnash@omi.com.au)

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 **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: 11am Saturdays at St David's Church - By appointment only - contact Parish Office



We are a 'Child Safe'
Organisation

Mass Intentions and Feast Days for week commencing

3 February 2024

Saturday 3: 9.15am - Lino Geogan -RIP (100th Birthday)

5.30pm: Ewa Pawliszewski -RIP

Sunday 4: 7am: Annaya Silva RIP

9am: for the people of the parish

10.30am - Thanksgiving from Tharindhi, Tikiri & Juan

Monday 5: St Agatha 9.15am -

Tuesday 6: St Paul Miki 9.15am - Francis Chan & Anna Yap -RIP

Wednesday 7: 9.15am - 19 Wedding Anniversary of Amila & Roshan

Thursday 8: 9.15am: Prayer Book Intentions

Friday 9: 9.15am - Jenni Zupp—Birthday

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

names are on the list for a short period, unless parish is notified

John Williams, Judith Murray, Ros Rimmer, Bob Culshaw, Gloria Grew, Ron & Clare Cashin, Sally Perry, James Perry, Pauline Read, Brenda Crawford, Colleen Wallace, George and Mary Willcox

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES

William Ayres, Louisa Thomas, Edward Kessner, Brenda Atkins, Ronald Parker, Joan Saxon, Michael O'Brien Patricia & James Curley, Denis Walker, Janet Sloman, Frank Reno, Gwen Just, Doreen Byrne, Merta Hunt, James McAlister, Trevor Crilly, Miriam McCluskey



Vinnie's TTG Conference.

FOOD ITEMS REQUIRED: RICE, TINNED CORN, SUGAR, TINNED BEETROOT

This week we had our first meeting for 2024 and prepared for what we expect to be a very busy year.

Our Vinnies Conference provides people in immediate crisis with food, clothing, furniture and other everyday essential. We also help with bills, provide a friendly face to listen and refer as needed to other helpful services.

If you, or anyone you know, needs help don't hesitate to call the Vinnies Help Line on 1300 729 202 between 9am and 1 pm Monday to Friday.

We couldn't do this work without your continuing support by way of prayer and donations of non-perishable goods, so thank you.

Wasim Saman, *President TTG Conference*

Cleaners Roster: Feb 7-9 - Group 3

please come to the Parish Office to collect keys

Linen for February— M Perry

please take dirty linen, at least twice per week

Counting Roster: Next Weekend -11/2- Group 4

Morning Tea Hosts: Feb 11th

St David's - Francis & Charles and help required for

Fr James Anniversary Luncheon.

OLOH -



Recycling Bin at side of church, Vizard Rd side. Please place your bottles, cans, fruit box, and any tetra packs under one litre, into this bin. Proceeds help the needy of the parish.