LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Ez 33:7-9
If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2,6-9, R. v.8
(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: Rom 13:8-10
Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Gospel Acclamation: 2 Cor 5:19
Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Mt 18:15-20
If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Memorial Acclamation:
We proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

Reflection by Richard Leonard

When couples who are going to be married in the Church come to see me for the first time I get them to fill out a brief questionnaire. The last two questions on the form ask:

‘What do you like best about your partner?’
‘What do you like best about yourself?’

The first question usually presents no problems, although it can hold a few surprises and sometimes a playful punch if the right answer is not forthcoming!

The second question seems to present all sorts of difficulties, especially for prospective grooms. Some of us find it hard to name the God-given qualities we value most in our character. Some couples try to pass it off; ‘That’s for others to say’ or, ‘I don’t want to blow my own trumpet.’ Others try to dismiss the question as being new age or trendy.

But the question does, in fact, cut to the heart of both today’s second reading and Gospel. ‘You must love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ We cannot say in the same breath, ‘I hate myself, but I am a good Christian.’ For St Paul, love of self was not indulgent, but the cornerstone of our mission to love as Jesus loves us. Paul knew the difference between self-love and self-adoration. Our love of God is expressed in the healthy and appropriate esteem we have for ourselves. Put another way, we cannot love anyone else if we don’t love ourselves. If we have poor self-esteem then often we need others to fill up this gap in our self-love. Most relationships cannot sustain such a demand.

The Church has to take some responsibility for this state of affairs. We used to be taught that mortification and self-denial were good Christian virtues, and indeed they can be. When properly understood they are never opportunities for self-hatred. The sanest spiritual writers in our tradition saw these virtues as paths of closeness with God and service of our neighbour.

One such writer was St Ignatius Loyola who in the Spiritual Exercises saw that it was precisely as sinners that God loves us. Probably totally! Jesus’ stories of forgiveness are so loved because they are so needed. Re-tell them! Re-live them!

Jesus in today’s Gospel attends to this destructive side of our human nature. Jesus teaches us that those who do not love their neighbour as they should are to be treated with dignity and respect and offered every opportunity to seek forgiveness until it is clear they can no longer be a part of the Christian family.

The challenge and hallmark of the Christian life is the way in which we live out God’s love and forgiveness. And, although the Christian community should be the last group to exclude anyone, even we have to have our boundaries. Sometimes this involves holding others to account for what they say and do, especially if they claim to be a follower of Christ. The love and forgiveness of God does not mean that ‘anything goes’. It is a love that calls for constant conversion. We can witness to it only to the degree that we have experienced it, from God, from others, and in the way we love and forgive ourselves.

And we know when these qualities are taking deep root in us because answering a question like, ‘What do you really like about yourself?’ is a piece of cake!

Parish Administration: Fr Rod Ward

Director of Music: Jackie Crocker, Sacred Heart Cathedral Townsville - jcrocker@tsv.catholic.org.au

Parish Admin Secretary: Juliet Walker

**Parish Bulletins can be accessed via the Townsville Catholic Diocese website.** [http://www.tsv.catholic.org.au](http://www.tsv.catholic.org.au)

**MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATOR**

Sunday is Fathers’ Day. Cathedral Parish wishes Fathers best wishes on this day of celebration.

Traditionally, Townsville Diocese conducts the annual Clergy Foundation Appeal in parishes also on this day. The Clergy Foundation is responsible for the support of the retired priests of the Diocese who have normally spent a lifetime providing pastoral care for our people. The Diocese ensures that our retired priests are able to have the support that may in other circumstances be assisted with by members of family.

The Clergy Foundation relies on the generosity of parishioners to help ensure that our retired priests receive the support that we would all hope that would be available.

Cathedral Parish asks that you be generous in supporting this Appeal.

**FATHER ROD WARD, ADMINISTRATOR - SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL PARISH**

**PARISH NOTICE**

**Parish Baptism:** Baptisms are now permitted with a maximum of 80 people which includes celebrant. For more info, ring the Parish office 4771 4461

**Parish Hoys:** Cancelled until further notice.

**Cathedral Parish Women’s Group:** Meeting cancelled.

**Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Reflection Program:** Deferred

**Sacred Heart Cathedral 2020 Sacramental Program:** Contact the Parish for nominations.

**The Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish Office:** is still open from Monday to Friday 9:30am to 5pm. For all enquiries, please contact 4771 4461 or email: cathedralparish@tsv.catholic.org.au.

**Cherish Life Townsville:** The next meeting for Cherish Life Townsville will be on the 28th September 2020, 7:30pm in Aitkenvale Library.

**Baptism this Week:** The parish warmly welcomes Murphy Brooks who will be baptised in St Mary’s Church, West End and Ari Hendricks Zollner who will be baptised in Sacred Heart Cathedral this Sunday.

**Mass Livestream:** Sunday Mass from the Sacred Heart Cathedral will continue to be Live Streamed for the community. You can find the stream here [https://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathTSV](https://www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathTSV). Prayer resources and other important information can be found [www.tsv.catholic.org.au/COVID-19](http://www.tsv.catholic.org.au/COVID-19).

**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary** is a feast that commemorates the birthday of Jesus’ mother. Even though Mary’s birth is not recorded in the scriptures, it is mentioned in the Apocryphal writings from the second century, the Protoevangelium of James and is even mentioned in Islamic scripture. Her parents are named as Saint Anne and Saint Joachim and tradition places Mary’s birthplace in Jerusalem. The feast has been celebrated since the fifth century – on September 8 in the Roman Calendar.
All Churches of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish
Sunday mass collections from 29/30 August 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday Mass Collections</th>
<th>Cathedral 10am</th>
<th>Cathedral 5pm</th>
<th>St Mary’s</th>
<th>St Francis</th>
<th>St Joan of Arc</th>
<th>St Patrick’s</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>$297.65</td>
<td>$85.10</td>
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<td>$56.05</td>
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<td>Second</td>
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<td>$27.20</td>
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<td>Total collections for the week</td>
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<td>$659.60</td>
<td>$510.80</td>
<td>$136.05</td>
<td>$482.50</td>
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Thank you to all parishioners for your ongoing financial support of our parish and its good works. Your generosity helps continue the important ministries and services provided across the many worshipping communities in our Parish - Centred in Christ. Missions – Maintenance – Ministries

CLERGY FOUNDATION APPEAL: This weekend is Father’s Day and also the annual Clergy Foundation Appeal for Sick & Retired Priests. The Clergy Foundation currently support seven retired Priests in the Townsville Diocese. Today we appeal to your generosity and ask for your donation to support the needs of these retired Priests who have ministered around the Diocese for many years. Donations can be made to the Clergy Foundation Appeal via cash or credit card using envelopes available in your Church. Please also consider the Clergy Foundation when discussing your Will. Contact the Diocesan Office for more details. We thank you for your continued generosity.

ALPHA ONLINE YOUTH SERIES: Join us for 8 weeks of Online Alpha. Every Wednesday we meet online to watch a video and have discussions about life, purpose and faith. During week 6 we go away on an Alpha weekend to continue Alpha, experience spirituality and deepen friendships through various activities like hiking, fishing, swimming, games night, campfire and many more activities. If you are aged between 15 and 25 years old, live in or beyond Townsville and want to explore questions about life, purpose and faith with other young people register for Alpha. Email youth@tsv.catholic.org.au to register and receive more information.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR CREATION RETREAT: Leading in to the World Day of Prayer for Creation (September 1) and Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October), Catholics are encouraged to participate in a first-of-its-kind retreat. The “7 Days of Creation Reflection-Retreat” has been prepared by Columban priest Fr Charles Rue, whose ministry has for many years had a focus on the Catholic understanding of care for the environment. A complete resource guide can be found on the ACBC website – www.catholic.org.au

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Mater hospital is seeking expressions of interest to become a volunteer. Volunteering at Mater is a truly rewarding experience as we strive to ensure that Mater remains an organisation of compassion and excellence. We are looking for people who enjoy talking to and helping others. If you are active, caring, friendly, sensitive to the needs of others and wish to give to your community then becoming a volunteer at Mater may be just the thing for you. Training is provided for this unique and rewarding role. If you feel this is for you please contact Dave de Witt on 0497 262 476 or email at david.dewitt@matertsv.org.au
Prayer in this time of Crisis

Almighty and allmerciful God, lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds, In who, there is no shadow of death, save us in this time of crisis: Grant wisdom and courage to our leaders; Watch over all medical people as they tend to the sick and work for a cure; Stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation; If our doors are closed, let our hearts be open. By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear, that hope may never die and the light of Easter, the triumph of life, May shine upon us and the whole world. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead, Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.

For those who care for the sick
Father of mercies, we thank you for all who care for the sick. When they diagnose, give them patience. When they protect the vulnerable, give them your protection. When they work to heal, give them strength. When they comfort, give them consolation. When they are tired, give them rest. When they are discouraged, bring them your hope. May we welcome and respect them as we support one another in this time of trial.

For those seeking a cure for the virus
Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tiring work and enrich in them the virtue of hope. Amen.

Continuing restrictions:
- Social distancing and hygiene
- Tracking, tracing, rapid response
- COVID safe business plans in place