



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish

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Parish Newsletter: Cliff Nunes. **Email:** cliffordgerard@bigpond.com

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year A. 22nd January 2023

The Gospels make explicit God's Word to us, through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives, as well as, obedience to God and God's will.

We are disciples of Jesus!

Gospel: Matthew 4: 17-23 (shorter form)



Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophesy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan. Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness have seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him. He went round the whole

of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

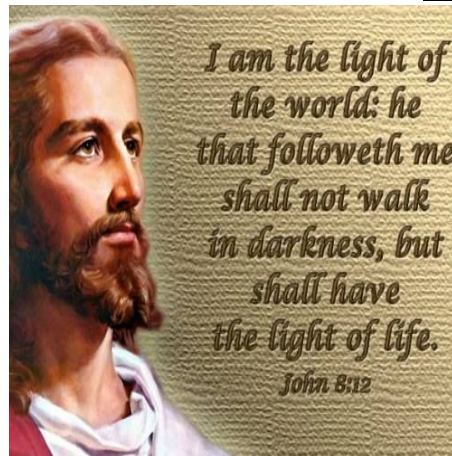
Commentary

Jesus begins to preach in Galilee and calls His first disciples (Jesus is the light as fore-told in the prophecy of Isaiah - the coming of *a bright light in Galilee*). At the death of John the Baptist, the ministry of Jesus begins in earnest. Today's gospel concludes with a description of the ministry that Jesus begins in Galilee. He teaches in the synagogue and preaches the kingdom of God. His ability to cure diseases and illnesses, is a sign of His divinity.

In Conclusion

"Follow me!" In today's reading Jesus selects His first disciples. When Jesus called them, the Gospel tells us that the fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) dropped everything to follow Jesus immediately. **Jesus wants us to follow Him as well. We can do this in our everyday lives by living a "gospel live."**

Jesus is Our Light



There are times when we find ourselves in turmoil and despair, and cannot see a way out. In today's Liturgy of the Word, we see that **Jesus is the "light."**

The First Reading Isaiah 8: 23-93
In the Galilee, the people see a great light.

The Responsorial Psalm
The Lord is my light and my salvation.

No matter how dark your "night" – light will always shine through!!

Parish Worship Schedule

A parish is a community of disciples of Jesus, who gather to celebrate the Mass and to "live the Gospel." **We are a community of Jesus' disciples and our church is here for our collective and individual worship and prayers.** We welcome the faithful to our Mass, or, to light a candle at our Marian chapel, or, to just pray in silence; and to grow spiritually.

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| Mass Times | Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu & Fri | 8.00 am (the Rosary after) |
| Mass Time | Saturday | 6.00 pm |
| Mass Time | Sunday | 9.30 am |
| Reconciliation | Saturday night | 5.15 – 5.45 pm |
| Anointing of the Sick | Liaise with Fr Greg | |
| Baptisms, marriages and funerals | Liaise with Fr Greg | |

Our Prayers of the Faithful

The Church expects that each parish community would prepare their own prayers so that all the community can join in the sacred intercessory prayer (Prayers of the Faithful) at Mass. In our parish prayers of the faithful, we pray to the Lord, to help and comfort our sick and suffering. We also pray for the souls of our recently departed, as well as, for those whose anniversaries, we remember at Mass today.

Prayers for Our Sick and Suffering

My Linh Bui (Maria), Austin & Rick Johnstone, Lorna Johnstone, Fr Francisco, Heron Sharpe, Antoinette De Silva, Tony Galvez, Jenny Cassin, Betsy De Wass, Frank De Luis, Nigel, Christina Sim, Maria Marshall, Claire Webster, Ivan Fletcher, Fabian Edmunds, Celia, Crowley family, Joe Sundaram, Thilak, Diana Scully, Bluey Thompson, Celeste Vicensoni, Carla, Annette, Joe Gibson, Georgina and Ronnie Ghosh, Gemma Altieri, Fred Kara, Reg Brown, Mary & Derrick Jansen, Marie Webster Viola, **Gerry and Maisie Prendergast,** James Rydqvist, Annie Magdalena Rydqvist, Anne Rydqvist, Dr Andrew Chilufya Snr, Robbie Iliffe, Donna Green, Horatio Hill, Ilean Wright, Cathy and Peter Ghouse, Jimmy Olivero, Kaye McIntyre, Jeff and Tony Francis, Sheila Vanwiering, CD Joseph, Marina Lim, Wendy Price, Julie Pinto, Christopher Jaffer, Bonnie Sullivan, Joslyn De Sylva and Philomena Rodrigues.

Prayers for our Recently Deceased

Fr Andre and Gwen Lange.

“God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort” (Matthew 5:4).

Anniversaries of our Beloved Departed

Cath Prendergast (19 Jan), Anthony Exeter (20 Jan), Narcisa Polancos (22 Jan) Aii Maasarwe (24 Jan), Juana Ballestas (25 Jan) and all our departed relatives and friends.

Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: “I am the Resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he dies” (John 11: 25-26).

Note: Parishioners may email Cliff at: cliffordgerard@bigpond.com, for any additions (or deletions) to our lists of sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, whom you wish to be included in our “Prayers of the Faithful.”

Everyone has a name, and if we are to pray for them, we should say their name.

Our Next Parish St Vincent de Paul Donations is to be 04th/05th February



For parishioners who may wish to contribute to this worthy program, any non-perishable food in tins, packets or boxes will do (but no glass please). In addition to a food hamper, a \$30 Woolworths voucher is usually provided to enable the purchase of essentials like; fresh fruit and vegetables, baby food and more. **Cash donations may be deposited in our SVDP/poor donation box at the entrance of the church,** to enable the purchase of cash vouchers.

The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who

are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.” They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ He will reply, **‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’** (Matthew 25: 40-45).

Parishioners who may need a “helping hand,” may contact the SVDP Society for assistance, or speak with our local SVDP representatives: Penny D’Souza (mob: 0421 215 620), or, Michael Hardless (mob: 0419 421 122), at Riverton Parish. **The names of those requesting and receiving assistance is always confidential.**

At his Funeral Pell is Hailed for Bearing Unjust Condemnation with Dignity and Peace

At his Vatican funeral, the late Cardinal Pell was praised for his “greatness of intellect and heart,” and (in his conviction followed by eventual exoneration on sexual abuse charges in Australia) for bearing an “unjust and painful condemnation,” with dignity and peace. Around 50 cardinals and 500 faithful were in attendance at the funeral Mass, which is considered a higher-than-usual turnout when a cardinal passes. Pope Francis arrived at the end of the Mass to give Pell a final commendation and farewell, offering prayers and a blessing for the deceased from his wheelchair.

Prayer to St Michael the Archangel

Those who heard Jesus’ preaching needed to make a stand on whether they believed in Him. Those who did formed the first Christian communities who gathered together to pray and remember His teachings and the stories of His life and ministry. Around the time 60 – 100 AD these stories and teachings were written down as the basis for the New Testament: the four Gospels, an account of the early church (Acts of the Apostles), many of the letters of Paul and others to various communities, as well as, the book of Revelation (Apocalypse). **Yet even in these early faith communities there were divisions and rivalries, as is shown in today’s second reading, when St Paul pleads for unity.**

Alas, these divisions continue today in our society and within the Church. **St Michael the Archangel has a special heavenly role in doing battle against evil, protecting the Church and protecting Christians against assault from the devil.**

The prayer to St Michael originated with Pope Leo XIII in 1886. **Legend has it that the Pope, following Holy Mass, received a vision in which he saw the great damage Satan would do to the Church and the world in the 20th century.** Pope Leo XIII composed this prayer in response and added it to be recited after Mass (until 1968). **In 1994, Pope John Paul II urged the faithful to offer the prayer to St Michael once again.** The Holy Father was responding to the grave evils we see in our world today – the sins of abortion, euthanasia, genocide, wars and more. **For this reason, many parishes offer the prayer to St Michael (protector of the Church and Christians) at the end of Mass, as protection against Satan and the fallen angels, who are doing their best to lead souls to Hell.**

