



ONE MISSION, TWO PARISHES

Saint Timothy's & Saint Luke the Evangelist
Catholic Parishes, Forest Hill & Blackburn South

Parish Office for both Parishes: 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133

Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au

Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 28 JANUARY 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

REACH OUT IN LOVE AND MERCY: MARK 6: 32 - 34



[Readings this week: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 94; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21 - 28.](#)

Gospel Reflection ~ Greg Sunter

Although this week's gospel is a relatively short passage, there's a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to 'Be quiet!' Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret. Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus' teaching. It is the message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

Historical Context – He said what? In an age when most people were illiterate, Jesus appears to have been quite well educated. Some suggest that he may have spoken three or four different languages. He obviously spoke everyday Aramaic, as it was spoken in that region. Jesus also appears to have been taught Hebrew, the language of religious texts and religious practice. Greek, the language of trade in marketplaces, was a language that Jesus probably used when helping Joseph sell his carpentry products at stalls and markets. Finally, Jesus probably picked up a reasonable amount of Latin, the language of the Roman occupiers – he was able to hold a conversation with Pontius Pilate. **Scriptural context – The Messianic Secret:** A feature of the Gospel of Mark is an element of secrecy and confusion that surrounds Jesus' identity. He silences demons who would announce his identity and warns those he heals to be quiet about what has occurred. There is a real lack of understanding displayed by the disciples about who Jesus is. At one point, Jesus asks the disciples, 'who do you think I am?' They identify him as the Messiah but immediately demonstrate that they don't really understand what that means. The theme that runs through the gospel is a developing understanding of what it means that Jesus is the Messiah.

Gospel Focus – Exorcisms: This week's gospel features an exorcism by Jesus – driving an unclean spirit out of a possessed man. Some people read these acts of exorcism as being literally true. Others are keen to demonstrate that these 'possessions' described in the gospels are able to be explained by various manifestations of mental illness. The thrashing fits described in the gospels have been likened to epileptic seizures, and episodes of paranoia and schizophrenia might explain the first century understanding of possession. Rather than trying to justify or explain away these events, we must seek to understand the gospel writer's purpose in including such episodes.

REACH OUT IN ...

Whitehorse Deanery
Eastern Region
Archdiocese of Melbourne

Rev Father Gerard
Parish Priest

Sonya O'Farrell

Part-time Parish Secretary

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10.00am - 2.00pm

SUNDAY MASS

ST: & SL: Saturday Vigil @ 6.00pm

Sunday ST: @ 10.30am Australian

5.00pm - Vietnamese

& SL: @ 8.30am

WEEKDAY MASS & SL: ROSARY

ST: Weds. & Thurs. @ 9.15am

Fri. @ 10.00am

1st Wednesday of the month

@ 10.00am Mass of Anointing.

SL: Tues. @ 5.00pm

Wed., Thurs. & Fri. @ 9.30am

Sat. @ 9.00am

RECONCILIATION

SL: Saturday 9.30am - 10.00am &

5.30pm - 5.50pm

SL: EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed

for Adoration Wednesday

Start: 7.00pm | End: 8.00pm

MACS Catholic Primary School

21 Stevens Road, Vermont, 3133 Vic

Tel: (03) 9878 4188

Ms. Anne Maree Jones **Principal**

Email: principal@sttims.catholic.edu.au

Website: <https://sttims.catholic.edu.au/>

MACS Catholic Primary School

46 Orchard Grove,

Blackburn South Vic 3130

Tel: (03) 9877 4023

Mrs. Clare Ryan: **Principal**

Email: principal@slblackburnst.catholic.edu.au

Website: slblackburnst.catholic.edu.au

Prayer to Saint Timothy

O God, who adorned Saint Timothy with apostolic virtues, grant, through his intercession that, living justly and devoutly in this present age, we may merit to reach our heavenly homeland. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Patron Saint of stomach and intestinal disorders.

Prayer to Saint Luke the Evangelist

O St. Luke, you were chosen to reveal in preaching and writing God's love for the poor. Moved by the heavenly Spirit of Love, you detailed the life of Jesus, showing His divinity and His genuine compassion for all human beings. Help those who already glory in God's name to persevere in one heart and one mind and inspire all people that they may hear the Good News of Salvation. Amen

Patron Saint of artists, physicians, surgeons, students and butchers.

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER this weekend all who are sick, especially Kit Bing Fan, Tony Keaney, Kathryn Holmes, Therese O'Donoghue, Stewart Davis, Mark, Jerry Donoghue, Margaret Hayes, Kevin Bolton and all those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For all who have died recently, for the casualties of war in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Bridget O'Carroll, Nella Macedo, Audrey Baker, Joseph Kerin, Rose Butcher, Fred Johnson, Diana Richards, Fr Peter Collins, Peter & Paul Hilliard, Mary Grealy, Jack Odlum, Greg Arelette, Ken Atkins, Maria Cassano, Eloide Leonardi, Kate Taunt, Minetta, Vita & Felicetta Boccacci and Roche Mariadasan. R.I.P.

ST TIMOTHY'S FEASTDAY this weekend for our Parish. May St Timothy continue to inspire us to be and become people who serve others, like him.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Ordinary Time ~ Wednesday: St John Bosco, priest; **Friday:** The Presentation of the Lord; **Saturday:** St Blaise, bishop, martyr or St Ansgar, bishop or Saturday Mass of the Virgin Mary. **Masses this weekend:** Preface IV of the Sundays in Ordinary Time, Eucharistic Prayer I; Eucharistic Acc. No. I.

SL LITURGICAL ROSTERS FOR FEB - JUNE: Signup clipboards are available this weekend in the Church foyers at the 6.00pm, 8.30am and 10.30am Sunday Masses and for the next two weekends. Any new volunteers from either **SL** or **ST** are also invited to record your contact details and preferences of time and ministry(s) please.

ST RITE OF PRESENTATION & WELCOME this weekend for Samuel Francis Sevilla, who is Abigail and Francis' son. Please make them all welcome.

AUSTRALIA DAY LAST WEEK: The Story of Australia ~ the story of an extraordinary nation. The Story begins 60,000 years ago. New chapters are written every day. On Australia Day, we reflect on our history, its highs and its lows. We respect the stories of others. And we celebrate our nation, its achievements and most of all, its people. [We're all part of the story.](#)

THE LOST CITY OF MELBOURNE: In 1956 a perfect storm occurred that almost brought this great city to its knees. This is a story of '[Marvellous Melbourne](#)'... before Whelan The Wrecker was here.

BLACKBURN SOUTH PARISH SOCIAL PROFILE: Based on the 2021 Australian Census, Archdiocese of Melbourne, [Census ID: 122026](#)

FOREST HILL PARISH SOCIAL PROFILE: Based on the 2021 Australian Census, Archdiocese of Melbourne, [Census ID: 122086](#)

POPE FRANCIS has released his message for the [2024 World Day of Social Communications](#), focusing on the theme: *Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication*. Celebrated on 12 May, this year's theme is closely linked to the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace, which was devoted to the development of systems of artificial intelligence (AI). AI is "radically affecting the world of information and communication, and through it, certain foundations of life in society," says the Pope in his Communications Day message, adding that "these changes affect everyone." So, the Pope asks, "how can we remain fully human and guide this cultural transformation to serve a good purpose?"

"AI can never replace wisdom of human heart"

A VOCATION VIEW: Jesus speaks as one having authority, so that even the demons must obey. We see in this same authority passed down to the Church that she might guide us closer to Christ. (Mark 1:21-28)

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: "Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties." *1 Corinthians 7:32* How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this – use the word "pray" instead of the word "worry" in the future. Then spend your time praying instead of worrying. (**ST:** Weekly First Collection Presbytery Envelopes: \$120; Thanksgiving Stewardship Envelopes this week: \$225; Vietnamese Donation: \$229.30; **SL:** Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$507; Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$439).

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

WEEKEND PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

SATURDAY **6:00 PM SL** Shirley Prabha
6:00 PM ST Volunteer
SUNDAY **8:30 AM SL** Mia Perang
10:30 AM ST Volunteer
5.00PM ST Doan Pham & Chi Nguyen

27 AND 28 JANUARY

3 AND 4 FEBRUARY

Joe Ferlazzo
Volunteer
Olive Hammill
Volunteer
Thuy Vu & Nhat Nguyen

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY **6:00 PM SL** Melina Barcellona
6:00 PM ST Volunteer
SUNDAY **8:30 AM SL** Megan McLean
10:30 AM ST Volunteer
5.00PM ST Hoang Nguyen

27 AND 28 JANUARY

3 AND 4 FEBRUARY

Ian Holmes
Volunteer
Margaret Gearon
Volunteer
Hung Dinh

SLIDE OPERATORS

SATURDAY **6:00 PM SL** Volunteer
6:00 PM ST Michelle Chen
SUNDAY **8:30 AM SL** Volunteer
10:30 AM ST Lee Min Yee
5.00PM ST Toan Tran

27 AND 28 JANUARY

3 AND 4 FEBRUARY

Volunteer
Michelle Chen
Volunteer
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 27/28 JAN

6:00 PM Volunteer
8:30 AM Volunteer
10:30 AM Volunteer

HOSPITALITY THE BASIC LITURGICAL MINISTRY

SL WELCOMERS 3/4 FEB

6:00 PM Volunteer
9:30 AM Volunteer
10:30 AM Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

Roster in recess
for January

ST CHURCH CLEANING

10th Feb @ 8am
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

3rd Feb - Ellen Donoghue

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

January - Parishioners

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 7:
Barry & Christine Silvester
Next week Team 8:
Fela Colasanti & Chin L Tay

Love and Mercy: Mark 6: 32 - 34

Parish Groups & Contacts

Lectors, Registrars, Collectors,
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist,
Slide Projector Operator & Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo 9412 8499

SL: Margaret Gearon 0409 807 135

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano 9412 8499

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen 0422 400 116

Andy Tran 0422 382 109

Vietnamese Youth

John Dinh 0448 977 037

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon - 0433 885 087

Steve Kilroe-Smith - 0404 864 232

Parish Pastoral Council

As we are one Mission now, it has been suggested that we require only one Chair?

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

Janette Clark - 9877 2292

Fr Gerard - 9877 2292

Parish History

SL: Margaret Gearon - 0409 807 135

Whitehorse Deanery - Fr Gerard

Finance Committee

Bernard Negline

Parish Accountant

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office - 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant - 0401 644 474

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King 9412 8499

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean - 0419 347 693

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Kanagalinggam

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

Holy Communion to the

housebound - Fr Gerard

Parish Choirs

ST: Mary Italiano & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

0411 136 043

Parish & School Fete Committee

SL: Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

School Advisory Council

ST: Ms. Anne Maree Jones 9878 4188

SL: Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

School Parents' Association

ST: Ms. Anne Maree Jones 9878 4188

SL: Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Freecall: Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK: Fr Simon Apablaza says that the reason Jesus taught them with authority is that his words are not only the expression of thoughts, but the expression of his own life. Mother Hilda has a tip on how to surrender to God's will. Plus, Fr Tony Percy says Jesus of Nazareth is revealing who he is; his words interpret his actions, and his actions confirm his words. A faith testimony from Stewart Brady on how he became involved in the menAlive movement through the efforts of his wife, and the changes it brought to his life, and Fr Mike Delaney says helping someone is a great gift that we can all do, even when we are struggling ourselves. Plus, more great music!

MAJELLAN FAMILY MEDIA: In 2024 Prayer is life 

ORDER OF MALTA LOURDES DAY MASS – SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY

2024: For some years now, the Order of Malta has organised an annual Lourdes Day Mass to provide an opportunity to pray for the sick and infirm particularly for those who would not otherwise have the possibility of visiting Lourdes. The Mass will take place again on **Saturday, 10th February at 10.30am at St Patrick's Cathedral**, with the Archbishop as the principal celebrant. For further information, please contact: Sauro Antonelli AM on 0411 250 288.

ACNC COMMUNICATIONS: Your latest news ...

CSSV MARY MACKILLOP ORATION AND DINNER: We are pleased to invite you to attend the Mary MacKillop Oration and Dinner to be held on Wednesday 21 February 2024 at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne. Tickets are available [here](#).

JANSSEN SPIRITUALITY CENTRE (JSC), 22 Woodvale Road, Boroonia: resumption of programs for 2024. Our weekly **Lectio Divina** recommences on Monday 5 February, from 10:00am to 11:00am, weekly **Centering Prayer** starts again on Tuesday 6 February from 11:30am to 12:30pm, while the **Scripture Group**, studying the Letters of St Paul, will recommence on Thursday 8 February from 10:00am to 11:30am - this group meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month. We invite anyone who might be interested in joining any one or more of our groups at JSC this year - Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer and Scripture Study group - to come along to these meetings - new members are most welcome. For information regarding the groups, please contact Peter and Carmel Cowan for Lectio Divina and Scripture Study on 0429 979 376, and Ria Parlevliet for Centering Prayer on 0468 476 813.

SAFETY STATEMENT: We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children and vulnerable persons in our Church. Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Blackburn South holds the care, safety, wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons as central and fundamental responsibilities of the Church. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

Raise your voices ... Entrance Antiphon: Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

Response to the Psalm: If today, you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon: Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

YEAR OF PRAYER – 2024: Magellan Family Media ~ [New podcast series](#) explores the power of prayer.

YEAR OF PRAYER: Pope Francis to Set Up ['School of Prayer'](#)

Jesus teaches with authority



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Jesus showed that he is the one to be listened to. What are some things people would have heard Jesus say?



Jesus taught with great authority and people listened to him. We too are more likely to listen to someone who really believes in what they say. Draw a picture of someone who you listen to.



Help spread the good news by connecting all the faces 😊. Only use straight lines - including diagonal lines - but do not pass through crossed boxes ❌. Complete the sentence below by adding each letter that your line passes through.

START

😊		😊		K	❌	
	❌	P	❌			❌
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S		😊	E	W	😊	
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	U	😊		😊		T
					X	
M		❌	❌	R	❌	
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❌	A		😊		N	❌

FINISH

People were amazed at his _____ teaching.

Jesus teaches with authority



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Jesus showed that he is the one to be listened to. What are some things people would have heard Jesus say?



Jesus taught with great authority and people listened to him. We too are more likely to listen to someone who really believes in what they say. Draw a picture of someone who you listen to.

Help spread the good news by connecting all the faces 😊. Only use straight lines - including diagonal lines - but do not pass through crossed boxes ❌. Complete the sentence below by adding each letter that your line passes through.

START

😊		😊		K	❌	
	❌	P	❌			❌
		😊		O	😊	
Z		S		❌		N
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S		😊	E	W	😊	
				❌		
❌	S		G	❌	❌	
	U	😊		😊		T
					X	
M		❌	❌	R	❌	
❌	A		E			❌
	❌	😊	❌	😊	❌	
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❌	A		😊		N	❌

FINISH

People were amazed at his _____ teaching.

SUNDAY READINGS

READ AT HOME

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

28 January 2024



Collect

Grant us, Lord our God,
that we may honour you with all our mind,
and love everyone in truth of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Readings and Commentaries

Unclean spirits play a significant role in Mark's gospel. Scripture scholar Brendan Byrne sets the scene for us: "People in the ancient world attributed to demons control of storms and other manifestations of nature out of control and threatening to human life. Demons could also enter human beings and bring about illness of various kinds – physical (sickness), psychological (madness) and moral (vice, alienation from God, resistance to divine grace). In general, the demonic world was held to be 'unclean,' standing over against the 'cleanliness' or 'holiness' associated with God and communicated by God to the covenant people, Israel... How to preserve the covenant 'holiness' and avoid contamination with the unclean and destructive force of the demonic was a major preoccupation of the Jewish religious system around the time of Jesus" (*A Costly Freedom. A Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel*. Sydney: St Paul's, 2008, 4).

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

18:15–20

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1–2, 6–9

R. If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

First Reading

Chapters 12-26 of the book of Deuteronomy form a loosely organised collection of laws referred to as the Deuteronomic Code. The first and longest section (chs 12-18) deals with religious observances. Today's reading is part of a passage that differentiates between the true prophet, on the one hand, and false prophets such as magicians, sorcerers and soothsayers, on the other. Those who claim to foretell the future are not genuine. The authentic prophet is one who communicates the will of God.

The key point of interest in this reading is God's promise, relayed by Moses, to "raise up a prophet like yourself." The people, Moses reminds them, were so fearful of directly encountering the sound and sight of God that they begged for a prophet like Moses who would mediate the divine presence safely for them. By the time the Baptist and Jesus appear on the scene, the expectation of such a prophet had intensified. The gospels variously suggest that each of them is this long-awaited prophet. Today the combination of this reading and Mark's account of Jesus' impact has the effect of identifying Jesus as the fulfilment of the divine promise.

This is a challenging text for readers to proclaim. The context and content are likely to be unfamiliar to many. This handicap is exacerbated by the fact that the reading contains a mix of direct and reported speech. As a unit, it conveys Moses' message to the people. But within his address to them, he quotes the people's plea to be spared direct contact with God, and then God's reply. The latter comprises just over half the whole passage. Readers will need to study, rehearse and deliver this text with care if they are going to make it intelligible to the assembly.

Responsorial Psalm

God's warning, relayed by Moses, for the people to heed the words of a true prophet, has prompted the choice of Psalm 94/95 for the responsorial psalm. It falls into two contrasting parts. The first is a resounding call to worship the Lord, in procession and prostration. God is to be acclaimed as creator and redeemer, saving rock and shepherd for his people. This joyous summons leads to an abrupt change of tone, from enthusiastic praise to ominous warning. God chastises his people, remembering their hardness of heart in the desert. Today's response – "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts" – is adapted from this part of the psalm.

The abrupt transition from praise to rebuke may reflect the original use of the psalm. It may have been composed to accompany a joyful procession into the Temple. Once they have entered the Temple the assembled people are given a blunt warning to be ready to listen to the reading of the Torah. A parallel may be seen in the swift transition from an opening hymn of praise to the penitential rite of the Mass. Readers have no opportunity to explain this, but must proclaim the psalm as given, with two exuberant verses followed by one of admonition. The reader's tone of joy must change in the third verse to one of heartfelt pleading. Perhaps the sudden change will be less of a jolt for the congregation because the response they hear and pray will have prepared the way for it.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians **7:32–35**

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark **1:21–28**

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

Second Reading

The whole of chapter 7 in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians deals with a range of inter-related issues – marriage, sex, virginity, conversion to Christianity and divorce – all in the context of the imminent upheaval of the end times. This is made explicit in the opening and closing verses of last week's reading, but the urgency of the times is neither mentioned or even alluded to in today's text. For this and other reasons it's a challenging one to proclaim.

As we have it, Paul's message is that remaining unmarried is preferable to marrying because single persons can pay "undivided attention to the Lord," whereas married people must please both their spouse and the Lord. Devoid of context, Paul appears to be teaching that celibacy is superior to marriage. As an unqualified principle, this is no longer agreed upon, but it could be justified in the light of the impending crisis the Corinthians expected. Paul is also conscious of the need for the community to offer countercultural witness in this city of mixed faith and morals.

A further difficulty arises from Paul's rhetorical style. Here his language is didactic and repetitive, though perhaps he could be thanked for treating women and men on an equal basis. His good intentions (whether realised or not) are evident in the first sentence: "I would like to see you free from all worry." As usual, the reader's task is to do justice to the text, not pass judgement on it. In this case, careful preparation is called for.

Gospel

Archaeological research seems to confirm that Capernaum served as Jesus' base for his ministry in Galilee. Mark hastens to tell us that no sooner had Jesus called his first disciples than his mission is in full flight. Its two defining features – teaching and healing – are on immediate display. The combined effect is to highlight Jesus' authority. His teaching is authoritative in comparison with that of the scribes and, after his own confrontation with Satan in the wilderness, Jesus' power over the demonic is definitive. Mark will continue to stress Jesus' authority and the impression it made. The fact that Jesus frees the man from the unclean spirit on the sabbath anticipates his declaration that "the Son of Man is master even of the sabbath" (2:28).

The evil spirit's identification of Jesus as "the Holy One of God" could be either a hostile taunt or a truthful admission. We are left unsure. This is the only occasion in Mark's gospel when this title is used, but the issue of Jesus' identity keeps recurring. The demons in Gerasene territory will call him "son of the Most High God" (5:7), Peter will confess him as the Messiah (8:29), but only the centurion on Calvary will acknowledge him as "Son of God" (15:39). Mark's purpose, announced in the very first verse of the gospel, is to proclaim the Crucified One as the Christ and Son of God.

Of its very nature, this passage from Mark lends itself to lively proclamation

An alternative translation of the scripture readings is given here from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). This may be particularly useful for those in parishes which use the NRSV Lectionary.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING (NRSV)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 18:15–20

Moses spoke to the people; he said:
"The Lord your God will raise up for you
a prophet like me from among your own people;
you shall heed such a prophet.
This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb
on the day of the assembly when you said:
'If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more,
or ever again see this great fire, I will die.'
"Then the Lord replied to me:
'They are right in what they have said.
I will raise up for them a prophet like you
from among their own people;
I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet,
who shall speak to them everything that I command.
'"Anyone who does not heed the words
that the prophet shall speak in my name,
I myself will hold accountable.
But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods,
or who presumes to speak in my name
a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—
that prophet shall die.'"

SECOND READING (NRSV)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians 7:32–35

I want you to be free from anxieties.
The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord,
how to please the Lord;
but the married man is anxious about the affairs of the world,
how to please his wife, and his interests are divided.
The unmarried woman and the virgin
are concerned about the affairs of the Lord,
so that they may be holy in body and spirit;
but the married woman is concerned about the affairs of the world,
how to please her husband.
I say this for your own benefit,
not to put any, restraint upon you,
but to promote good order and unhindered devotion to the Lord.

GOSPEL (NRSV)

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 1:21–28

The disciples went to Capernaum;
and when the sabbath came,
Jesus entered the synagogue and taught.
They were astounded at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority,
and not as the scribes.

Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit,
and he cried out,
"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Have you come to destroy us?
I know who you are, the Holy One of God."
But Jesus rebuked him, saying,
"Be silent, and come out of him!"
And the unclean spirit, convulsing the man
and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.
They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another,
"What is this? A new teaching—with authority!
He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him."
At once Jesus' fame began to spread
throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Concluding Prayer

Blessing for the Beginning of the New Year

May God, the source and origin of all blessing,
grant us grace,
pour out his blessing in abundance,
and keep us safe from harm throughout the year.
Amen.

May he give us integrity in the faith,
endurance in hope,
and perseverance in charity
with holy patience to the end.
Amen.

May he order our days and our deeds in his peace,
grant our prayers in this and in every place,
and lead us happily to eternal life.
Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on us and remain with us for ever.
Amen.

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for the Beginning of the Year, Roman Missal p 710)

Your Parish Community

Pastoral planning is the process of a Catholic community organising itself to carry out the mission of the Church in its own locality. It is a process built upon a parish's knowledge in three areas:

- Knowing its vision—its aspiration for itself.
- Knowing what sort of people make up the Catholic community and the general community.
- Knowing the resources (strengths, gifts and circumstances) available to the parish to realise the vision.

This Parish Social Profile has been developed as a resource for pastoral planning, and it focuses on the second two of these three areas of knowledge.

The Church strongly encourages pastoral planning. As Pope John Paul II said:

"I earnestly exhort the Pastors of the particular Churches, with the help of all sectors of God's People, confidently to plan the stages of the journey ahead, harmonising the choices of each diocesan community with those of neighbouring Churches and of the universal Church ... It is not a matter of inventing a 'new program'. The program already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition." Novo Millennio Ineunte #29

Pope Francis reminds that all renewal must be grounded in:

"... a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." Evangelii Gaudium #27

By giving a clear picture of the parish's demographic reality, this profile helps the parish leaders name its strengths and shortcomings and better understand how it might use the resources it has to pursue the mission of the Church.

A SNAPSHOT OF YOUR PARISH (2021)

Total Population: 11,164

Catholic Population: 1,880

Catholics make up 16.8 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 49 years

Total Catholic families: 751

168 Catholics live alone

651 Catholics were born overseas

59 Catholics do not speak English well

141 Catholics need assistance with core activities

476 Catholics have changed address since 2016



What has changed in your parish since 2016?

This chart will help you identify at a glance changes in some of the key indicators for Catholics in the parish between 2016 and 2021, and may alert you to possible trends that are occurring. The 2016 and 2021 figures are drawn from the Parish Overview tables on pages 4-7. All figures in this table refer to Catholics only. The term 'Catholic' in this report refers to all persons who identified themselves as Catholics in the Census, not only those who have some form of active association with the Church.

	Parish in 2016	Parish in 2021
Catholic population	2,160	1,880
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	17.9	15.8
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	23.4	26.9
Catholics born in NES ¹ (%)	27.2	29.6
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	2.9	2.9
Catholic families	799	751
Catholics living alone	169	168
Catholic students attending Catholic schools ² (%)	59.9	59.4
Catholics with university degree (%)	27.1	30.5
Catholic males in labour force (%)	67.4	65.0
Catholic females in labour force (%)	55.8	54.4
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	80.7	82.1

Notes:

1. NES = Non-English-Speaking Country as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
2. The percentage of all students who are Catholic attending Catholic schools.

NOTE ON COMPARABILITY WITH 2016 FIGURES:

The boundaries of some parishes changed between 2016 and 2021. These boundary changes mean that, in these parishes, figures for 2016 and 2021 may not be comparable. Where parishes have been amalgamated between 2016 and 2021, the 2021 figures in this profile refer to the overall figures for the parishes involved. Prior to 2021, persons living on Australian Defence Force bases were excluded from the Parish Social Profiles figures and were counted within the Military Ordinariate of Australia figures. For 2021, such persons have been included in the geographical parish in which the military base is located. The overall result of inclusion in 2021 figures is negligible.





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PRAYER IS LIFE



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family



Lourdes Day Mass

Saturday 10TH February 2024
at 10:30am
at St Patrick's Cathedral



ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA



ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
MELBOURNE



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
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