

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

22nd June 2008

THEME: Matthew 10: 26-33

In today's readings we are counselled to be on guard against that which can destroy the soul. As we prepare to hear God's word and receive the Eucharist, let us ask God for the wisdom to pay attention to what will help us grow in holiness.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, in your great love, answer me.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses.
Alleluia!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 24th June
Saturday 28th June

Birth of John the Baptist
Irenaeus, bishop, martyr

INACTIVE CATHOLICS - THE GOOD SHEPHERD SEEKING THE LOST SHEEP

While many in the world have never heard of Jesus, in our own society many have heard of him, but not responded. Others in our society have begun to believe, but their faith in the Lord Jesus has waned, especially in terms of their relationship with the Church, the Body of Christ. The reasons for this are many and varied. Whatever the reason, this has resulted in a situation where the Church community is impoverished because of their absence. While we address this letter to the community of faith worshipping the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Eucharistic celebration, it is really our brothers and sisters, who are absent from our worshipping community, who are the subject of this letter.

Of the 5 million Australian (over 5,000 living in St Patrick's Parish, Albury) who in the Census identify themselves as Catholics, 4.2 million people (4,400 St Pat's) do not regularly practice their faith through participation in Sunday Mass. There is no doubt that our Catholic community is diminished by their absence, for we are all part of the one body.

The beginning of the ministry to inactive Catholics is to recognise that some of the body of Christ are missing, and then to think of ways to open the door and welcome them back.

The essence of this ministry can be seen in the image of Jesus the Good Shepherd leaving the ninety nine sheep and actively seeking out the one sheep that is lost, gathering it in and bringing it back to be with the other ninety nine. Many disconnected Catholics are anxious to return to regular practice and respond positively to an invitation.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Doreen Irons, Sr Celsus O'Grady RSJ, Mary O'Brien, Monette Fealy, Annette Hoffman, Lionel Jansen, Kelly Harty, John McManus, Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Marjory Stott, Stephen Aldridge, Gerri Boldrini, Mary Egan, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Allanah Barnes, Anthony Gilchrist, Rosel Free, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl

Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Helen Saffrey, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, John Williams, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods, Marie Cook and Luke Westaway.

Grant eternal life to:

Kathleen (Wilma) Wighton, Mary McBrien, Tom Lupton, Phyllis Egan (Yarram), Mary Bohun, Judy James and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Ron Tanner, Myrtle Hodda, Les Ryan and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Lorraine Hill, and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

HANNA PILTZ

FOR YOUR DIARY

FULLY (100%) TAX DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPT FOR CONTRIBUTION BEFORE 30TH JUNE

Parishioners of St Patrick's are invited to make a first or additional one-off contribution to our Parish School Building Fund before 30th June. Receipts will be issued immediately from the parish office.

BOOK LAUNCH

The launch of Fr Peter Murphy's new book 'Pure Attraction' will be held at Veritas Central, 533 Smollett Street, Albury on Thursday 3rd July at 6.30pm. The book is for youth and adults and is an attempt to exemplify the beauty and meaning of purity. All welcome.

VOLUNTEERS FOR MINISTRIES TO ASSIST LITURGY

Men and women (post school age) are invited to volunteer as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Lector/Reader; Commentator; Musicians; Counters; Sanctuary and flowers or provision of tea and coffee after Masses. Each of these ministries enriches our Liturgy and adds depth to the community aspect in our Eucharist.

If you are interested in becoming involved in any of these ministries, please speak to one of the priests or the parish secretary or use one of the forms available at the back of the church.

DO YOU LONG TO GIVE YOUR LIFE TO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL? WHAT QUESTIONS IS WORLD YOUTH DAY STIRRING FOR YOU?

The Daughters of St Paul are a community of religious sisters focused on Christ. Engaging with the world through modern media and technology, we proclaim Christ in new ways to the people of each new generation. We invite you to share our mission and explore the gifts that religious life can offer. Inquiries can be made to Sr Joanna on 0403 175 251 or vocations@pauline.com.au

You can find out more about us at www.daughtersofstpaul.org.au or meet us in Sydney at WYD08.

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL - KINDER ENROLMENTS

St Patrick's School are now calling for applications for Kinder enrolments next year. Please contact the school office on 6021 4464 to request an application package.

RED CROSS TELECROSS PROGRAM

With more older people living on their own, Red Cross is helping older Australians remain connected with their community and live independently in their own homes. Telecross is a community program which provides a free reassuring daily phone call to people living alone to confirm they are safe and well. They are currently recruiting volunteers from the business and community sector. If you would like more information on becoming a volunteer, please call Lucy Little or Chris White on 6041 2190.

CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- * Pensioners put homes at risk to pay credit card bills
- * 500 at talk on 'deadly sins'

SANCTA SOPHIA COLLEGE

University Student Accommodation - Applications Now Open
Santa Sophia College is a friendly and vibrant residential college for undergraduate women and post-graduate men and women set in beautiful grounds on campus at the University of Sydney and is open to those studying at any of the universities in Sydney. Open Days are Saturday 30th August 2008 and Tuesday 6th January 2009. For more information and details about applications and scholarships please see the website or contact Mrs Jacqui Ingram on (02) 9577 2100 or email: sancta@mail.usyd.edu.au www.sanctasophiacollege.edu.au

SNIPPET

Without the God-with-us, the God who is close, how can we stand up to the pilgrimage through life, either on our own or as society and the family of peoples? (Benedict XVI)