

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

24th August 2008

THEME: Matthew 16: 13-20

In today's Gospel we hear that Jesus desired to establish the church - a lasting community of faith - built on the rock of Peter.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Wednesday 27th August

Monica

Thursday 28th August

Augustine, bishop, doctor

Friday 29th August

Beheading of John the Baptist, martyr

SIN WILL NEVER WIN

St Paul claims "Wherever sin abounds, just there does grace more abound!"

When we sin, God waits, and grace hangs around, and we mellow a little and our passion for whatever it was cools off, and we feel guilty, maybe even somewhat silly. We begin to realise that it wasn't a very good thing after all. In fact it was a bad thing. In truth, it was a sin. Just as soon as we admit this truth, then goodness is free to go to work.

It is the temptation of religion to reduce everything to right or wrong, good or evil. And while it is true that everything is good or bad, that is neither the first nor last word about it. Originally, everything came from God's hand perfectly good; in the end, everything will return to God in perfect shape.

In between, everything we do is an indistinguishable mixture of good and bad, ignorance and insight, hope and fear, love and hate. But that does not mean that the outcome is in question. Christ has conquered; goodness reigns. The war is between vastly unequal enemies. No matter how much sin there is, there is always more grace.

His conquering grace comes to us through the sacrament of Penance, Confession
Reconciliation.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Rob Deller, Mary McNamara, Ria Stumpe, James Williams, Gary Tyrrell, Joan Sullivan, Mary Cooper, Judith Falconer, Wendy Murphy, Stan Sawaski, Frank Smith, Roy Poy, Ray Muntz, Matthew Doyle, Doreen Irons, Monette Fealy, Annette Hoffman, Lionel Jansen, Kelly Harty, John McManus, Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Marjory Stott, Stephen Aldridge, Gerri Boldrini, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Rosel Free, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Glica, 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, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods and Marie Cook.

Grant eternal life to:

Richie Bulman, Sr Ellen Yates RSM, Mother Teresa O'Loughlin, Jim Star, Jim Bell, Barry Goonan, Bill Brennan, Phyllis Holland, Betty Hogan and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Anastatia Ferguson, Mary Hovenden, Anastasia Rosengren, Elsa Nagle, Clyde Ward, Bernard Rodrigues, Bill Kotthoff, John (Jack) Nolan, Maria Stradiotto and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Mary Kotthoff, Ken Kotthoff, Rose, Harry & Bill Livsey, Ruby Nolan, Veronika Zovin, Rosa Grlica, Lorraine Hill and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISM

Recently we welcomed into God's Church the following newly baptised:

WILL MELVILLE

THOMAS KONDIC

MAIZY KONDIC

ELLIE LYONS

FOR YOUR DIARY

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The members of the Catholic Women's League Albury have two petitions they wish you to sign after Masses this weekend.

1. The first petition is to support Senator Barnett, Tasmania, in his motion to limit Medicare funding for abortion. Senator Barnett will present this petition to the Senate as evidence of support.
2. The Second Petition will be sent to the Hon. The Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales asking for tougher laws and to protest against inappropriate sexually explicit public notices and bill boards.

CARPENTERS BREAKFAST

The next Carpenters Breakfast will be held on Saturday 13th September 2008 commencing at 7.30am. Marcus Shaw and John Burton will be talking on the topic "WYD2008 - Where to Now?" and will be looking at the call made by the Holy Father for all of us to be witnesses to Christ.

Please RSVP to Chris Ryan by Monday 8th September so that we can organise catering.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR GIRLS?

'What's happening to our Girls?' is a powerful book written by Maggie Hamilton exposing the tricks the media and marketing experts use to exploit young people. You are invited to meet the author at the book launch to be held in Albury at 2.00pm on Saturday 13th September at St Patrick's Hall, Smollett Street. Books will be available for purchase at the launch for \$29.95.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St Vincent de Paul Society Centres of Charity are in urgent need of warm winter clothing, blankets and furniture. Please contact Alan Dickenson 6025 2239.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

- * Free print of Our Lady of the Southern Cross
- * Pope appeals to drivers to take more care

MARY'S JUNIOR LEAGUE

Every first Wednesday of the month (beginning 3rd September) from 3.30pm-5.00pm for children under 12. Monthly meetings begin with afternoon tea at Veritas Central followed by prayers and a brief talk in St Patrick's Church followed by activities in the parish hall.

For details please contact Anna on 6023 3838.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP, 18-35 YRS

St Patrick's is starting a weekly discussion group for 18-35 year olds. We will meet every Wednesday night at 7.00pm in the upper room of St Patrick's hall beginning 3rd September.

If you have any questions about the Catholic Church, or want to know how to answer questions about the faith or just like spending time with other young adults, this group is for you! For more information, please contact

Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 or email mizmim@gmail.com

ST PATRICK'S POST WYD PILGRIM MEETING

St Patrick's will hold their post WYD meeting on Sunday 31st August after 10.30am Mass. A BBQ lunch will be provided. Come and share stories and photos of your WYD experience.

LITURGY IN A POSTMODERN AGE

The Broken Bay Institute welcomes the world renowned liturgical educator Professor Keith Pecklers SJ who will be in Australia from 22nd-24th September 2008 to present an exciting program, Liturgy in a Postmodern World: Navigating the Waters of Change.

Please see the flyer on the noticeboard which provides a comprehensive breakdown of the three days. The program will be held at St Joseph's Baulkham Hills Centre for Reflective Living. For further information please contact Fr John Frauenfelder on (02) 9847 0546 or email on jfrauenfelder@bbi.catholic.edu.au

FAITHROUGH

Faithrough is a faith-community mental health initiative. You are invited to visit the web site www.faithroughinc.org.au to explore the benefits of the Faithrough initiative. NB Many people suffer their mental illness in silence, fearful of social stigma.

WOMEN'S DAY OF SPIRITUALITY AND PRAYER

A Women's Day of Spirituality and Prayer will be held on Saturday 8th November 2008 at Xavier High School, Fallon Street Albury from 9.30am-3.30pm. The cost is \$25.00. Morning and afternoon tea and lunch will be included in the cost. The theme is 'What can be sweeter to us than the voice of the Lord calling us?'.
RSVP: 20th October 2008 - Deanery Representative or Gemma Whitehead
bonser@bigpond.net.au

SNIPPET

It is easy to love people far away. It is not always easy to love those who live right next to us.
Mother Theresa