



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, 21-22 September, 2024

'Where is the hunger?'

On Wednesday 28 August, Fr Stephen Wang, Rector of the Venerable English College in Rome, engaged in a lunchtime conversation on evangelisation with members of different agencies and departments across the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

As part of an unofficial 'tour' of Melbourne, Fr Wang reflected on why we, as Catholics, evangelise, how to do it, and what good evangelisation looks like.

Evangelisation, he says, refers to 'our common mission to share our faith with others'.

This mission comes to us first as a command from Jesus. 'Don't forget, it's a duty,' Fr Wang said. 'But we do it out of joy. If something has touched our hearts, we naturally want to share. And if we're not wanting to share this amazing, good news, has it really touched us deeply, personally?'

He challenged those present to regard evangelisation as a sign of how deeply we care about other people. 'We want to share our faith out of love ... You care for your friends and family, but do you care for them enough to want them to know the love of Jesus, and to know the hope of heaven, and to know the danger of sin?'

'Often at an intellectual level in us Christians, there is a subtle relativism ... [We think], "Oh, my faith is really important for me ... But you take that so far, and no one ever wants to share anything with anyone, because we're all stuck where we are and there's no universal truth, or goodness, or beauty." 'But we believe in objective truth, goodness and beauty, because otherwise how can we share anything?' he said. 'How can we be united in anything?'

Referring to the temptation to 'quietly witness' to our faith without actually speaking about it, Fr Wang said, 'You can half-understand that. But actually, when you knock on heaven's gate and St Peter is there, asking you what you've done in this life, that's not going to carry very much, I'm afraid.' But how we evangelise is just as important as the desire to evangelise. Pointing to Sherry Weddell's book *Forming Intentional Disciples*, Fr Wang noted the five 'thresholds' people often pass through in becoming followers of Christ. These thresholds are part of the 'subtle' movements of the human heart in coming to faith.

First, there is trust, followed by curiosity, openness of heart and mind, active seeking and finally 'intentional discipleship'.

'It's very jargony that [last] phrase, but it means not just passive discipleship ... As [GK] Chesterton says, going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.'

Paying attention to these thresholds allows us to know how to engage with people at different stages of their journey. The first two stages—trust and curiosity—are particularly important. For most people, he said, 'belonging comes before believing,' and having spaces in which people can 'feel welcomed, connect, and take things at their own pace' is crucial for building trust and inspiring curiosity. Because of this, it is important not to think about evangelisation as a 'project'. 'It's not a project ... Evangelisation is not a machine or a program and you press the "go" button. It's people evangelising, sharing their faith.'

Although the task of evangelisation might seem overwhelming in our current context, Fr Wang encouraged everyone—parishes, communities, families—to take stock of where their priorities are, and how evangelisation fits into those.

'You cannot do everything,' he said. '[But] what's the one thing you can do well this year? ... What is needed? Where is the cry? Where is the hunger? What can we do that no one else can do?'

He encouraged people to keep it simple. 'Pray. Find one or two others and start. And then pray again.' 'It's difficult. It's difficult because the culture is difficult. It's difficult because there are so many thresholds to go through. There's a lack of trust, a lack of curiosity. We're not perfect,' he said.

'We need to remember that we are just earthenware jars. "Cracked pots" is a better translation. But the bigger the crack, the more the light of Jesus can shine through.'

(taken from *Melbourne Catholic Magazine* 4 Sept 2024)

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow

<https://youtube.com/live/X9RX1NM9znA?feature=share>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

St Paul Apostle North

Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Acting Principal
Mrs Monique Fallace

St Paul Apostle South

Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's

Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for NEXT WEEK
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading *Numbers 11:25-29*

A reading from the book of Numbers

Then the Lord came down in the cloud, took some of the Spirit that was on Moses and put it on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied—but they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one name Eldad, and the other named Medad and the Spirit rested on them, they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent and so they prophesied in the camp. A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men said, “Moses, my lord, stop them!”

But Moses said to them, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were Prophet and that all the Lord would put his Spirit on them!

Come now listen, you rich people, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. Your riches has rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Listen! The wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back for fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous one, who does not resist you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth
sanctify is in the truth
Alleluia!

Psalm

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple

The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether

By them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can detect unmindful errors?
Clear me from hidden faults

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression

Second Reading *James 5:1-6*

A reading from the Letter of Saint James

Gospel *Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48*

After Jesus finished teaching the disciples, John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell

And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched”

For reflection

1. When we accept that God’s spirit can be present in anyone, we become more inclusive. We see that everyone has the potential to share God’s message. This helps us to appreciate the diverse ways God works in the world.
2. James wants us to see the dangers of being greedy. Wealth can make us selfish and blind to the needs of others. True wealth is found in sharing and caring for those less fortunate.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

2024 SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

If you wish to have your child to be part of this year's sacrament of Confirmation program, you are required to send the completed registration form by the **FRI-DAY 4th of October, 2024** (you can obtain the registration form from our website or from the Parish office Tuesday-Friday 9am to 2pm. Your child must be in Grade 6 and have already received their Sacrament of Reconciliation & First Communion.



Below are the important dates which you & your child must attend to complete the program

- First Family Night Tuesday 15 Oct at 7pm
- follow by 3 classes either at our parish schools or After School Religious Education (ASRE) for those attending outside our parish school
- Last Family Night Tuesday, 19 November at 7pm
- Meet with Bishop on Wednesday, 20 November at 9.45am
- Confirmation Mass Saturday, 23 November at 2pm

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

Most of the envelopes have been picked up. However, there are some which are still waiting to be collected. If you are looking for your new sets of thanksgiving envelopes, please approach Didi after Mass and she will give you the new sets of envelopes.

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS

4:12 YOUTH (our Parish Youth for grd 5 to yr 9)

At last month's gathering, the group had an opportunity to share their thoughts on the Bible story of the week under the guidance of Fr Sony. If you are interested in joining the group, please come along. The next event will be held on **FRIDAY, 11 October at 7pm** in the Tim O'Toole Annexe. A variety of activities is arranged for each gathering. For planning purposes, please contact Trish Brown on 0412 357 350 if you wish to attend.

YOUNG ADULTS (age 18 to 25 years old)

This age Youth group will be gathering on **SUNDAY, 20 October in the Parish House**. If you wish to join in please contact parish office on 97003781 They usually gathers on

THIRD SUNDAY of each month. Sometimes it holds in the annexe, but other times they have activities at other venue.

WELLSPRINGS FOR WOMEN is having fundraising dinner to celebrate their 30th anniversary.

The event will be on **FRIDAY, 18th OCTOBER, 2024** at 6.30pm at **SPRINGVALE CITY HALL**, 18 Grace Park Ave, Springvale. Cost is \$110 per person. There will be lots of raffles, silent auction and Entertainment

To book you can use this QR code or contact Wellsprings on 9701 3740



HOLDING THE LIGHT

Holding the Light is an ecumenical service of lament - to remember and mourn those who have been killed as a result of domestic and family violence, and to stand in solidarity with victim survivors. This service is open to anyone who might wish to join together, take part in a ritual and engage in a period of quiet prayer or reflection on the tragic results of violence, and in hope for a better future for our communities.

Date: Thursday 28 November 2024 at 5.00pm

Location: Wesley Church Melbourne, 136 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne VIC 3000



COME AWAY DAYS

A ministry of the Passionist community who offer a space which is an oasis of peace and quiet, away from the busy world. in the surrounds of beautiful gardens, open space and trees. Their first session is on **TUESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER, 2024**. The day begins with a cuppa at 9.30am and end at 2pm. This retreat runs at Holy Cross Retreat 207 Serpells Road Templestowe, VIC.

For further information about Come Away Days contact Phone - 9846 6014 or email hcc@passionists.com



Readings:

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

Wisdom 2:12. 17-20

James 3:16 – 4:3

Mark 9:30-37

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

Numbers 11:25-29

James 5:1-6

Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Sr. Joan Smith cp, Hector de Santos, Gladys Torres, Isabel Florindo, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Annette Tanner, Ruby Reid, Michael Arcaro, Danny Sugunasekera, Stephanie Kinson, Anton Jansz, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Frances Elizabeth Dascoli, Doreen Young, Roger Gray, Otto Harris, Bernard David, Victoria Moloney, Darryll Williams, Sakunthala Thuraisingham, Nicolette Gerxhi, Brett Daly, Marilyn Hedrich, Janine Florindo Baptista, Luzia Florindo, Conrado Padua, Mercedes Padua **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

Gardening

Spring has come and so it is time to tidy up our church garden.

We are planning to have working bee on **SAT-URDAY, 12 October from 8.30am to 11am.**

If you are able to give us a hand, please come with your garden tools. You don't have to stay for the whole 3 hrs, just stay as long as you can.



**We wish our children and teachers
a restful holiday**



St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF EUCHARIST 2024

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn Lien Phan	Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell Rohan Wickramasinghe	Vianney Clark Antoniette Gargano Florence Madeira	Anne Kankanige Peng Chee Vonny Lai
2nd Sunday	Gertrude Akom Mima Arena Carmeline Don Paul	Sig Romano Esteban Morales Aloma Pereira	Sharon Normington Jean Jansz Naomi Falo	Jenny Catania Brendan Keating Lakni Weerasekera
3rd Sunday	Celine Quinless Riona Alveyn Lionel Alveyn	Mary Moore Nila Fernando Rosa Mitchell	Florence Madeira Sai Dilinger Binitha Mathew	Vonny Lai Charlene Nheu Marg Keating
4th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Lien Phan Celine Quinless	Aloma Pereira Mary Moore Rohan Wickramasinghe	Vianney Clark Stephen Herbert Lauren Rafferty	Swineetha Disanayake Dominique Maclou Jenny Catania
5th Sunday	Bernie Henstridge Carmeline Don Paul Mima Arena	Sig Romano Esteban Morales Nila Fernando	Binitha Mathew Stephen Herbert Sharon Normington	Ayomi Fernandez Peng Chee Jenny Catania

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2024

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Alvita Dias	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio Diane Heaton
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Diane Allegany Anne Astin	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Janina Gorski Grace Sudjono	Jennifer Tanti Diane Allegany	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu