



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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The Ascension of the Lord Yr A, 20-21 May, 2023

Pope Francis: 'We are losing the ability to listen'

(from Melbourne Catholic Magazine)

In his message for the 56th World Day of Social Communications, Pope Francis says that the greatest need of human beings is 'the desire to be heard', and yet 'we are losing the ability to listen'. In Australia, World Communications Day is celebrated on the Sixth Sunday of Easter (this year on 22 May). Last year's theme was 'Come and See', an invitation to not remain spectators behind the screen, but to go out into the world and hear people's stories. This year's theme is 'Listening with the ear of the heart.'

Faith and listening

Pope Francis warns us: 'We are losing the ability to listen to those in front of us.' Aside from the difficulties this presents for everyday life and society, it also speaks to something that lies at the very heart of our faith.

Referencing the Israelite Shema – the 'Hear, O Israel' (Deuteronomy 6:4) – the pontiff explained that listening is fundamental to the relationship between God and humanity. God speaks, revealing himself, and we listen, responding in faith. Likewise, the Scriptures tell us that God 'inclines his ear' to listen to us.

'Human beings tend to flee the relationship,' Pope Francis said, 'to turn their back and "close their ears" so they do not have to listen.'

A sad result of this is aggression towards others, he said, like the crowd that murdered St Stephen (Acts 7:57). They 'stopped their ears with their hands' before rushing him, banishing him, and stoning him.

'This is why Jesus calls his disciples to evaluate the quality of their listening,' he went on. In Luke 8:18, Jesus says 'take care how you hear.' What this means, Francis explained, is 'paying attention to whom we listen, to what we listen, and to how we listen . . .'

Listening with the heart

True listening is not a matter of hearing sounds. 'There is an interior deafness worse than the physical one,' he said, because 'the true seat of listening is the heart.' From King Solomon to St Augustine, we see an urgent exhortation to have 'a listening heart'.

The first move we must make in learning how to do this is rediscovering 'listening to oneself, to one's truest needs, those inscribed in each person's inmost being . . .'

We can only start by listening to what makes us unique in creation.'

Human beings are profoundly unique in creation. We earnestly desire to live in relationship with one another and with God. 'We are not made to live like atoms, but together.'

Media and the Church

This lack of listening is a symptom of something we already suffer from:

Rather than seeking the true and the good, consensus is sought; rather than listening, one pays attention to the audience. Good communication, on the other hand, does not try to impress the public with a soundbite, with the aim of ridiculing the other person . . .'

What often happens is that people talk 'past each other' rather than to each other. We monologue instead of dialogue. When we refuse engagement with one another in the effort of listening and communication, we form ideological alignments.

This happens 'even in the Church', and when this happens 'listening disappears, leaving sterile opposition in its wake.'

Knowledge begins with amazement

One of the virtues that listening requires is patience, Pope Francis says. But it also requires something else: 'the ability to allow oneself to be

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm

Sunday
9am, 11am and 6pm

Please note Sunday 11am is also
ONLINE

Please click on this link to follow
<https://youtu.be/cCNQw5-JAfk>

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Luke Bulley CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community

Fr Brendan Connell CP
Fr Brian Gleeson CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP
Fr Luke Bulley CP

St Paul Apostle North

Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Mrs Mary Lucas

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

surprised by the truth, even if only a fragment of truth.'

Much like the ancient maxim that says philosophy begin in wonder, Pope Francis said that 'amazement enables knowledge.

I think of the infinite curiosity of the child who looks at the world around them with wide-open eyes. Listening with this frame of mind — the wonder of the child in the

awareness of an adult — is always enriching because there will always be something, however small, that I can learn from the other person and allow to bear fruit in my own life

YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT is August 4-6 (Friday night to Sunday afternoon). at Pallotti College for those aged 18+. It will be run by Tom Warren (from our Passionist Youth Retreat Team in Brisbane) and Fr Luke. This is an open invitation to young people in our parish, as well as friends, or anyone else who would like to come. Registration forms will be available at the gathering space. We are limited to 20 people, so please register soon (details to the right). Cost is \$150 per person. This will be a great opportunity to get to know other young people in our wider parish community, as well as deepen faith in a fun and open way. There will also be the possibility of being part of an emerging Team of young people facilitating school retreats around Victoria towards the end of the year. Register by scanning the QR Code, or clicking [this link](#).



AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (for children who have been registered into receiving Sacrament of First Communion this year)

For all children who have been registered into our Sacrament of First Communion this year, but do not attend our parish schools, they must attend ASRE (After School Religious Education) which runs every **TUESDAY** at 4pm and finishes at 5pm in the Church. Dates are: **23rd, 30th May, 6th and 13th June**

Parents must sign in their child as they drop him/her at church. They must also sign them out as they pick them up. Please use the William Hovell Drive entrance, as we will not open other entrances

TEACHING MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Catholic Theological College is running the online unit

Teaching Meditation and Prayer over two Saturdays in June (**17 & 24 June**) and two Saturdays in October (**7 & 14 October**).

This unit offers an ideal opportunity for lay leaders and other interested people in your parish to develop skills in facilitating meditation and prayer within a parish context. The emphasis is on silent meditation and establishing places of silence in a contemporary context.

The unit may be undertaken as part of an undergraduate or postgraduate award (including the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation), as a single unit for credit, or for personal enrichment (no assessment/credit). It forms part of the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation which is recognised by Meditation Australia.

Cost:

- as an audit student (no assessment/credit) fee: \$650

- at undergraduate level: fee: \$1,861

- at postgraduate level: fee: \$2,882

Fees may be paid through FEE_HELP when units are part of a University of Divinity award.

Please contact **9412 3309** or registrar@ctc.edu.au for more information or to discuss study options

LOST ANGEL

Last Sunday, 14 May, one of our parishioner lost an angel pendant. It is not valuable to others, but holds a very dear memory to the owner. It was between the Church and the car park.

If you found it, you may hand it in to the Parish office or call 9700 3781

A LIFT TO THE CHURCH

A 65 year old lady is needing a lift to attend Mass at our Church (either Saturday 6pm or Sunday 11am). She is living at Durang Crt, Endeavour Hills.

If you are able to help, please contact parish office 97003781

Readings:

**The Ascension of the Lord Sunday
Yr A**

Acts 1: 1-11;

Eph 1: 17-23;

Mt 28: 16-20

Pentecost Sunday Yr A

Acts 2: 1-11;

1 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13;

John 20: 19-23

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Anthona Henderson, Nimal Pandithakoralage, Chris Williams, Ikhlas Jona, Cecil Harper, Fr Brian Gleeson, Wilhada de los Reyes, Elma, Alleayah, Nicole Pinto, Toni Celona, Shinead Kralj, Carlos Aquino, Jamie Cabrera, Angela Schink, Rajendre Rasiah, Roy Conyers, Sandra D'Costa, Horace Stolke, Annette Perera, Ronald Peters, Godfrey Joseph, Camilla D'Rozario, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Wilma San Giorgio, Brian Tobin, Marcello Sota Snr, Louis Minerve, Peng Lee Wong, Upul Thewarapperuma, Toan Nguyen, Fr Brian Johnston, Myrtle Rodricks, Fr Bob Maguire, Verena Cole, Felix Cole, Henry Peteru, Filomena Boavida, Vilma, Salvador De Jesus, Esperanca De Jesus, Gabriel Maclou, Cyril Khédoo, Hose Duarte, Esperanca Duarte **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

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

