



Gospel Mt 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Did you notice that Our Lord does not command us to love 'God'? No, we are to love 'the Lord your God', the One who rescued the Jewish people from slavery. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals the Lord God as the liberator from the apparent final dominance of death. Loving such a liberator is the natural response. So, 'Love the Lord your God'.

Then Our Lord does not command us to love our neighbour! Rather, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' But who is 'yourself'? In the wonderful story-telling of Genesis, we are told that Adam, an earthen statue, had Divine Breath breathed into the nostrils, creating him as a human being. We earthlings are conceived with the Divine Breath at the core of our being.

The challenge for you and for me is to see 'yourself' in that way, and thereafter every human being whose lives we can affect: the neighbour. And in today's global world, the neighbour can be a person in a society geographically or culturally distant.

We could pause for a moment to see the true dimensions of God, self and the other, to more easily fulfil the dual command.

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WELCOME TO ST BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GREYTHORN

St Bridget's Greythorn is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

25 October 2020

First Reading Ex 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans."

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my
stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

**All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we
will come to them.**

Alleluia!

St Bridget's Parish Greythorn - Parish Directory:
48 Sweyn Street, Balwyn North 3104.

Parish Priest:

Fr John Salvano

Assistant Priest:

Fr Toan Nguyen

(Contact St Bede's Parish Office
9401 6355)

Priest in Residence:

Fr Kevin Lenehan

Parish Secretary:

Mario Landini

*Note: The Parish Office is closed
during Stage 4 restrictions.*

Parish Contact:

Phone: 9857 6395

Email: greythorn@cam.org.au

news@stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au

Web: www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au

Parish Hall Hire:

Enquiries - Parish Office 9857 6395

Sacramental Program:

Contact: Edgar D'Souza
0412 183 141

Child Safety Co-ordinator:

Anne Credlin

(Contact via Parish Office)

Parish Pastoral Council:

Contact via parish office

Refugee Action Group:

Chair: Robert Stewart

Contact via Parish Office

St Vincent De Paul Society

President: Anne Hartley

Help Line 1800 305 330

Parish School:

Principal: Robyn Thomson

Contact : 9857 6394

**NOTE: Baptisms and Weddings by
appointment only. Contact the Parish Office
for details.**

We Remember: We remember our deceased family and friends; and Frank Dixon, Domenico and Mario Caruso whose anniversary occurs at this time: may they rejoice forever with our Risen Lord. We pray for the sick and housebound; may they come to know the healing power of God's love.

Mass Changes: Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions, all public Masses are suspended until further notice. However, Mass online will be broadcast each weekend from one of our affiliated churches of St Bridget, St Bede, St Anne or St Joachim. On-Line Mass is available from 5pm Saturday, and can be accessed from either parish website www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au or www.parishofstanneandstbede.org.au and follow the prompts. This week's link is: https://youtu.be/MKoD_KSOp9A

Follow up: A couple of weeks ago, all parish volunteers would have received a Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Persons Declaration and were asked to read, sign and return it to the Parish Office. At the same time, a number of volunteers were asked to renew their Working With Children Check and or obtain a Police Check. These are standard documents required under the Archdiocese and Parish WWC Policy and Government legislation. Parishioners are urged to complete the above documentation and return them to the parish office at an early opportunity so that we can commence to plan the Ministry rosters for 2021.



Catholic Theological College

2020 Knox Public Lecture

Thursday 5th November at 7.00pm

Presented by: Sheree Limbrick

Safe Church: Commitment, Awareness & Action For Cultural Change

Bookings and Info at: ctc.edu.au/knox-public-lecture.

Enquiries: sarah.styring@ctc.edu.au or Phone 9412 3333

Venue: online/Zoom

Change Is In The Air! - Archbishop Comensoli has made the following appointments to take effect on Wednesday 18 November:

Fr Toan Nguyen will take up an appointment as Assistant Priest at Our Lady's Parish, Craigieburn.

Fr Lenin Thenamirtham will take up an appointment as Assistant Priest at the Parishes of St Anne and St Bede, and St Bridget's.

Toan has been a much-loved Assistant Priest here for nearly three years, and we thank him for his joyful and stylish presence among us. We wish him well in his new appointment in a large, growing outer-suburban parish. Hopefully many of you will have an opportunity to say "goodbye" over the next few weekends. Unfortunately, we will not be able to have a large gathering to honour him.

Lenin has been the Assistant Priest at the partnered Parishes of Greensborough, North Greensborough and Diamond Creek for the last two years. He was ordained five years ago. I am sure you will make him feel very welcome and at home.

Fr John

Stay Connected for Prayer and Chat:

Gather with our affiliated parishes and fellow parishioners by connecting via zoom to:

- ❖ **Friday night Prayer and Chat** – 5pm each Friday via zoom – connection details are sent on Thursday;
- ❖ **Meditation Group** – 9.30am each Wednesday via zoom – contact Susie Hii on susiehii.hc@gmail.com for connection details.
- ❖ **Scripture Reflection** – 11.00am each Sunday (whilst in lockdown) via zoom – contact Susie Hii on susiehii.hc@gmail.com for connection details.

Parish Collections: Thank you to all those parishioners who have continued to support the church and priests through on line giving. As we contemplate the way forward (post COVID) we need to consider the cash handling process for our counters. Cash in our collections is always welcome, but there are other convenient and secure ways of giving to consider. On line giving is easy, fast and places you in control. The preferred methods of giving at this time are by Credit Card or Direct Debit (contact the parish office to set these up) or electronic funds transfer direct to the Church or Presbytery accounts. Rest assured that giving by card at the church level is safe and secure. Details for electronic funds transfer to the church accounts are:-

- St Bridget's Church Account (Church donations and/or envelope givers) at NAB, BSB 083-347, Account #64 341 3829
- St Bridget's Presbytery Account Offering (for support of the Parish Priest) at NAB, BSB 083-347, Account # 64 341 5066

Please ensure that you include your name and envelope number when giving by these methods.

A Thought: In the Gospel today, Jesus tells us to love God and neighbour. These two commandments are the foundation of Christian Spirituality.

To show us more vividly how ardent God's desire is for our love, God demands that love from us in wonderful terms: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all of your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment." We often think that God is so great and we are so little that we are incapable of loving God. So as not to be discouraged and turn away from God's love, Jesus tells us that we are highly capable of loving God with all our strength, even after sin. How do we show this love of God and neighbour?



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