

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY'S DOONSIDE

Fr. J. O'Neill, Parish Priest 9622 .3426 Parish Fax 9622 3376 Fr.Eugene Szondi: 9622 .3426 School: 9831 1817

PARISH MASSES: Sunday: Sat 6.30pm Sun 7.30 & 9.30 am. Melkite Rite 11am.

Weekday Masses: Mon: 6.30am Tues 7.30pm Wed&Thurs 9.15am Fri 7.30pm Sat. 9am. Public Holidays on Mondays 9am.

CONFESSIONS: Sat. After 9am Mass & 4.30. After(not before) weekday Masses. After Novena (Wed night)

BAPTISMS: by appointment. Not before 1pm on Sundays.(Canon Law requires 'a firm hope of a Catholic upbringing')

FIRST CONFESSION & COMMUNION: Children must be attending Mass on Sundays before they can make their First Communion, and parents must continue to bring them to Mass after that day. Dates to be announced at Mass.

CONFIRMATION: To be notified by bishop - fifth class and older.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: from after 7.30pm Mass Friday to 6.30am Saturday.

NOVENA: Wednesdays 7.30pm to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. In Lent, after Stations of the Cross.

PARISH FAMILY MOVEMENT: Parishioners are invited to live this programme in their family life. The aims of the PFM are published on sheets available on the shelf in the narthex (front) of the church.

LEGION OF MARY: Only for those attending Mass at SJV & you must see Parish Priest if you wish to become a member.

ANCILLAE DOMINI Communion together at 9.30am Mass every 3rd. Sunday.

PARISH LIBRARY: Open after 9.30 Sunday Mass. (Located in narthex)

YOUTH GROUP: for info. re outings, etc watch this Notice Sheet.

REVERENCE IN THE CHURCH: In the parish of St John Vianney we have preserved the ancient tradition of prayerful silence in the church and reverence for Our Lord, present in the Tabernacle, on the Altar during Mass, and when receiving Him in Holy Communion. We welcome visitors and we ask them to have the same reverence, knowing that, unfortunately, not all parishes have preserved this tradition. Prayer is difficult when people are talking. MOBILE PHONES do not belong in God's house, even if turned off. Also, PLEASE DRESS MODESTLY. We thank our visitors for their cooperation.

PRAY FOR OUR HONOURED DEAD: Father John Watts, Father Ken Byrne, Father Robert McNeill, Sister Ursula Smith RSJ, Father Roderick Bray, Father John Gabriel Madden, Father Peter Little S.J., Father Gordon Jackson, Fr Kevin Dadswell, Fr Jim Stack, Fr Brian Larkey; Kevin Lee, Frank Bellett, Millie Rankins, Mary Patricia Williams, Senio & Fetu Pilia'e, Bert Rodricks, Ray & Flo Periera, John O'Neill, Dal & June O'Grady, Peggy Nicholson, Charles Bali, Laurie Hammerton, John Portelli, Franz & Philomena Kroegel, Paul Brazier, 'Sonny' Boncales, Keith Evans, Alfred Borg

Monica D'Souza, Ron Pace, Grace Theuma, Rex & Irene De Sousa, Thomas&Maria Cassar, Charlie&Stephen Cutajar, Romana Coutinho, Merwyn&Merlin Athaide, Philomena Castellino, Patricia Rennie, Conception D' Souza, Dennis&Joy Parry, Noel Brown, Joanne Sammarco, Maggie Fernandes, Eugenia Malit, Antoinette Ayre, Gordon Castellino, Francesco Depasquale, Michael Dimech, Joe&Mary Mallia, Frank Cozzo, Joseph&Louise Bonello, Ben&Nancy Ruocco, Dominic D'Souza, Joseph Mangion, Frank & Clara Vassallo, Vincent & Dolores Azzopardi, Millie White, Amy Sorensen, Mark Castellino

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER C

Entrance: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Psalm: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy. R/

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him.

We are his people, the sheep of his flock. R/

Indeed, how good is the Lord,

Eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. R/

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Communion: The Good Shepherd is risen, who laid down his life for his sheep, and willingly died for his flock, alleluia!

HYMNS: ENTRANCE 3 OFFERTORY 25 COMMUNION 39 RECESSIONAL 1

THE HEART OF THE PRIESTHOOD

Father John W. O'Neill

7th December, 2005

There was once a religious brother from Victoria who found himself sports master in a Sydney school; brought up on Aussie Rules he had to coach Rugby League teams. Then he wrote a book on the subject, although he had never played the game. So this poor priest is 'having a go' at writing about something much more than a game which he has tried to 'play,' God alone knows with what success.

Coming straight to the point: the heart of the priesthood of the Catholic Church can be discovered in that mysterious incident when the fishing partners, Simon and Andrew, James and John, were cleaning their nets after a night's work on the Lake of Galilee. Down the shore comes this so-called 'new prophet', Jesus, from Nazareth. They had met him before down by the Jordan and perhaps had heard him preach. Whatever the cause of their view of him, He was certainly looming large in their lives, so large indeed that 'they left all and followed him.' The healthy, manly, not unprofitable, outdoor life of the fisherman on beautiful Lake Galilee, had no attraction now: Jesus of Nazareth wanted them with him, and that was all that mattered. That was what their future boast would be. He would be their life and He would be their glory.

So it must continue for the priest today. At the core of his being there must be an awareness of Jesus Christ loving him in that special way by which He, the Divine Master, is lifting him by the Sacrament which priested him, into that Loving which knew no beginning nor will know any end: that Eternal Love which gives infinite joy to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It was this Joy which moved God to create, and when man's plight was hopeless, moved Him to save and make holy.

God walked the earth, and called fishermen to walk with Him; even more, He gave them, on that Last Night with them, His very Self. They would now be Him, even Him, in and for the world, for mankind. He would stay among His children through them.

This union with Jesus Christ, more than a bond – more like the absorption of the drop of water into the wine at the Offertory of the Mass - establishes the Priesthood. So that all the priest's actions should shine with the presence of Christ, the priest needs to carry at all times the consciousness of Christ's presence in him. Prayer is thus more necessary for the priest than for anyone, bearing in mind that prayer should be very little about us, and everything about letting God reach into us. Towards the end of his life, the head fisherman, the Rock, spoke of the fruit of his prayerfulness, his faith, which had allowed the Master to stay with and in him: "You shall be filled with a joy that cannot be described." And Peter was not talking about waiting for Heaven, he was talking about having that joy now, while we are still on earth.

If this oneness in Christ is not seen as the heart of the priesthood, then the seminarian's philosophy and theology, all his study of Sacred Scripture, Liturgy, Canon Law, languages, history, all will be a waste of time, like following old tracks that disappear into drought-stricken country, leading at best only to dry old ruins, the worn out faded attempts of human learning to fulfil itself without the life-giving presence of God as Teacher and Goal.

If this oneness is not there, then who will have their hearts lifted by priest's dryness in the celebration of Mass, his murmured absolutions, his directionless preaching, his merely efficient administration of Sacraments, his 'hail-fellow-well-met' relationships with all he meets. All the learning and the talent will point not to God, but fruitlessly inward towards himself. And the self has not the power to save.

The great Pere Lacordaire, France's most famous preacher humbly went to Ars. He came away saying, "Today, I saw God in a man." That man in Ars was not a man of great learning or talent, but we all know his name. Who, except perhaps experts in French history, could tell us the name of the Archbishop of Paris in the eighteen fifties, or the Archbishop of Lyons or the Bishop of Belley, with due respect to those members of the hierarchy? But everyone knows who was the parish priest of tiny, out of the way Ars. It is not the office which gives grace, but Christ's presence in the man who bears the office.

May our laity pray for their priests: without Jesus of Nazareth in us, we are merely 'sounding brass or tinkling symbol.'