

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 August 2020

Isaiah 55:1-3
Romans 8:35,37-39
Matthew 14:13-21



*Readings for
next Sunday:*

1 Kings 19:9,11-13
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33



Liturgical Jottings Numbers

Dictionaries define or describe numbers as quantity, quality, value, abstracts, sum of items, representation or symbol. The last descriptor best serves the needs of the biblical reader: symbol. We have biblical numbers: 40 days, nights, years, sons, generations, lambs and coins or 12 sons, leaders, tribes, apostles months and years. Numbers are more symbolic than factual in many biblical passages. The 5000 men in the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes probably was not the result of a head count but a symbol that God's providence is generous and awesome. The hampers of left over scraps emphasises God's compassion and grace for his people. The symbolic use of the number adds to and not diminishes the miracle's importance. The later Eucharistic interpretation lets us understand the self-giving nature of Christ for the life of the whole world.

Looking at the Gospel

The people are hungry. There are many responses to this plea: ignorance, misunderstanding or denial by the powerful or the hardhearted; pity, sympathy or compassion by the caring; action, redress and generosity by the able-bodied benefactors and social reformers plus many more actions, reactions and intentions by all sorts of persons. Isaiah speaks to a people who have returned from exile. They had longed to be back home but on their return they find their cities and towns in ruins and a famine in the land. Isaiah consoles them with words of hope in today's first reading. In time they will receive water, bread and prosper once again, not just materially but spiritual with God's covenant renewed.

The people are hungry. This time centuries later when the crowds spend all day listening to Jesus. Jesus has pity for their plight to hear the Word of God and at the end of the day he shows compassion for their need for food and strength to return home. There are six accounts in the four Gospels of feeding the crowd through the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Matthew gives a simple account. Last month on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ we heard John's more detailed account and the following teaching on the Eucharist. Yet the symbolism in Matthew's account is also evident. Despite death [John the Baptist], hunger and poor provisions God hears their cry and overwhelms them with his response. Today the church of the people of God and the entire world are in need of spiritual food and material necessities of life.

Feeding of the crowds - symbol

Commentaries give symbolic meaning to Matthew's two accounts: 14:13-21 had 12 baskets of scraps leftover symbolising the 12 tribes of Israel. Matt 15:32-39 had 7 baskets leftover representing the entire world. Jesus provides spiritual food for all.

Prayer for the Week from the Psalm Response

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs. *Ps 144:16*

Saint of the Week: St John Vianney, Tues 4 August

Jean-Marie was born on 8 May 1786 near Lyon. His education had been interrupted by the French Revolution. Despite many difficulties he was ordained a priest and appointed parish priest of Ars, a town of 230 inhabitants. He quickly became renown for his catechesis, preaching, witness to faith and charity and especially hearing confessions. He died on 4 August 1859. He is proclaimed patron saint of Parish Priests and recently of all priests.

On the Lighter Side

Q: How do you make the odd number 7 even without addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division? A: Drop the "S".

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	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Giovanna Sepe, Octavio Ortiz, Benegna Secuya, Guelirno Zapanta, Francisco Languido, Edgar Pais, Sheryl Borcess Jenna Ortiz
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Ignacio Ray Ortiz, Teresa Ortiz, Melanie Ortiz, Vecinta Avancena, Cresencio Avancena, Desiderio Avancera
	Our sick and their carers	Lewis Noonan, Sue MacDonald

Jul-EYE -- Eye Health Awareness Month:

About 90% of vision loss is preventable, or treatable if detected early enough. Age-related macular degeneration affects central vision which is important for reading and driving. Every 65 minutes an Australian loses part or all of their vision. Cataracts form with slow and painless blurring of vision. You may be sensitive to bright lights while driving at night. Save your sight -- Get tested.

Disability Contact Coordinator.

Wearing of Face Masks at Mass

Effective from Wednesday 8 August we ask that each parishioner wears a face mask during our Mass services and just remove it for the Eucharist.

For everyone's health safety please wear your face mask while at Church.

Fr John Paul Pasala

Do you need a Mask?

Goulburn Valley Days for Girls Chapter, here in Tatura are making masks and selling them for \$7.50. They have kindly offered to make masks for our Parishioners and \$2.50 from each mask will be donated to the church. The other \$5.00 will be used to provide girls in the Pacific with a DfG Kit to help them manage their menstruation with dignity. To order mask please contact Mary on 0484 332 397 or email goulburnvalleyvid@daysforgirls.org

Mass Timetable

Wednesday: 9:15 am (rosary starts at 9am)

Saturday: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 9:30 am

Please let all your family and friends know about our Mass timetable. If they would like to come to Mass and cannot booking on line or having trouble please encourage them to call Mary on 0484 332 397 or Debbie on 0417 051 366

2021 Columban Art Calendars

Mary is taking orders for the 2021 Columban Art Calendar. The cost is \$9.00, they will make a beautiful Christmas gift. Please call Mary on 0484332397 or email tatura@cdos.org.au



Sandhurst Diocese 'Wheel of Prayer Day' 2020 Saturday 8th August 2020 10.00 am – 3.15 pm.

Seeking inspiration to cultivate a flourishing prayer life? Then join us for our annual 'Wheel of Prayer Day' and explore different forms of prayer to help you sustain a powerful and effective private prayer practice.

The day will begin with an introductory reflection and the Prayer of the Church (or 'Liturgy of the Hours') led by Bishop Shane Mackinlay. Four 45-minute workshops, each offering a brief introduction and experience of prayer, will follow.

Go to TryBooking to register and leave your email address for Zoom meeting link to be sent to you. <https://www.trybooking.com/BJUOP>. To learn more go to 'News & Events' at sandhurst.catholic.org.au.