

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9 August 2020



Readings for
this week:

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



Readings for next
Sunday: Isaiah 56:1,6-7
Romans 11:13-15,29-32
Matthew 15:21-28



Liturgical Jottings Silence

Silence is a necessary dimension of liturgy. Just as there should be no celebration without song, so too there should be no celebration without periods for silent prayer and reflection. Silence enables those at prayer to receive in their hearts “the full sound of the voice of the Holy Spirit” and unite their prayer to the word of God and to the prayer of the whole church. Active participation in the liturgy through gestures, words and symbols must also involve the renewed practice of silence, in the positive sense of receptive openness to God’s mysterious presence. *Articles of Silence in The New Dictionaries of Sacramental Worship and Catholic Spirituality, The Liturgical Press 1993 & 2000.*

Looking at the Readings

The Liturgy of the Word this Sunday opens with a wonderful account of the Prophet Elijah experience with encountering God. A theophany akin to Moses’ experience of God at the burning bush (Exodus 3). We read in English: [that God was heard] in “the sound of a gentle breeze.” (Jerusalem Bible - Australian Lectionary) or in “a sound of sheer silence” (New RSV). The Carmelites translate the Hebrew “qôl dêmâmâ daqqâ” as “a sound of thin silence” and offer us this commentary: “Elijah’s ineffable experience had found expression in an oxymoron that has, for centuries, frustrated scripture scholars as much as it has delighted Christian mystics. What does silence sound like? And thin silence at that! The biblical author provoked centuries of reflection”.

May we continue that reflection in light of today’s Gospel particularly in the final verse: “And as Jesus and Peter got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God.’ It was not Jesus walking on the water but his calming of the storm and in the quietness of the sea that they recognised him as the Son of God”.

We need silence in our daily life to allow God into our lives. During the COVID-19 restrictions with working from home, having enough of screen time with remote conferencing and schooling; less outings for shopping and visiting we find we have “New Time”. We may not have church time but we do have prayer time and reading time.

Saints of the Week

This coming week we have Solemnities, Feasts and Memorials: Assumption of Mary; St Lawrence; St Clare, St Jane Frances de Chantal, Maximilian Kolbe. An optional memorial, which often gets overlooked, is on Thursday 13 August-that of St Pontian, pope and martyr, and St Hippolytus priest and martyr. They are celebrated together but they were not always together when alive. Hippolytus was the first antipope. He opposed Pope Callistus and was installed as an “alternative pope” After the election of Pope Pontian they reconciled but then both martyred under the Emperor Maximinus in 235. St Hippolytus gave us the basis for Eucharistic Prayer II in our missals today.

On the Lighter Side

I asked children what’s best about being back at school: their classroom interaction, being with friends, kicking the football at playtime, more subjects. Then what was good about remote learning: being close to the fridge; having sleep breaks anytime. But school was best! © Diocese of Sandhurst 2020



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	
	Our sick and their carers	Lewis Noonan, Sue MacDonald

9:30 am On-Line Mass Sacred Heart

During the six week lockdown period in Victoria you will be able to Celebrate Mass with Fr John Paul on Sundays from 9:30 am via our website.

<http://www.sacredheartparishtatura.com.au/>

10 am Mass Livestreamed from St Killian's

The 10am Mass at St Killian's will be live-streamed every Sunday. You can view this by going to the Diocesan website and clicking on the link

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/>

Thank you for purchasing your face masks from Goulburn Valley Days for Girls Chapter

Mary received orders for 48 facemasks from parishioners. This has provided the parish with a donation of \$120, and will enable Goulburn Valley Days for Girls Chapter to provide 16 girls with a DfG Kit to help them manage their menstruation with dignity.

If you still need a face mask or would like additional ones please contact Mary on 0484 332 397 or email goulburnvalleyvic@daysforgirls.org

Vatican Instruction on the Reform of Catholic Parishes

On July 20, The Vatican' Congregation for Clergy issued a 22 page document entitled "[The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelising Mission of the Church](https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/07/20/200720a.html)".

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/07/20/200720a.html>

A summary of the document can be found on the [Catholic News Agency Website](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/vatican-publishes-instructions-on-parish-reform-and-diocesan-restructuring-82893).

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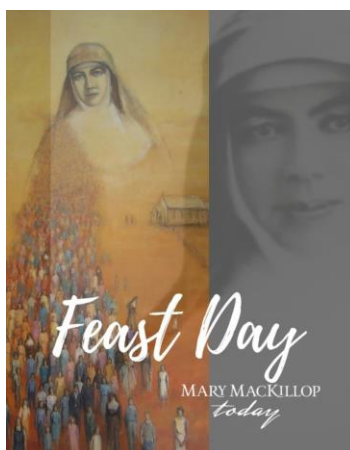
JD Flynn from the Catholic News Agency has provided a helpful article entitled "[Vatican Issues New Guidelines for Parishes: 5 Things You Need To Know](https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/vatican-issues-new-guidelines-for-catholic-parishes-5-things-you-need-to-know-70410)".

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The instruction has continued to stir debate in Germany where some bishops argue that the current parish model is no longer viable due to a lack of vocations. An interesting summary of the various arguments from the German bishops can be found in an article from Crux contributed

by [Catholic News Service](https://cruxnow.com/church-in-europe/2020/07/german-bishops-continue-debate-over-vatican-document-on-parishes/).

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Thank you for your prayers

Mary MacKillop Today supports thousands of people in Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and here in Australia, bringing hope to communities for generations to come.

Please pray for Mary MacKillop Today especially during the challenging times we all face, so that we can continue to transform lives through our vitals works carrying on the legacy of Saint Mary MacKillop.

If you'd like to learn about Mary MacKillop Today please contact us via Ph: (02) 8912 2777
Email: hello@marymackilloptoday.org.au or visit:

www.marymackilloptoday.org.au