

Eighteen Sunday of Ordinary Time Sunday 1 August 2021



**Readings for
this Sunday** Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24
John 6:24-35



**Readings for
next week:** 1 Kings 17:8-16
Colossians 3:12-17
Matthew 6:25-34



Liturgical Jottings

The Word of the Lord

And when Christ says: *whoever does not eat my flesh and drink my blood (Jn 6:53)*, even though these words can also be understood of the Eucharistic Mystery, Christ's body and blood are really the word of Scripture, God's teaching. When we approach the Eucharistic Mystery, if a crumb falls to the ground we are troubled. Yet when we are listening to the word of God, and God's Word and Christ's flesh and blood are being poured into our ears yet we pay no heed, what great peril should we not feel?" Christ, truly present under the species of bread and wine, is analogously present in the word proclaimed in the liturgy.

2010 Apostolic Exhortation **Verbum Domini** Benedict XVI para 56b

Focus on the Readings

In many ways the Exodus story of the bread from heaven is very similar to last Sunday's accounts. However, the focus today is not divine prodigality shown through the overabundance of food, but total dependence on God. The bread comes from heaven, not merely because the food seems to come down from the sky, but because it comes from God. The restriction about collecting it was meant to emphasise this point. Our survival is in God's hands, not ours.

Jesus insists that he is the true bread from heaven; he is the real basis of our survival. The people followed him because they saw him as a source of bread; they did not realise that he is really the source of life. If we fill ourselves with all that the world provides as nourishment we will still hunger. Only faith in Jesus can satisfy our deepest hungers, and we will not be able to survive apart from him.

Acceptance of Jesus as the source of our life and the very nourishment of our spirits effects a total transformation in us. We will no longer be content to live with full bellies but empty minds. We will put aside our old selves steeped in ignorance and self-interest and put on a new self, created in his image. Having fed on the bread from heaven, we will be mysteriously transformed into it. His teaching will renew the spirit of our minds. As a result, we will be able to launch out into a way of living that witnesses to our new understanding, our new life. © Dianne Bergant CSA

Quote from Let us Dream by Pope Francis (2020)

Tradition is not a museum, true religion is not a freezer, and doctrine is not static but grows and develops, like a tree that remains the same yet which gets bigger and bears ever more fruit.

Prayer for the Week

O God of glory, give us hope in the midst of suffering, and faith to perceive, even in the passion and cross, the glory of the risen Christ.

Approaching Feast Days

St John Vianney, patron saint of priests, Wednesday 4 August

Transfiguration of the Lord, Friday 6 August

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, Sunday 8 August

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sunday 15 August

On the Lighter Side

A grandfather was telling his grandson that when he was a boy he could go to the store and get two loaves, of bread, five potatoes, a bunch of carrots and a dozen eggs for a dollar. His grandson replied you can't do that today; there are too many security cameras.



	Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving	Anne Sarolea
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Giovanna Sepe (1 st Anniversary)
	Our sick and their carers	

Mass Timetable Week commencing 2nd August

Weekday Mass

Monday 2 nd August	No Mass
Tuesday 3 rd August	No Mass
Wednesday 4 th August	9:15 am Mass
Thursday 5 th August	No Mass
Friday 6 th August	9:15 am Mass

Weekend Mass

Saturday 7 th August	10:00 am St Donato
	5:30 pm Mass
Sunday 8 th August	9:30 am Mass

Reconciliation (4th Saturday of the Month)

Saturday 22nd August 11:30 am

Mary Mackillop Rosaries – Purchase at discounted prices until 31 August

Last year the Aid to the Church in Need commissioned a commemorative set of rosary beads for the 10th anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop.

The rosaries were very popular and this is an opportunity for those who missed out to order them as we approach the feast of Mary Mackillop. Please note that orders will close Tuesday 31 August.

The flyer/order form are in the Narthex invoices will be sent when your order is submitted. For any questions or to submit your order form email orders@aidtochurch.org or call 1800 101 201.



Letter Project Compassion Thank You

We are seeing across the globe unprecedented suffering. The dreadful suffering and dying brought by COVID has affected all countries, but of course, the poor are the most seriously affected. Our hearts go out to them. It would seem to me that, although we are far from the scenes depicted on TV news, our hearts are softened and opened.

We sense feelings of compassion and some solidarity with the worst hit.

The results of our Project Compassion in this year of 2021 are truly remarkable. Although work places, jobs and incomes of so many Australians are very tenuous, we have proven ourselves to be a people of amazing generosity. Could it be that the unprecedented sufferings in all corners of our world have softened our hearts and brought us closer to the poorest of our sisters and brothers?

The last normal year of Project Compassion was 2019 when Sandhurst total was 495,000 dollars.

This year of 2021 has gone beyond all expectations. In spite of all difficulties, the total is 526,000 dollars.

How is that to be explained? I suggest our hearts have grown bigger as we sense a certain solidarity with God's poorest people.

This year, 2021, has not been an easy year for our people and for our parishes, and yet Project Compassion in Sandhurst has surpassed itself. Across our country, Catholic Dioceses have tried hard and successfully but none so successful as Sandhurst.

A huge vote of thanks is due to those who promote Caritas and its works in both parishes and schools. Parish Reps, you are terrific. Schools, you are wonderful. Kerry Stone of course is the keystone of Caritas Sandhurst. We too easily take for granted the many hours every day and every week that she gratuitously gives to the cause.

A final word from this wee spot on the Campaspe; the ultimate explanation for such generosity is God's grace; God's grace at large in the hearts of you all.

Fr Rom Hayes
Sandhurst Diocesan Director CARITAS AUSTRALIA

Sacred Heart Parish contributed \$1,187.80 thank you everyone

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

In today's gospel, the people ask Jesus three questions and each time his response suggests, think again.

The first question comes after the multiplication of the loaves and fishes on the other side of the sea and they're wondering where is he? On locating him they ask, 'When did you get here?' Jesus' answer is puzzling: you've seen the signs of God's love he says, but haven't understood their meaning and can only see that you've had plenty to eat! He goes on to contrast working for what is here today, gone tomorrow and what sustains you forever. It's this I'm offering you, he says, through the Father.

We'd prefer it if Jesus would stick to the script, but he doesn't. He doesn't answer to our expectations. Instead, he leads his listeners into what seems like uncharted territory and, like the Israelites in the first reading, we may begin to yearn for the certainties back in Egypt, when enslaved, but at least we weren't hungry. But then, that's what the spiritual revolution referred to in today's second reading is all about, our secure selves being overturned by what Jesus says, our minds opening up.

This leads to the second question: what must we do in order to do what God wants? Again, he wrong-foots them when he responds: Believe in the one he sent. They sort of get what he's saying and respond by thinking of him in the time-honoured way and ask, can you show us a sign like the manna given by Moses in the desert, so we might believe in you? And a third time he brings them undone. It's not about me, or Moses, he responds, but about my Father who gives you true bread from heaven, for the world's sake.

When they say give us that bread always, Jesus replies, I am that bread. It's a breathtaking statement, a new Passover, a new revelation of God. We've gone from loaves and fishes and manna in the desert to this pledge of God's love, where our hunger and our eating is the way into Jesus, into God. In eating this bread 'we receive what we are and become what we receive.'

We're learning to receive what God gives us and learning that we can't program it, or earn it in some way, but have only to receive it. It's so simple we don't quite get it and we're back to their questions and having to re-think our lives.

It all comes down to this simple act of eating. Food and eating and bodies, now transformed, so we might be bread for others. Jesus is the sign of God's unending love for us made real in his broken body, the Church. To experience something of this reality is to believe in him who was sent. Is he the one we have been looking for? Come and eat.

Damian Coleridge

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St Donato Feast. – 7th August 2021

A Mass to celebrate the feast of St Donato will be held on Saturday 7th August at 10.00 am at Sacred Heart, Tatura.

Due to COVID uncertainty, celebrations that usually take place after mass at the Italian Club have been cancelled this year. Anyone wishing to have lunch you are welcomed to Hilltop Golf Club.

Please ring club on 5824 1689 to make your own bookings.

For further information ph Joe Gagliardi on 0438 579989

Wedding Congratulations

Matthew Dodd and Hannah Watt
Married on Saturday 31 July at Sacred Heart.
We wish them the most beautiful life together,
blessed by God

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

"Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not." EXODUS 16:4

When the Israelites gathered more than their daily portion of manna, the surplus became wormy and rotten. In the same way today, self reliance, pride and ego leads to hoarding and excessive surplus of goods and money.

Living a stewardship lifestyle helps us discern our "wants" from our "needs". Living a grateful and generous lifestyle reminds us that God will provide all that we need and that we have plenty to share.

COVID Requirements

Everyone needs to:

- check-in to each Mass service either using the QR Code or the sign in sheet.
- Wear a face mask
- Use hand sanitiser
- Maintain a social distancing (1.5m)

After each Mass service, cleaning has to take place, if you are able to assist that would be greatly appreciated.