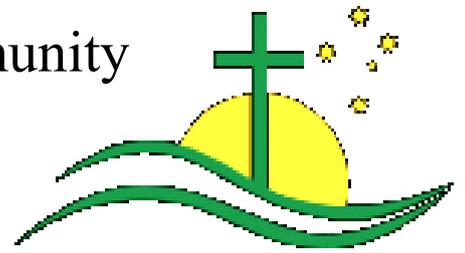




St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 17-18 July, 2021

Why am I a Catholic?

(Some thoughts from Brian Doyle)

Recently a friend asked me why I was a Catholic, I mumbled the first few reasons that entered my head — the faith of my family, the enticing power of the story, an increasing belief as I age the divinity indeed infuses all things and that Christ, dead in the dust age of 33, was indeed distilled divinity.

My friend was satisfied and moved the conversation along to other things, but I was not satisfied and so have continued to write down reasons that I am a Catholic:

I believe that a carpenter's son named Jesus did indeed crack time in half, enter this world in the guise of a squalling infant, say his piece, be slaughtered for his pains, and crack Time again on his way home. I have no real basis for this belief, and neither do you. We either believe the man or we do not, and I do, for reasons I know and do not know.

Some of the reasons I can articulate. I was born into a Catholic family, and early learned to love the smoke and poetry and incarnation of the Roman rite. My friends were Catholic, and we were as bound by our common faith as we were by our exuberant youth, European forebears, and itchy masculinity. Catholicism was the faith of my Gaelic forebears, whom I greatly respect in absentia. It was the faith of my grandmother, who shriveled and died before my eyes when I was 12 years old, and whose funeral Mass taught me the enormous power of ritual, the skeleton that sustains us when we are weak. And Catholicism was the faith of my alma mater, where I stuttered into manhood, and of three of my professional employers.

But I believe in Christ for muddier reasons. Sometimes I desperately need to lean on a God

wiser and gentler than myself. Sometimes I desperately need to believe that when I die I will not be sentenced to Fimbul, the Hell winter, where there is only the cold voice of Nothing, but rather I will be at peace and draped in Light. Sometimes I am nudged toward belief by the incredible persistence and eerie genius of the tale: the encompassing love of a Mother, the wordless strength of the Father, the Lord of All Worlds cast ashore on this one as a mewling child in dirty straw. Sometimes I am moved past reason by the muscular poetry and subtle magic of these stories. Sometimes it is an intuitive yes as the light fails and the world is lit from below. And sometimes I simply cast my lot with the sheer bravura of such a patently brazen lie. That a man could die and live again is ridiculous; even a child knows that death is the end.

Or is it?

I do not want to be sure about that. I want to meet my quiet father-in-law, a man I never knew, and thank him for the lovely miracle of his last daughter. I want to meet my brother Jimmy, who died in his carriage on a bright April day in 1947. I want to meet William Blake, Dexter Gordon, Crazy Horse. I want to kiss my grandmother again on her leathery cheek. I would like to see my friend Dennis Green, age 23, who died on a humid highway in Florida while I was writing these words. I would like to meet this fellow Christ, who haunts the edges of my dreams, who flits from tree to tree in the forest through which I make my way. I would like to live forever, and hold my wife and daughter and twin sons in my arms until the end of time, and daily read the immense poem of Death Into Life, and grin at the whirl of its endless unfolding, until the end of Until.

So I am a Catholic, for many reasons. Sometimes I think I might be also a Buddhist, because that faith is calm and wide, and sometimes I think perhaps I am also a Pantheist,

No weekend or weekday Masses until further advice

Live streamed Mass is on Sunday 11am

Please click on this link to follow this Sunday Mass

https://youtu.be/KCHtPSNX_Y4

No Reconciliation this weekend

Priests:

Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)
Fr Luke Bulley CP

Parish Staff:

Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community

Fr Brian Gleeson CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP

St Paul Apostle North Primary School

Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Mrs Mary Lucas

St Paul Apostle South Primary School

Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's Regional College

Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Parish Calendar, News & Events

because I smell divinity in music, herons, drunkards, flowers. But Catholic is language, Catholic is the coat I wear, Catholic is the house in which I live.

It is the house that needs cleaning, a house in which savagery and cowardice have thrived, where evil has a room with a view, where foolishness and greed have prominent places at the table. But it is also a house where hope lives, and hope is the greatest of mercies, the most enduring gifts, the most nutritious of foods. Hope is what we drink from the odd story of the carpenter's odd son. When we eat his body in the ludicrous miracle of the Mass, we hope in him, and with him, forever and ever, world without end, amen, amen, amen.

(by Brian Doyle)

WEEKEND MASSES

Due to government latest regulations, we regret to remind you that there will be no live Masses this weekend and on weekdays until we are out of lockdown. This means the celebration for Fr Luke and Fr Brian will also be postponed for the time being. We will provide an update late afternoon of Wednesday 21st July 2021. Please keep an eye on our website.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Our Final Class for this program will be on TUESDAY, 27th July 2021 at 7pm in the church. All children and one or both parents are required to attend this session. The Sacrament of Reconciliation services are on Thursday, 29th Jul and Friday, 30th July at 7pm. The lists of children participating each night have now been finalized and all parents have been informed accordingly

AFTER SCHOOL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (ASRE)

All children who attend non Catholic schools and are taking part in our parish sacrament programs are required to attend After School Religious Education (ASRE). Your next class will be on TUESDAYS 20 July from 4pm for about 1 hour.

SAFEGUARDING (PROFESSIONAL STANDARD)

As we have highlighted in our newsletters and at the Masses, the importance of updating our record on Professional Standard, that includes staff and volunteers. After the two sessions we had, there are still some volunteers who have not attended the session due to some personal reason. We have now decided to run 2 extra session to ensure that all of our volunteers are up to date with all of the necessary information on safeguarding. The sessions are either Wednesday August 4th at 6pm or Sunday, August 8th at 10am in the annexe. Please contact the parish office to book either via email: office@stpaulapostle.com.au or phone 9700 3781. Please note that if you have attended one of the previous session this year, you do not need to attend again this year

JUSTICE GROUP - PLASTIC FREE

In accordance with Pope Francis' message to care for our home (earth), JPIC would like to invite everyone to participate in plastic free July.

Why – because we need to commit to sustainability for the earth to survive for future generations

When – for the month of July

How – please follow the link for tips, hints, and ideas.

You can also register with them to be part of the challenge.

*Plastic free July –
be part of the solution*

More information please see this link:

<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org>

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/ The Parish Office will be closed during the lockdown, but /
/ if you have any query or urgent matter, please send us an /
/ email or leave a message on our answering machine and /
/ we will reply to you accordingly /
/ (please remember to leave your contact details) /
/

Readings:

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B:

Jer 23: 1-6;
Eph 2: 13-18;
Mk 6: 30-34

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B:

2 Kg 4: 42-44;
Eph 4: 1-6;
Jn 6: 1-15

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Peter Shaw-Dennis, Alex Clark, Pinky, Godfrey Joseph, Andrès, Kirk Smaller, June Smaller, Michael Nguk Yan, Patrick Savelio, Camilla D'Rozario, Sr. Serafina, Andre Machado, Bryony, Findlay Lawless, Gaetan Clark, Ismael Bermudez, Jack Scanlan, Domenica Lombardi, Dwayne Edmonds, Anne Ghatt, Chase McCarthy, Irma Aiello, Graham Hawkesworth, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent, those who are ill due to Coronavirus and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues

Those who have died

Rachel Naomi Fernando, Regina Martyn, Vera Albuquerque, Rodel Cuenco, Meredith Almeida, Newton Lowe, Minoo Jones, Marilyn Hedricks, Aster Setiorahardjo, Camilo Dizon, Deon Lawrence, Blossom Baptista, *and all who are named in our church memorial book*

May they rest in peace



We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

