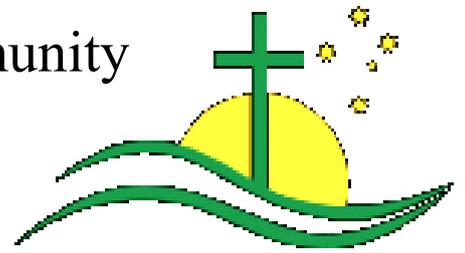




St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B, 30-31 January, 2021

The Lesson and the Learning

It is an unnerving experience to arrive by train in a new city in India. Coolies hustle and bustle to and fro with cases, boxes and bags on their heads. Sellers of tea, fruit and sweets shout their wares as travellers pass. A teeming mass of people ebbs and flows all around.

The ever alert taxi drivers zoom in. You are bombarded with questions and offers, "Where do you want to go?" "My taxi is just here," "Let me take your bag." I developed a system during my study year in India of patiently but firmly demanding my own space from them.

I would then approach two or three drivers separately and ask their fare to my destination. When I found a couple agreeing on a price I would select one and jump in. Once established in the city I avoided hassle over fares by travelling by bus.

The Lesson

One evening, while in Bangalore, I needed to get quickly to a meeting across the city. I had no idea what bus to take. Just then I spotted an auto rickshaw approaching and, knowing that they had meters, I hailed it. An auto rickshaw has a sheet-metal body resting on three wheels, a canvas roof with drop-down sides, a small cabin in the front of the vehicle for the driver and seating space for up to three passengers in the back. I got in behind the driver and announced my destination.

I noticed that he hadn't turned on the meter so I politely requested him to do so. He waved his hand as if this was of no concern. I again asked him more insistently to switch on the meter. He half turned and with another wave of his hand said, "It's O.K. Don't worry about the meter!"

I was really annoyed now that he refused twice to switch on the rickshaw meter. I figured that he was trying to make killing. "Well, he will have one angry Irishman to deal with," I thought. "I'll give him half of what he asks for." When we arrived at my destination I got off and strode forward to face him.

"Well!" I said, aggression written all over my face and posture, "How much?"

"Nothing at all," he replied smiling, "I was coming this way anyway."

I couldn't believe it! I was seriously deflated. Having worked myself up for a big fight because of my suspicions that he would try to cheat me I now felt deeply ashamed of myself. It was as though an area of darkness within was suddenly revealed.

I didn't like what I saw. I had thought that I was open to people of other cultures and that I was a fair person. Now, I saw that I had seriously misjudged a person's motives simply because he did not do what I expected. I felt depressed.

I prayed about the experience. It slowly dawned on me that this revelation was a grace for me and allowed me to admit to a previously unconscious attitude. God was calling me to repentance.

The Learning

About a year later, now back in Fiji, I spent Christmas in a Fijian village. A house was provided for visiting priests and an outside shower surrounded by a concrete wall. I enjoyed having my shower before breakfast every morning.

One morning, when I was running late and heading for the shower, I heard splashing coming from inside. "That is surely some woman washing clothes I thought," and she hasn't even bothered to ask my permission!" But then the memory of the rickshaw incident in Bangalore came to my mind. So I said to myself, "Take it easy. Have patience. Let's see what is happening."

A few minutes later a man emerged from the shower holding up a scrubbing brush in his hand.

"Father, I've just cleaned your shower for you," he announced, with a smile. Was I ever thankful that I had held my peace!

Crossing over to another culture leaves us vulnerable.

New situations have to be negotiated. Our own routine patterns are disturbed. Expectations go awry. implicit meanings and understandings are no longer shared. Efforts at communication fail. And so, deeply hidden fears and reactions emerge which don't sit easily with our self-image. We come face to face with our shadow side.

But the good news is that we can sometimes learn from these difficult experiences.

(Columban Fr Francis Hoare first went to Fiji in 1973)

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Weekend Masses

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am & 6pm Mass
(11am Mass will also be live streamed)

Parish Reconciliation:

Saturdays 10am - 10.30am

Please contact Parish Office on 97003781 if you wish to book any of the weekend Masses

please go into our website: stpaulapostle.com.au

Priests:
Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP)

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)

Passionist Community
Fr Brian Gleeson CP
Fr Kevin Hennessy CP
Brother Luke Bulley 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

CONGRATULATIONS to Brother Luke who has his deaconate Mass on Saturday, 30th January. Thank you to all who have attended, we keep Deacon Luke in our prayers as he continues his journey and prepares for his Priesthood ordination later this year.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to **HAYLEY FERNANDO** who is celebrating her 9th birthday this Sunday, January 31st. Hayley is studying at our St Paul Apostle South School, attending grade 4. We wish her all the best for her studies.

FAREWELL

RUTH GREGORY passed away peacefully on WEDNESDAY, 27th January 2021. Ruth has been a member of our parish since 1986 and faithfully attended daily and weekend Masses until just a few years ago when due to ill health she relocated to John Hannah Aged Care in Mulgrave. Even after that she would sometimes, accompanied by one of her daughters, make the trip to attend Mass at our church. Ruth, in her own quiet and pleasant way made her contributions to the parish, including as one of our sacristan, especially on weekday Mass.



THOMAS BRENNAN died peacefully in England on the same day as Ruth, at the age of 95. Thomas is the father of Anne Astin, a longtime active member of the parish. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions Anne is unable to attend his funeral. This Sunday, 31st January at 11am Mass, we will pray for his soul together with Anne. Below is Anne's message on her father

"Dad passed away peacefully on Australia Day in Worcester, UK at age 95. He survived his wife of 62 years Christine by 7 years and will now be United with her. His Catholic faith was the foundation of how he lived his life and his devotion continued every day until his death. He was committed to St Vincent De Paul society and brought happiness to many people's whose lives were less fortunate than his. He was much loved by and so very proud of his 4 children, 16 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

MOTHER OF FR. FRANCIS XAVIER CHANAMPALLY died on the 26th January in India. Fr Francis Xavier is presently visiting in Vanimo. He was preparing to leave PNG in February to see his mother, his family and return to his Vice Prov-

ince. He was originally due to return to India last March, but COVID made that impossible. It is very sad that she passed away without seeing Francis, and so sad that Francis was unable to be with his mother again. Please keep Francis' mother in your prayers, and Francis, his father, siblings and extended family. We pray for all of them and their family during their time of grieving

Message from our Passionist Provincial, Fr Tom McDonough:

Congratulation to Our Cross and Passion Sisters.

It was wonderful to receive the news that the founders of the Cross and Passion Sisters, Elizabeth Prout, has received the new stage of acceptance towards her canonization. She is now Venerable Elizabeth Prout. While the Sisters have never doubted that Elizabeth is a saint, it is so rewarding for them to receive the Church's public's acknowledgement of the holiness and generosity of Elizabeth's life, and also the affirming of the lasting worth of her charism of service to women and the poor.



As the Provincial of our St Joseph's Province wrote; A Letter from Br. John Kearns, CP, Provincial, St. Joseph's Province: "Dear All,

You may have already heard the wonderful news that Elizabeth Prout CP (Mother Mary Joseph) has officially been declared Venerable by Pope Francis.

The official notice states:

Promulgation of Decrees of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, 21.01.2021 the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Maria Giuseppa di Gesù (born Elizabeth Prout), Foundress of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross and of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ; born on 2 September 1820 in Shrewsbury (England) and died in Sutton (England) on 11 January 1864;

Congratulations to all the Sisters of the Cross and Passion and the whole Passionist family. Elizabeth was a remarkable woman in so many ways and we continue to ask her intercession for us and for the whole world.

May the Passion of Christ and the Sorrows of Mary our Mother remain always in our hearts.

John CP

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Camilla D'Rozario, Angela Ameruso, Sr. Serafina, Andre Machado, Yvette Woods, Bryony, Findlay Lawless, Gaetan Clark, Ismael Bermudez, Cyril Hendricks, Lawrence de Alwis, Jack Scanlan, Domenica Lombardi, Denham Juriansz, Dwayne Edmonds, Anne Ghatt, Chase McCarthy, Irma Aiello, Graham Hawkesworth, Esric Jackson, Emily Broadbent and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues



Those who have died

Ruth Gregory, Thomas Brennan, Mother of Francis Xavier Chanampally cp, Bruno Turcino, Sydney Fernando, Maria Vu Thi, Gerald D'Souza, George Petterson, Elisabetta Tavone, Afonso Moniz, Antonina Nunes, Rosario Stellado, **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B:

Deut 18: 15-20;
1 Cor 7: 32-35;
Mk 1: 21-28

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B:

Job 7: 1-4, 6-7;
1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23;
Mk 1: 29-39

www.universalis.com

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

