



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Feast of St Mary of the Cross Sunday, 7-8 August, 2021

To whom will you give your sneakers

(this article is taken from Anglican Digest 2014)

About seven years ago, the mother of two young boys contributed the following story to The Anglican Digest. It resonates beautifully with Mark's Gospel:

"When my children were young, our local faith community began a winter ministry to the homeless. Churches in the area took turns offering dinner, shelter and breakfast to the homeless in the area. On my first day of volunteering, I left work early to collect my kids, aged three and six, in the hope of feeding them before going to the church. When I arrived at the day care centre, three year old Alex was positively beaming:

'I did it, mum. I stayed down on my mat for the whole of nap time. For weeks, I had been trying to get him to co-operate with the staff and take the afternoon nap with all the other children. I had tried every trick in the book to no avail. Finally, in desperation, I resorted to the time-tested parenting method of bribery. I promised that if he stayed on his mat for the whole of nap time, I would buy him the pair of green Power Ranger sneakers he had been pestering me for. With the boys safely aboard the car, we set off to buy the sneakers.

The first four Walmart and Kmart outlets had every colour but green. At the fifth, we found the prized sneakers. Then it was a rush to the Church. We got there just in time to throw the spaghetti sauce into the pan. As I made the sauce, Alex was off displaying his incredibly cool sneakers to the entire kitchen staff and serving crew. When the meal was ready to be served, Alex and Nick went to the far corner of the kitchen to amuse themselves. I was prepared for the typical, addicted, disabled and mentally ill people we picture when we think of homeless people, but I was unprepared for the number of families with children who had come for food and shelter.

One woman, in particular, stood out. She and her young son looked neat, clean and absolutely terrified. I asked one of the professionals who administered the program about her. He told me that she had escaped an incredibly abusive situation with

only the clothes on her back. All of the nearby women's shelters were full, so they sent her to us, knowing that with us she and her son would be warm and safe. When she reached the food window, she asked for only one plate, explaining that her son was too frightened to eat. I asked if she thought he would eat if he were allowed to come into the kitchen and have peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with my bays. She said she did not know, but, since he hadn't eaten for two days, it would be worth a try. I took young Darius by the hand and led him into the kitchen where he met Alex and Nick. I sat them down and gave each a plate of sandwiches.

At ease with youngsters his own size, Darius soon began tucking into the sandwiches. It was not long before he noticed Alex's green sneakers. After every bite, he would reach out to touch one of the sneakers. "Maybe your mum can get you a pair of Power Rangers, too", Alex volunteered. Young Darius just looked down. As we cleaned up after the meal, Alex was by my side chatting away. "He really liked my sneakers", he said, "hope his mum buys him some." I quietly explained that was not likely since Darius and his mum didn't have any money, that they didn't have a home. Alex just said, "Oh", and Alex looked up at me and said, "Mum, if I give Darius my sneakers, will you carry me to the car?" "Stunned, all I could say was, "Of course, but are you sure you want to do this?" "Yeah", he said, "I have lots of stuff, and he doesn't even have a house. I think Jesus would want me to give him my shoes." With that, he slipped them off, skipped over to Darius, and gave them to him. As he did, I looked around the kitchen. There was not a dry eye in the house.

The next day, when I returned to the Church, I discovered that the woman and her son were not there. So I asked the coordinator about them. Smiling, he said: "It's all your son's fault. After you all left last night, the kitchen crew asked me to check out her story. I did, and she is 100% legit. Apparently, her husband threatened the boy with a gun. She just picked Darius up and ran. This morning, Peter, last night's dessert man, phoned to say he would like to give her an apartment in one of his buildings, rent-free for six months. He figured that would be enough time for her to get

Weekday Masses

Monday
9am Mass

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Weekend Masses (booking is necessary)

Saturday
6pm Mass

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

Please click on this link to follow this Sunday Mass

<https://youtu.be/OlxGcYgJuEQ>

Parish Reconciliation:

Saturdays 10am - 10.30am

Priests: Fr Brendan Connell CP (PP) Fr Luke Bulley CP	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 Staff: Gillian Velupillay (Bursar) Didi Karkas (Secretary)				

Parish Calendar, News & Events

back on her feet. Then Anne called to say she had a job for her. I had no sooner hung up when Nelson called wanting to know if it would help if he paid for. Darius to attend our church-sponsored day care centre for a while. Word has it that she is so overwhelmed that she hasn't stopped crying yet."

I cried all the way home. My tiny son had generously given away his treasured shoes to comfort a stranger. His simple act had shown us all what it means to live unselfishly and generously. His small act had so filled the hearts of others that it prompted them to act in similar fashion. The compassion of all of them helped a complete stranger to feel the loving embrace of Christ when she most needed it. To whom will you give your sneakers?" (*The Anglican Digest, Winter 2074, p 37—38*)

WEEKEND & WEEKDAY MASSES

As a result of the current lockdown restrictions, there will be no face to face weekday and weekend Masses. However, our live streamed mass will still be available for you to join from home on Sunday 11am. Please keep an eye on our website for any updates.

FR LUKE BULLEY CP THANKSGIVING MASS

After a delay, we can now finally proceed with Fr Luke's thanksgiving Mass. This will be held on Sunday, 22nd August 2021 during the 11am Mass. Hopefully by then we can hold 200 people in the church. **Regardless, a booking is strictly required to attend this Mass (please note that if you made a booking prior to the last lockdown, your booking is no longer valid, please make sure to re-book).** Light lunch will follow at the Community Hall, please bring a plate to share. **Please remember, this schedule is subject to COVID-19 government regulations at the time of the event.**

SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION

To all candidates, congratulations on your recent completion of the Sacrament of Reconciliation program. You are now entering the next program of the sacrament of initiation, First Communion. Your first Family night which was scheduled to be held

on **TUESDAY, 10th August at 7pm** in the church, **will now change to an online event.** Due to the current lockdown we are unable to meet in the church. We will provide an update regarding the changes by Monday late morning. We will send the information to you all by email

ST JOHN'S REGIONAL COLLEGE will be presenting their Musical Show on three consecutive nights (12th, 13th and 14th August) at the Alexander Theatre, Monash University, Clayton Campus, 48 Exhibition Walk, Clayton. Please click on this link to book: <https://www.monash.edu/performing-arts-centres/event/the-addams-family-st-johns-regional-college/>

PRAYER BNB for men is a faith sharing group. The group gather on zoom every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month. For those who are interested please contact Chris on 0405312733 Their next meeting will be on Saturday 7th and 21st of August 2021 (7.30am -8.30am) To join please follow the link below:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7725811552?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7725811552?pwd=ZER1aWgwVmp5RVFKdWlOcVVwdUdhcz09)
pwd=ZER1aWgwVmp5RVFKdWlOcVVwdUdhcz09

Meeting ID: 772 581 1552
Passcode: uiP98

VACANCIES

If you are interested working in hospitality field please contact:
(03) 9700-2260 or 0403 574 622

THANK YOU

The following message was sent by Yvette whom we prayed for during her illness. Yvette resides in Canada.

I want to especially thank all of you, every single person that has prayed for my recovery and humbly request your continued prayers for victory and complete repair to my body now, so that I can get back to a normal life. I know and believe that there is a reason God chose to save me by giving me this miraculous healing and that is to spread His word and testify to the world about His wonderful mercies and goodness. "The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want..."

Love and prayers,
Yvette (Vet)

Readings:

Feast of St. Mary of the Cross:

1 Kg 17: 8-16;
Col 3: 12-17;
Mt 6: 25-34

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Apoc 11: 19, 12: 1-6, 10;
1 Cor 15: 20-26;
Lk 1: 39-56;

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those whose sick

Fred Hall, Kuncoro Setyo, Reginald, Annette Perera, Baby Sonnie, Hiran, Ronald Peters, Peter Shaw-Dennis, Pinky, Godfrey Joseph, Andr s, 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

Olgar Milford, Merwyn Joseph Baptista, Rachel Naomi Fernando, Clifford Labrooy, Regina Martyn, Vera Albuquerque, Rodel Cuenco, Meredith Almeida, Mary Perera, Newton Lowe, Edward Scanlon, Margaret Scanlon, Carlos Afonso Henriques, Deon Lawrence, **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

