

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:20-24. 27
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!



GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us"

they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Ezek 18: 25-28; Phil 2: 1-11; Mt 21:28-32

Prayer to Our Lady during the pandemic:

Mary, Help of Christians,
 we fly to you today as your beloved children.
 We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
 as you did at the wedding in Cana.
 Pray for us, loving Mother,
 and gain for our nation and world,
 and for all our families and loved ones,
 the protection of God's holy angels,
 that we may be spared the worst of this illness.
 For those already afflicted,
 we ask you to obtain the grace of
 healing and deliverance.
 Hear the cries of those who are
 vulnerable and fearful,
 wipe away their tears and help them to trust.
 In this time of trial and testing,
 teach all of us in the Church
 to love one another and to be patient and kind.
 Help us to bring the peace of Jesus
 to our land and to our hearts.
 We come to you with confidence,
 Knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
 health of the sick and cause of our joy.
 Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
 keep us in the embrace of your arms,
 help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus,
 Amen.



PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE

Presbytery and Office

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MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 pm.
 SUNDAY: 8:00 am and 9.30am (changed to 10 am till further notice)
 MONDAY: No Mass.
 TUESDAY through to SATURDAY: 9.00 am Mass.
 FRIDAY: 9.00 am Mass.
 Exposition & Benediction every Friday after Mass.
 RECONCILIATION: Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.
 Baptism: Every Sunday at 11am or 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.
 Marriage: By appointment.
 Anointing of the sick: Please give names to Father Roberto Castillo.

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)
19th / 20th September 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
~~Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.~~



FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
 call to him while he is still near.
 Let the wicked man abandon his way,
 the evil man his thoughts.
 Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on

him,
 to our God who is rich in forgiving;
 for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks.
 Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
 as my ways are above your ways,
 my thoughts above your thoughts.
 The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18

RESPONSE: The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day
 and praise your name for ever.
 The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
 his greatness cannot be measured. **Response.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
 slow to anger, abounding in love.
 How good is the Lord to all,
 compassionate to all his creatures. **Response.**

The Lord is just in all his ways
 and loving in all his deeds.
 He is close to all who call him,
 who call on him from their hearts. **Response.**

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A message from Fr Roberto.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are already in September and the threat of Covid19 is still lurking in our cities and our world. While the days, weeks and months continue to pass we are all becoming more accustomed to this new, unusual situation: "the new normal." Although there is always an inherent danger to think that the new normal is the past normal; it is not. In the 'new normal' we have to keep disinfecting our church after every mass. I thank all our generous force of volunteers and those who generously donated resources to keep our church clean. In the new normal we still need to keep our physical distance, the congregation cannot sing in the church, masks are strongly recommended and our church still has 65 person limit. So the new normal is not really that 'normal' because it is an abnormal time. Yet we have to keep doing the right things to protect everybody in our church and our society.

So, I hope that when you feel that we are returning to some kind of normality, as the numbers of infections are brought under control by the authorities, don't become too complacent and lower your guard, at this time, because we still need to travel a few more months through this uncertain time. The fight has not ended.

I also pray that you continue to fight in your lives the sins that are like viruses that creep up into our lives too, and can create disharmony among families, friends or relatives. I also pray that your faith continues to remain the same - strong, always placing your trust and the foundation of your life on the Rock who is Jesus Christ. He will never disappoint us. I am grateful to all who continue to support the church and courageously continue to participate at Mass every Sunday. Let us keep in mind those who have not returned yet to Church, pray for them, that their faith remains strong so when we come back to the 'true normal' they will re-join the family of God here at St Therese, Denistone. Let us pray that before Christmas things will have improved in everything. God bless you all.



PARISH NEWS & NOTICES:

Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died especially Ken Harman. Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries at this time especially John Pearce, Guiseppe Carabetta, Rosaria Carabetta and Kevin Hilferty.



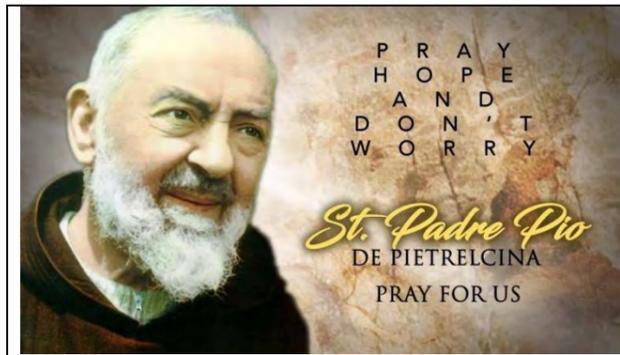
Holy Land Appeal.

Our parish will conduct the Holy Land Appeal THIS weekend so please drop your donation into the clearly marked baskets within the church.

This appeal finances the works of the custody, including parishes, schools, homes for orphans, lodging for pilgrims, positions of employment and residence for the Arab Christians most in need, as well as the perennial upkeep of ancient sanctuaries. And also provides us Australian Catholics an opportunity to contribute to the upkeep of the Holy Places and to express our solidarity with Christians.



Thank you very much in advance for your support and generosity with this Appeal for the Holy Land, especially at a time such as now when along with so many around the world, our Catholic faithful are facing greater economic and other challenges.



Feast day of Padre Pio.

Padre Pio, or St Pio of Pietrelcina is a popular saint whose feast we will celebrate this Wednesday the 23rd September at the 9am Mass.

He was considered a saint during his lifetime. He died in 1968 but he was canonized quickly in 2020 by St John Paul II. There are now thousands of prayer groups devoted to him all over the world.

Padre Pio was born Francesco Forgione on 25th May 1887 in the Italian town of Pietrelcina. His parents were peasant farmers and very religious who prayed the rosary every night and abstained from meat 3 days a week.

In 1903 at 15 years of age Francesco entered the novitiate of the Capuchin friars. Despite suffering considerable ill health, he was ordained a priest in 1910.

After six years living with his family because of his health, in 1916 Padre Pio was sent to the Capuchin friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, where he lived until his death in 1968 and where his remains are venerated by millions of people.

Padre Pio was very devoted to the Rosary and he recommended meditation and self-examination twice daily. He also recommended weekly confession, which he compared to the weekly dusting of a house. His five rules for spiritual growth were weekly confession, daily Communion, spiritual reading, meditation and examination of conscience.

He led a life of great sacrifice, fasting and doing penance; and he received the wounds of Christ, the stigmata, on his hands, feet and side. He wore black coverings on his hands to hide the wounds, which bled and gave him intense pain, such as Christ would have felt on the Cross. The wounds gave off a pleasant smell, as of flowers.

Padre Pio was also known for such spiritual gifts as healing, bilocation, ecstasy, levitation and prophecy. He was especially known for spending up to 10 hours in the confessional and for knowing aspects of a person's life he could not have known by human means.

The devil attacked him both physically and spiritually and for a number of years Padre Pio was

forbidden to say Mass in public and to hear confessions, something that was very difficult for him but he accepted with great humility. After getting seriously sick, he wanted to say a short mass in the church but due to the large number of pilgrims present the superior decided that he should say the Solemn Mass, (long version) which he did with great effort, appearing extremely weak and with a faint voice. This was to be his last Mass.

Early in the morning of 23rd September, Padre Pio made his last confession and renewed his Franciscan vows. With the rosary in his hands he repeated the words "Jesus, Mary" until he finally breathed his last. Over 100,000 people attended his funeral on 26th September.

He was beatified by Pope St John Paul II in 1999 and canonised in 2002. Some 300,000 people attended his canonisation ceremony in Rome. His feast is celebrated on 23 September. His relics are visited every year by more than 2 million people from all over the world; as hundreds of thousands of people have felt the powerful intercession of Padre Pio of Pietrelcina: Padre Pio. May you all receive many blessings from him today!

Bulletins are available – limited supply.

We have resumed printing a very limited number of bulletins for those who can't print them at home. Please ensure that if you use one, that you take it home with you.

Denistone Sacraments.

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will be held in Term 4.

Formation Sessions:

- Session no 1 - Wed 14th October 7pm
- Session no 2 - Wed 21st October 7pm
- Session no 3 - Wed 28th October 7pm

Sacrament of First Holy Communion Mass:

Sunday 15th November at 11:30am in the Church.



Newly ordained priests.

On Saturday, Archbishop Anthony Fisher ordained four deacons:

Roberto Keryakos, Noel Custodio, John Pham and Jonathan Vala.

Please join in prayer for our new priests and give thanks to God for their future priestly ministry.



Planned Giving Envelopes.

RECEIPTS and ENVELOPES are still available from the front foyer. If wish to help support the parish please contact the Parish Office to arrange YOUR set of Planned Giving envelopes ASAP.