

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Thurgoona



"Do whatever He tells you" John 2:5

Address: 20 Hartigan St, Thurgoona 2640 PO Box 110, Lavington 2641

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Ph: 02 6088 6222 **Parish Priest:** Fr Anthony Dunne **Acolyte:** Denis Golden

Presbytery Account (First Collection) BSB 066-789 Acc. 100 005 587

Parish Account (Second Collection) BSB 066-789 Acc. 100 003 738

MASS TIMES

Saturday (Vigil) - 6pm

Sunday 9:30am

Monday 8am

Tuesday 10am

Wednesday 8:00am

Thursday 5:30pm

Holy Hour 4:30pm

Friday 8am

Saturday 8am

Anointing of the sick Mass, 10am

2nd Tues of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec.

Reconciliation

Thurs during Holy Hour 4:45 - 5:15pm

Sat 5:30 to 5:55pm before Vigil

Sun 9 to 9.25am

Or anytime, just ask Fr

Baptism and Marriage By appointment



Working Bee Sat 9.00am to 11am

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

5/02/2023

First reading

Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and do not turn from your own kin.

Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you.

Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 111(112):4-9

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Second reading

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed.

During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any

power of my own, I came among you in great ‘fear and trembling’ and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.

Gospel

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house.

In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.’

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Prayers of the Faithfull:

For our sick, Tony Abikhair, Elizabeth Hoare, Marie Fowles, Fr Reece Beltrame, Peter Tydeman, Ray Byrnes, Graeme Murphy, Greg Baker, Gwen Abikhair, and Jackson Davis.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

For our recently departed, Ted Williams, Chris Horsfall, John Fagan, Cardinal George Pell and those who’s anniversaries occur at this time.

We pray to the Lord. **R.** Lord hear our prayer.

Communion Antiphon

Mt 5: 5-6

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be consoled.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall have their fill.

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ANNIVERSARIES

Brian (Michael) Baker, Aymidee Deguara, Jade Smith, Jenny Powell, Andrew Trethowan, Patricia McFarland, Peter Kerstjens, Delma Kennedy, Shirley Bevan, Terry Barsby, Aaron Chambers, Beryl Ahern, Joan Letchford, John Corby, Pushpa Vijay and Ron Chambers

Readers: Sat: 6:00pm Peter Tobin Sun: 9:30am Steve McCrohan

Next week: Sat: 6:00pm Mary Seidel Sun: 9:30am Jorgete Hudson

Cleaning Roster: Sat 11th Feb Kate Tobin



PARISH NOTICES

Requiem Mass: The 10am Mass next Tuesday will be a Requiem for Ted Williams rather than a normal weekday Mass. All very welcome.

Hav-A-Chat: The Chats are gathering on Monday 6/2/23 in the Bistro Area of the Thurgoona Golf Club at 12.00 noon. We look forward to seeing you there and welcome new friends to share a few hours with us all.

Catechists: We are looking for more volunteers for SRE program (catechists) for Thurgoona Public School. If you can help with this important work of spreading the Gospel please contact Fr Anthony on 02 6088 6222

Church Cleaning Roster: If you are able to help with cleaning the church on Saturday mornings please record your name on the sheet in the foyer. The more names we have on the roster the longer will be interval between each person's turn. Once complete the roster will be emailed and copies made available in the church foyer.

Walking With Purpose: A supportive community of women seeking lasting transformation of the heart. Running in early 2023. Contact Maria Sparshott Ph. 0448453964. For further information go to walkingwithpurpose.com.

Mobile Phones: Please mute your Mobile Phone or turn it off during Mass.

SALT AND LIGHT

The theme that runs through the Scripture readings today and that has determined their choice is clearly that of 'light'. We can see it in the First Reading ('then will your light shine like the dawn'), in the opening verse of the Responsorial Psalm and (with reference to Christ) in the Alleluia verse ('I am the Light of the world'), all building up the climactic statement in the Gospel: 'You are the light of the world'. Only the Second Reading seems to be an exception.

SOCIAL JUSTICE: The First Reading, from Isaiah, features one of the great appeals for social justice in the Old Testament. Israel has complained that much fasting on her part has met with no response from God. In reply God explains the kind of 'fast' Israel needs to undertake not one involving penitential ritual but a 'fast' from injustice. Refraining from indifference and violence towards the weak, and a positive program of hospitality will cause Israel's 'light to shine like the dawn' and her 'wound' to be 'quickly healed over'. In a way that retains remarkable relevance for all human societies, local, national or, indeed, global, the prophetic text insists that if a community gets social justice right, then all else will fall into place.

Twice Israel is reminded that social justice will cause her 'light' to shine. In this allusion to light we surely hear an echo of the belief, expressed above all in Isaiah's Servant Songs, that Israel's destiny is to be 'a light to the nations'. The text, then, is summoning Israel, to realise her true vocation through the implementation of social justice. She is to become a 'light to the nations' by

modelling before the world what a truly human society should be.

SALT AND LIGHT: It is at this point that the prophetic text becomes most relevant as a background for the brief extract from the Sermon on the Mount that forms the Gospel. Two images, salt and light, dominate the extract. The community of disciples, to whom Jesus has just addressed the Beatitudes, is not just to be something for itself. It has the vocation both to preserve ('salt') and to model ('light') something for the rest of the world.

To appreciate this, we have to recall the setting in which the Sermon takes place: the mass of burdened, afflicted humanity described as the recipients of Jesus' healing at the end of the preceding chapter. Matthew's introduction to the Sermon suggests that it is the sight of these crowds and their needs that prompts Jesus to address his disciples in the way that follows ('Seeing the crowds, he went up the mountain'). The implication is that it is people who are prepared to live according to the dispositions and attitudes pronounce 'blessed' in the Beatitudes – that is, people prepared to live in the vulnerable,



non-grasping way they propose – who can really help lift humanity's burdens, thereby becoming and remaining 'salt of the earth' and 'light of the world'. It is the compassionate and merciful who make the world safe for humanity. (Paul's description in the Second Reading of the vulnerable way in which he approached the community in Corinth illustrates this disposition). In this way the community that is receiving from Jesus the 'Torah' for the messianic age will reclaiming the vocation of Israel as spelled out in the passages from Isaiah.

WARNING: Jesus does not simply apply the images salt and 'light to the community. To each is added a few sentences of explanation and warning.

To appreciate what he says about salt we have to recall the role salt played in food-preservation before refrigeration; salt was a vital domestic commodity. The explanation, however, is far from clear. Salt can hardly lose its taste but it may be so mixed with other elements as to become impure and so useless for either savour or preservation; it will be good only for salting the path outside the house, where people will trample it underfoot. Disciples who fall away from their vocation may face a similar fate.

The comment on the image of light falls into two distinct parts. In biblical tradition Jerusalem was the archetypal 'city built on a hilltop'. When the Temple was illuminated – as during the Feast of Tabernacles – Jerusalem was indeed 'the light of the world'. The image then reverts to the more domestic scene: what one does with a lamp. The disciples' good works must function as a lamp giving light to a darkened world – not to draw attention to themselves but to lead outsiders to the knowledge and praise of the God who has set them to be salt and light for the world.

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ