## BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST—YEAR B

24th June 2012

**First Reading:**
Exodus 24:3-8

**Responsorial Psalm**
I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

**Second Reading:**
Hebrews 9:11-15

**Gospel Acclamation**
Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever.
Alleluia!

**Gospel:**
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

### YEAR OF GRACE—PRAYER

Gracious God,

You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people. We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh from Christ.

You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a new wave of grace, and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives. Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church may be transformed, our relationship be healed, and our nation grow in compassion and justice.

We make our prayer through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us new ways of living the Gospel.

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au/

### MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Mass, end of school</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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**Baptisms**
Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

**Marriages**
(6 months notice)
Arranged by appointment.
[Enquiries and information brochure available from Parish Office]

**Reconciliation**
Celebrated at 5.30pm on Saturday or by appointment with the Priest.
COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

WE PRAY FOR...

Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick, especially Sr May Austin and Vincent Kelly and all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them. We pray today for all those who have died recently, especially Kathleen Barker and Margaret (Peg) Fitzgerald and for all whose anniversaries are at this time, and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God. May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

CHURCH ROSTERS

| Readers     | June 23rd  | School children            |
|            | June 24th  | Sharon Simpson & Jim Wright |
|            | June 30th  | Elaine Dugdale Walker      |
|            | July 1st   | Eileen French              |
| Special Ministers | June 23rd | Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton |
|            | June 24th  | Patty McKibbin, Eileen French, Mary Welch |
|            | June 30th  | Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton |
|            | July 1st   | Rhonda Loret, Martin Prior & Kate Mason |
| Church Cleaning | June 25th | Michael & Karen O’Loughlan |
|            | July 2nd   | Frances Bowen              |
| Church Flowers | June 29th | Lucia Brick                |
|            | July 6th   | Rhonda Loret               |

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Body and Blood of Christ is our food for the journey through life. Jesus instituted this sacrament on the eve of his Passion, indelibly marking the memory of his disciples then and now with this great gift of his enduring presence.

Jesus encourages us to partake of his food, so that we may grow in love for him, and have strength to continue our own journey.

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES

These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop. She had much wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’S world.

Do not let your troubles disturb your trust in God. 1874

The Little brown book by Sue & Leo Kane

VOCATION VIEW

Through the ministry of our ordained priests, we receive Holy Communion. Through the Body and Blood of Christ, we are made one body: to become Christ-like...purified...ready to serve.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Stewardship is recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God. We can take credit for nothing. Do you take time daily to thank God for the Gifts you have received? Do you show gratitude to God every day? Are you generous without expecting anything in return.
St Ambrose Parish Woodend

**CSSV (CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA) ANNUAL DINNER**
Friday 24 August, 6:45pm for 7:30 start
Our annual dinner is an opportunity for the broad Catholic social services community, our supporters and those that we work with to celebrate our work, and to strengthen the links between those who are active within our community of service.
We are delighted this year to have Chris Lowney as our guest speaker. Chris is author of the best seller Heroic Leadership, which distils leadership principles from the first decades of the Jesuit order and applies the principles of Ignation spirituality to everyday life in the modern world.
Where: ‘Leonda’, 2 Wallen Road, Hawthorn
Cost: Tickets are $80
RSVP: Thursday 16 August,
www.trybooking.com/BLGN
Contacts: Lucia 9287 5566 OR lucia.brick@css.org.au

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**
This weekend we have the special Parish Celebration of First Holy Communion. We welcome 40 young members of our Parish and their families.
We pray for all these children and their families.

**POSITIONS VACANT**
Applications are invited for the following positions:
- Executive Assistant—Vicar General’s Office
- Office Administrator—Remuneration Fund & Priests Retirement Foundation
- Project Officer—James Goold House Publications
- Housekeeper—Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Ringwood
- Coordinator, Office of Professional Conduct, Ethics and Investigation
Also John Carratt publishing have two positions available:
- Marketing Manager
- Education Account Manager
Both positions are based in Mulgrave and are for immediate start details www.johngarratt.com.au

**“MAY THEY BE ONE” BIBLE PRESENTATION**
Next Weekend, Mr Charlie Gatt from Bible Society Australia will be visiting us to speak at both Masses about the “May They Be One” Bible Campaign. All parishioners will be invited to participate financially or through prayer, and thereby share in the blessings that come from helping to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel to others less fortunate.

**GRACEFEST**
Wednesday 15 August to Sunday 19
Beginning on Wednesday 15 August (Feast of the Assumption, ‘Hail Mary Full of Grace’) until Sunday 19 August, GraceFest will include a series of talks, workshops and opportunities to explore ‘grace’ and ‘contemplate Christ’ in the arts, music, faith and popular culture. This will be a key central event in the Year of Grace to come together and celebrate the many graces in our local community. Save the date and stay tuned for more details.

**NEWMAN COLLEGE LECTURE SERIES**
Archbishop Bruno Forte “The Spirit is still Breathing”
Archbishop Bruno Forte in conversation with Fr Tony Kelly CSSR will present, “A dialogue about Grace, Beauty, the Future of our Church and the New Evangelisation.” Archbishop Bruno Forte is a prominent European theologian, a member of the Papal International Theological Commission and Bishop of Chitei-Vasto, Italy.
Where: Newman College, 887 Swanston Street, Parkville
Date: Sunday 8th July, 5.30pm
RSVP: 1 July 2012, Suzanne on 9926 5761 OR suzanne.hermon@cam.org.au

**PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOPS**
Learn more skills in acting, singing, movement, develop your performing gifts for beginners and experienced on 30 June and 21 July by Catholic/Christian Tharet group “Friends of CoG”. To book or for more info please contact Marlene at 0404766561 or email Gerlind at cogmelbourne@gmail.com

**FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG CATHOLIC WOMEN**
Applications are open for the Young Catholic Women’s Interfaith Fellowship, a program of theology, spiritual formation, personal development, and interfaith dialogue. Applications close Sept 7th, 2012. Fellowship begins Feb 2023 and concludes Nov 2014. For information call office for the Participation of Women on (02)62019867 or website www.opw.catholic.org.au.
Fellowship covers costs of travel, accommodation, formation and 75% of academic fees.
First Reading   Ex 24:3-8

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you.

Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. In answer, all the people said with one voice, ‘We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed.’ Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar. And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, ‘We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey.’ Then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people. ‘This’ he said ‘is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 115:12-13, 15-18. R. v.13

(R.) I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. How can I repay the Lord for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord’s name. (R.)

2. O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosed my bonds. (R.)

3. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord’s name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people. (R.)

Second Reading   Heb 9:11-15

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

The blood of Christ will purify our inner selves. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer are sprinkled on those who have incurred defilement and they restore the holiness of their outward lives; how much more effectively the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the eternal Spirit, can purify our inner self from dead actions so that we do our service to the living God.

He brings a new covenant, as the mediator, only so that the people who were called to an eternal inheritance may actually receive what was promised: his death took place to cancel the sins that infringed the earlier covenant.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation   Jn 6:51-52

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel   Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my body. This is my blood.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, ‘Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the passover?’ So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ‘Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, “The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my disciples?”’ He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there.’ The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover.

And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. ‘Take it,’ he said ‘this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, ‘This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God.’

After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

In the Jewish tradition, blood plays a very interesting double role – being both sacred and impure. As we see from this week’s first reading, blood was used as a sign of sealing a covenant and so took on a very sacred significance. Blood was held to be sacred due to its relationship with life and thus God. However, in other circumstances, blood was regarded as forbidden and impure. The Torah forbids the eating of blood and so for meat to be regarded as kosher (ritually proper) it must be drained of all blood at the time of slaughter. This prohibition has to do with an ancient pagan practice of eating blood and was designed to distinguish the Jews from such pagan practices. In the parable of the Good Samaritan we see the two Temple officials avoiding the beaten and bloodied man because to touch him would have made them ritually impure and unable to perform their duties. So we have this interesting contrast that blood was regarded as being both very sacred as well as impure.

It is in the context of sealing a covenant that Jesus used blood at the Last Supper. Jews would have been very familiar with the notion that a covenant with God was sealed with blood and so for Jesus to describe his blood as being ‘the blood of the covenant’ would have been immediately significant to his disciples and the first audience of the Gospel. Jesus is marking a new covenant between God and God’s people – a covenant in blood like the covenants of old. He is making it clear that God is prepared to start a new phase of the ever developing relationship.
St Barnabas was a Jew from the island of Cyprus. He was an apostle, although not one of the Twelve. It was Barnabas who introduced St Paul to the other apostles. Paul later joined Barnabas who had been sent to Antioch to lead the growing Christian community there. Together, Barnabas and Paul set out on the first missionary journey which began in Cyprus, but later they split up after an argument over their companion Mark (the author of the Gospel) who had returned to Jerusalem. Barnabas returned to Cyprus where he established the church and where he was also later martyred around the year 61AD.