4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR C
3rd February 2013

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19

Responsorial Psalm: I will sing of your salvation.

Second Reading: Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Mass Times</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mass, Woodend Community Aged Care 11.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Mass                            9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Mass                            9.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mass                            6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Mass                            10.00am</td>
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Baptisms
Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month.

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 Vincent Kelly, Margaret Holgate and Sam Barker 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 Fr Con de Groot, Brian Egan & George McEneaney and for all whose anniversaries are at this time especially Annie Healy & Terry Healy 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.

PRIVACY LEGISLATION

In 2001, the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, use, store and disclose information, including health information, collected from individuals. The Parish of St. Ambrose is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation. A copy of the Parish’s Privacy Policy is available to any Parishioner by contacting Bernadette at the Parish Office.

CHURCH ROSTERS

Readers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2nd</td>
<td>Frank Donavan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3rd</td>
<td>Ted Bartels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 9th</td>
<td>Trish Cairns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 10th</td>
<td>Ruth Delong &amp; Michael Petrucelli</td>
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Special Ministers

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2nd</td>
<td>Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3rd</td>
<td>Rhonda Loret, Martin Prior &amp; Kate Mason</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 9th</td>
<td>Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 10th</td>
<td>Mary Welch, Mary Larnach Jones &amp; Bruna Bombig</td>
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Church Cleaning

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 4th</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Karen O'Loughlin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 11th</td>
<td>Chris Van Order</td>
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Church Flowers

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<tr>
<td>Feb 8th</td>
<td>Veronica Sullivan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 15th</td>
<td>Parish Office</td>
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PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
Attached to today’s newsletter is the Introduction Leaflet for our Stewardship Program that officially begins next weekend. The Program is a time for us to reflect on Stewardship as a way of living and to plan for the future. Please pray about your involvement—and join in next weekend. As you are leaving the church today please collect your letter of invitation to our Parish Information Meeting. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend our Parish Information Meeting on Wednesday 20th February at 7.30pm in St Ambrose Church where we come together as a community to hear about our recent achievements and future plans.
Please pray for the success of our Stewardship Program.

Lord, we thank You for calling us to be Your Church. Through our Baptism we are called to ministry and to witness. In the Eucharist we sustain and strengthen that call. By serving others we follow your example and proclaim our beliefs. By our Christian generosity we demonstrate our love and caring. Help us Lord to always worship You as you deserve, to grow in faith and service and to give without counting the cost. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen

MARY MACKILLOP TRAIL—PILGRIMAGE
A 4 day pilgrimage to Hamilton, Portland and Penola will be conducted from 17th—20th May 2013 with pick-up points at Southern Cross Station, Bacchus Marsh and Ballarat. Cost will be $575 (based on 25 pilgrims) twin share (all included except 2 lunches) with $120 extra for a single room. All sites connected with St Mary MacKillop and her family will be visited with Mass on Sunday at Penola. Contact: Sr Mary Fermio rsj PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh 3340 or ph 53672078 or email: mary.fermio@sosj.org.au before 15th March for application forms and further details.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2013
Preparations are starting now for this years sacramental program. If you know anyone wishing to join our Reconciliation, Eucharistic or Confirmation groups this year then please make contact with the parish or school office ASAP.

BAPTISM
This weekend we welcome into our Parish and Christian community Matthew Antonin Strupj son of Antonin and Regina.
May God bless their family always.

LINEN & LUNCH
St Mary’s Anglican Guild invites you to join them for a linen party and a light lunch. Come along and treat yourself to some lovely bed linen, tableware, towels, tea towels, aprons and much more from the “Inspirations” range.
Wednesday 13th February 2013, 10.30am to 2.30pm
Norma Richardson Hall, 15 Buckland Street Woodend
$8 per person, RSVP by 6th Feb to Norma on 54272315 or woodelleanglican@gmail.com

ECUMENICAL GROUP
All welcome to join a small ecumenical group who meet Tuesdays at 9.30 am for praise and worship, prayer and reflection on the Sunday’s reading and warm fellowship. We believe with God all things are possible!
Please contact Simone ph 54248459.
Please also contact if interested in a Lenten discussion group at this time.

ST MARY’S PARISH LANCEFIELD-ROMSEY
Come and join us on a spiritual journey at a reflective evening on the movie “The Way”
The Way is a powerful and inspirational story about family, friends and the challenges we face while navigating this ever-changing and complicated world.
Date : Friday 8th February 2013 at 7.00pm
Venue: St Mary’s Primary School Hall, Raglan Street Lancefield
Film time 116min, light supper and guest speaker—Fr Gerard Spillane who walked to Santiago along the Spain Comino in 2010, and in 2012 did a pilgrimage in central France.
Please contact Joanne Reuther, Pastoral Associate at St Mary’s Presbytery on 54292130 no later than 5th February if you wish to attend.

POSITIONS VACANT
• Service Desk Analyst, Information Systems—East Melbourne
• Administrative Assistant, St Patrick’s Cathedral
• Cook—Sisters of Mercy, Fitzroy
First Reading  Jer 1:4-5, 17-19
A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.
In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,
‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.
So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed.
I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priests and the country people.
They will fight against you but shall not overcome you,
for I am with you to deliver you – it is the Lord who speaks.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 70:1-6. 15. 17. R. v.15
(R.) I will sing of your salvation.
1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. (R.)
2. Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. (R.)
3. It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
your trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother’s womb you have been my help. (R.)
4. My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still. (R.)

Second Reading  1 Cor 12:31-13:13
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
There are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.
Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.
Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people’s sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.
Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish ways.
In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.
The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation  Lk 4:18
Alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord sent me to bring Good News to
the poor and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

Gospel  Lk 4:21-30
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Jesus, like Elijah and Elisha, was not sent only to the Jews.
Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, ‘This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.’
And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came
from his lips.
They said, ‘This is Joseph’s son, surely?’ But he replied, ‘No doubt you will quote me the saying, “Physician, heal yourself” and tell me, “We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside.”’ And he went on, ‘I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.’
‘There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah’s day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha’s time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.’
When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and
hustled him out of the town; and they took him before the high priest’s house. He was not
accepted in his own country.
To make his point even further, Jesus then cites instances where two of the great prophets of Jewish tradition responded to the needs of pagans from Sidon and Syria rather than the needs of Israel. The two people helped are also very significant. Widows held a special place in Jewish tradition: God entrusted all widows to the care of the whole town. Whenever widows are named as being in need, it is a comment on the society as a whole neglecting its duty of care. Lepers were regarded as absolutely unclean and outcast by virtue of their condition (something that perhaps has never really changed). For Jesus to remind the people of these events is a great reprimand to them. He is, in effect, saying to them, ‘If you can’t accept my message I will take it to the pagans; the gentiles; and the socially unacceptable.’ Is it any wonder that they tried to Lynch him on the spot?

Reflection
by Greg Sunter
This week’s gospel completes the event in Nazareth that began last week with Jesus’ declaration of mission. The initial response of the crowd is one of astonishment and approval. However, the people have largely missed the point of Jesus’ teaching. When he declared that he had come to proclaim liberty to captives and to set the downtrodden free, Jesus probably didn’t expect his audience to just say, ‘Oh, that’s nice!’ The message he preached, and the message that flows throughout the Gospel of Luke, calls for a fundamental conversion of heart; a change to a life motivated by compassion for the lowly. When the people so obviously missed his point, Jesus virtually dismisses them by saying that ‘no prophet is ever accepted in his own country’. To make his point even further, Jesus then cites instances where two of the great prophets of Jewish tradition responded to the needs of pagans from Sidon and Syria rather than the needs of Israel. The two people helped are also very significant. Widows held a special place in Jewish tradition: God entrusted all widows to the care of the whole town. Whenever widows are named as being in need, it is a comment on the society as a whole neglecting its duty of care. Lepers were regarded as absolutely unclean and outcast by virtue of their condition (something that perhaps has never really changed). For Jesus to remind the people of these events is a great reprimand to them. He is, in effect, saying to them, ‘If you can’t accept my message I will take it to the pagans; the gentiles; and the socially unacceptable.’ Is it any wonder that they tried to Lynch him on the spot?

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When Jesus began teaching at the Jewish meeting places, people started talking about Jesus and were amazed at the wonderful things he said. Complete the sentences of things that Jesus said during his ministry.

Thy ______ come, thy _____ be _____.

A good _____ cannot produce bad _____.

I am the ______ of life, he who ______ to ___

shall not ________.

Blessed are the meek, _____ _____ ______

inherit the _______.

I am the light ___ ___ ______.

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**Wordsearch**

Try to find these words:

- amazed
- angry
- cliff
- crowd
- doctor
- dragged
- hometown
- liked
- prophets
- son
- threw
- wonderful

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St. Agatha has been honoured since ancient times, although very little is known about her other than legend. Early tradition describes her as a young, wealthy virgin who was devoted to Christ. During times when Christians were persecuted, she refused the advances of the consul Quintonian, who threatened to have her charged. Agatha held firm to her beliefs and was subsequently tortured and martyred. In the early church, St Agatha was invoked against fire, particularly the volcanic eruptions of Mt Etna. She is also a patron against breast cancer.