**31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B**
4th November 2012

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Responsorial Psalm: I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

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**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/

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**MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Communion Service</td>
<td>9.30am</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Communion Service</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Communion Service</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Mass, including Children’s Liturgy</td>
<td>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, Shannon Hanah-Merrit, Margaret Holgate, Ino West 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, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Readers</th>
<th>Nov 3rd</th>
<th>Nov 4th</th>
<th>Nov 10th</th>
<th>Nov 11th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elaine Dugdale Walker</td>
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<td>Michael Petruccelli</td>
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<td>Angela Grinton</td>
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<td>Ann-Marie Elliot</td>
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<tr>
<th>Special Ministers</th>
<th>Nov 3rd</th>
<th>Nov 4th</th>
<th>Nov 10th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton</td>
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<td>Rhonda Loret, Martin Prior &amp; Kate Mason</td>
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<td>Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton</td>
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<td>Mary Welch, Mary Larnach Jones &amp; Bruna Bombig</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Cleaning</th>
<th>Nov 5th</th>
<th>Nov 12th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marg Flett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael &amp; Karen O'Loughlin</td>
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<tr>
<th>Church Flowers</th>
<th>Nov 9th</th>
<th>Nov 16th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veronica Sullivan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhonda Loret</td>
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COLLECTIONS
Presbytery Collection (1st collection) [This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.] $359
Church (envelopes) collection [This collection covers the Church capital costs, and on going maintenance.] $541

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.

St Mary knew that the blessing of Jesus always come to us in the poor and rejected.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Your gift of time refers to the time you give back to God. Spend time in prayer with God throughout the day—thanking Him, asking Him for forgiveness and listening for His guidance. Have the courage to trust God more and make room for Him in your heart.

GOSPEL REFLECTION
“The Covenant was intended to make old Israel “a light to the nations” — their life, shaped by the ways of God, learned through the covenant relationship, was to be an invitation to all peoples of the earth to find the one, true God – “The Lord our God is the one Lord” — and the blessings life with God can bring. The Saviour links the two commandments under the rubric of “love”. The love true believers have for fellow human beings is a love that has been learned from God.

MONDAY AT THE MANOR
Call in at Judy and John Will’s house at Lot 6, Adam Close, around midday this Monday for a sandwich and a chat. Everyone welcome. Anyone needing transport can call Judy and John on 54272827.
CATHEDRAL CONCERT: SONGS TO REMEMBER
25 November, 3:30pm to 5:30pm
You are warmly invited to enjoy an afternoon of music, including performances from Mark Vincent, Australia’s Got Talent, 2009 Winner, Alana Conway, Australia’s Got Talent, 2010 Semi-Finalist, Fr Robert Galea, Singer/Songwriter, plus many more talented artists. This event is proudly supported by Doxa Youth Foundation.
Where: The Sacred Heart Cathedral, 66 Short Street, Bendigo
Tickets: $45 Adults, $40 Concession. Available from the Capital
Contact: The Capital 5434 6100 OR thecapital@bendigo.vic.gov.au

LOURDES DAY MASS
Saturday 1 December, 10:30am
The Order of Malta Australia and the Development Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne welcome you to the Lourdes Day Mass, a mass for the sick and fragile in our community. To be celebrated by Most Reverend Denis Hart DD, Archbishop of Melbourne. A blessing of the sick will follow the celebration of the Liturgy with water brought from the spring at the Shrine of Lourdes. Gift bag for all attendees including a bottle of Lourdes water, rosary beads & more.
Wheelchair access by the side door of Albert St - vehicles can approach this entrance.
Where: St Patrick’s Cathedral,
Contact: 9926 5760

BOOK LAUNCH OF CHARITY AND JUSTICE: ST MARY MACKILLOP AND THE AUSTRALIAN STORY
Monday 12 November, 5:30pm – 7:30pm
The booklet Charity and Justice: St Mary MacKillop and the Australian Story by Professor Emeritus John Warhurst AM, published by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Commission, builds on the insights from the 2011 Melbourne Conference St Mary MacKillop: Her influence on Catholic Social Services. The publication is to be launched by Professor Anne Hunt OAM, Executive Dean of Theology and Philosophy, Australian Catholic University. Light refreshments will also be served.
Where: Cathedral Room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne
RSVP: Friday 2 November Contact: Lucia Brick 9287 5566 OR lucia.brick@css.org.au

YEAR OF GRACE TALK FOR FAMILIES: "GRACE BEFORE MEALS"
Thursday 8 November, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm
The guest speaker will be Matthew MacDonald, an Executive Officer with the Life, Marriage & Family Office of the Archdiocese. Matthew, his wife Julie and their five children recently represented our Archdiocese at the World Meeting of Families in Milan. Matthew will be sharing some of the key messages and focusing on how, in this “Year of Grace”, prayer and food—grace and the family meal—are profoundly important to Christian family life and how this is being affirmed by social research.
Where: St Matthew’s Catholic Church, 95 William Street Fawkner
Contact: 9359 2369

SING FOR A CURE
Fundraising Concert at St Patrick’s for St Vincent’s Hospital Cancer Research Centre. Featuring the glorious music of Faure Requiem with The Choir, Johnathon Welch AM, Rosamund Illing & Michael Honeyman.
Where: St Patrick’s Cathedral,
Cost: $25 or $18 con
Tickets: www.thechoir.com.au or 0402 973 244
First Reading  Dt 6:2-6
A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
Hear Israel, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart.
Moses said to the people: ‘If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.
‘Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2
(R.) I love you Lord, my strength
1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
   my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
   My God is the rock where I take refuge;
   my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
   The Lord is worthy of all praise:
   when I call I am saved from my foes. (R)
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
   Praised be to the God that saves me.
   He has given great victories to his king
   and shown love for his anointed. (R)

Second Reading  Heb 7:23-28
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
This one, because he remains for ever, has an eternal priesthood.
There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.
To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation  Jn 14:23
Alleluia, alleluia!
All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel  Mk 12:28-34
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, ‘Which is the first of all the commandments?’ Jesus replied, ‘This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’ The scribe said to him, ‘Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.’ Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

by Greg Sunter

Generally, in the gospels, the scribes are shown as antagonistic towards Jesus and when we begin this passage we may be expecting a trap being laid by the scribe. In Jewish tradition, a lot of teaching occurs through a question and answer style and often the question is related to a particular teaching from Torah. Here, the scribe approaches Jesus as a teacher, a rabbi, and poses a question just as he would to any other worthy teacher. He asks which of the commandments Jesus regards to be foremost. This could be an opening question to any teacher and one would expect it to be the start of a long conversation. Neither of the commandments Jesus quotes come from the Ten Commandments with which we are most familiar, but, rather, they come from other parts of Torah (the Law). His qualification of the first commandment – to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength – is a way of capturing the whole person. What Jesus is saying is to love God completely and utterly with your whole person. Then he follows up and adds another commandment – ‘You must love your neighbour as yourself.’ The scribe agrees with Jesus’ teaching and adds that these are far more important than offering sacrifice. This is a pretty controversial statement from a scribe! Sacrifice has been the official form of prayer practised in the Temple for a very long time and he suggests that love of God and love of neighbour are far more important! It is because of this understanding about the priority of love over religious practice – the hallmark of the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims – that Jesus pronounces the scribe to be ‘not far from the kingdom of God.’

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An expert in the Jewish law _ _ _ _ _ _ Jesus, “_ _ _ _ _ _ , what is the most important _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ?”

Jesus _ _ _ _ _ _ : “Love the Lord your _ _ _ _ with all your _ _ _ _ , soul and mind.” This is the _ _ _ _ and most important commandment. The _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ is like it: “ _ _ _ your neighbour as much as you love _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.”