**St Ambrose Parish**

**Woodend 2014**

### 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR A

**26th October 2014**

**First Reading:**

Exodus 22:20-26

**Responsorial Psalm**

I love you, my strength.

**Second Reading:**

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

**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:**

Matthew 22:34-40

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**REFLECTION**

“Dialogue is much more than the communication of a truth. It arises from the enjoyment of speaking and it enriches those who express their love for one another through the medium of words.”

*Par 142 from Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis, Nov. 24, 2013*

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### MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

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<th>Day</th>
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<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>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Church open for quiet reflection &amp; prayer Mass</td>
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- Every first Wednesday of the month Mass will be at Woodend Community Aged Care at 11.00am
- The Cellgroup meets on Sunday 3pm—4.30 each week for bible study, prayer and warm fellowship, all are welcome. **Where:** 247 Central Rd, Tylden.
  **Contact:** Simone Liebergreen 54248459, David Mercer.

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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 Sr Virginia Mahony, Bernard Mahony, John Bartels, Sam Barker and Niamh Inkster 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 Myra Hughes & Andrew Garnet 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
- Oct 25th: Gemma Cameron
- Oct 26th: Julian Fraser & Allan Hebb
- Nov 1st: Terry O’Meara
- Nov 2nd: Cathie Hellard & Eileen French

Special Ministers
- Oct 25th: Paul Quinn & Angela Grinton
- Oct 26th: Patty McKibbin, Eileen French & David Mercer
- Nov 1st: Pat McHenry & Angela Grinton
- Nov 2nd: Martin Prior, Kate Mason and any special minister present.

Church Cleaning
- Oct 27th: Chris Van Order & Vin Nicholls
- Nov 3rd: Marg Flett

Church Flowers
- Oct 31st: Liz Higgs & Leanne McGowan
- Nov 7th: Joan Davies

COLLECTIONS
Presbytery Collection (1st collection)
[This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.] $476
Church (envelopes) collection
[This collection covers the Church capital costs, and on going maintenance.] $1253

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES
These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’S world.

Are not God’s ways wonderful? 1873

VOCATION VIEW
We must stop just putting band-aids on the wounds of society. We must tell the world that we are God’s people. God loves us and we were created to serve God, and others in God.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Is your love of money, power, status or some personal possession greater than your love for God? The good news—it’s not too late to put God first in your life.

GOSPEL REFLECTION
As we saw last week, the Pharisees try again to disconcert Jesus. This time their question is about their religious Law. Jesus takes their question to face value and answers openly and directly, going straight to the heart of the Law. When we love God with all our heart, we will not sin. We will love others and do everything we can to promote love wherever we are.

MONDAY AT THE MANOR
Call in at John & Judy Wills house at Lot 6 Adam Close, Woodend at midday each Monday for a sandwich and a chat. All welcome. Anyone needing transport can call John & Judy Wills on 54272827.
LOURDES DAY MASS 2014
Saturday 6 Dec, 10.30am St Patrick’s Cathedral, East Melbourne
The Order of Malta Australia and the Development Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne invite 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 bags for all attendees including a bottle of Lourdes water, Rosary beads and more. Wheelchair access by the side door of Albert St - vehicles can approach this entrance. Contact: 9926 5731

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE OPEN DAY— 5th November 2014
Programme One runs 4pm– 6pm
Or Programme Two 6pm-7.45pm
Includes Refreshments, welcome, Tour of the college and discussions on course options.
RSVP by Friday 31st October
Bookings: 94123314 or email jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DAY
Saturday 1 Nov, 10-5pm Library, 154 High St, Ashburton
A strong and happy marriage doesn't happen by chance, it takes effort and commitment. This Marriage Enrichment Day will help you to gain a deeper understanding of each other's needs, learn practical and effective communication skills, identify conflict areas and provide strategies, deepen your friendship and keep married love alive. Morning and afternoon tea is provided, with couples going out for lunch together at their own expense. Couples are also encouraged to have dinner and spend a night together to make the most of the course. Cost: $80
Contact & Register: feavic@gmail.com

BREAKFAST WITH FR TONY PERCY
Thursday 20 November, 7am-9am
RACV Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne
Father Anthony Percy is Rector of the Good Shepherd Seminary, Sydney. He received his Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the John Paul Institute in Washington DC. Upon his return from USA he was appointed Parish Priest of Goulburn in 2003 and in 2009 was appointed Rector of the seminary. Father Percy is an author and an engaging speaker. His address at the recent Leaders Program in Melbourne was a highlight. He has accepted this invitation to return to Melbourne so that many more men and women here have the opportunity to hear him speak authoritatively on this interesting and relevant topic.
Cost: $50 per person Bookings: www.trybooking.com/105300
Contact: Michael Bohan on 0439 172 465

BOOK LAUNCH: ‘HEALING PRESENCE’
Wednesday 12 November, 7.30pm
Fr Peter Varengo is launching the third book in his series of Sunday Gospels. Called Healing Presence it explores the Gospels for Year B, being the completion of his trilogy. Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Emeritus Professor at the Australian Catholic University and Trustee for Mary Aikenhead Ministries, will be introducing Fr Peter’s book.
RSVP: Monday 10 November
Contact: 9481 7333 or collclift@hotmail.com
**First Reading  Ex 22:20-26**

*A reading from the book of Exodus*

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell the sons of Israel this, “You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him; you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

_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 the God who saves me. When I call I am saved from my foes. The Lord is worthy of all praise: my shield, my mighty help, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. (R)

_The word of the Lord._

**Second Reading  1 Thes 1:5-10**

*A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians*

You turned away from idols to serve God and await the Thessalonians when we were with you, which was for his Son.

You became imitators of us, and of the Lord; your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

_The word of the Lord._

**Gospel Acclamation  Jn 14:23**

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

_Alleluia!_  

**Gospel  Mt 22:34-40**

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew*

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself. When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to discount him, one of them put a question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.’

_The Gospel of the Lord._

**Reflection**  

*by Greg Sunter*

Like last week’s gospel, we again have an example of the Pharisees seeking to ‘catch Jesus out’ in his interpretation of scripture. The Pharisees were regarded as the great interpreters of the Torah – the Law. To them, ALL the commandments were vitally important, not just the Ten Commandments given to Moses with which we are perhaps most familiar, but the 613 mitzvot (commandments) contained within the Torah – the first five books of the Bible. These 613 mitzvot governed all aspects of Jewish life. For the Pharisees to ask Jesus about the ‘greatest’ commandment was a blatant challenge to him. Perhaps they expected Jesus to name one commandment and then they could challenge him with a whole series of ‘What about …?’ questions.

Jesus’ answer to the Pharisees highlights their preoccupation with the particulars of the Law contained within scripture. In their over-emphasis on the details of religious observance, they have forgotten about the most basic element of faith: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. Jesus reminds them that being faithful to God isn’t about following precise rules but rather it is simply about loving God. With this one sentence, Jesus undermines the power position of the Pharisees. If the Law is as simple as ‘Love God’, what need is there of Pharisees to interpret the details of the Law? Having pulled the rug out from under them, Jesus follows up with his reminder that the second most important commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself. This is a call to compassion and justice that Jesus practised freely but was sadly lacking in the religious authorities of his time.
St Simon and St Jude were two of Jesus’ twelve apostles. St Simon was known as ‘the Caananite’ or ‘the Zealot’ by other evangelists and St Jude was a blood relative of Jesus and known as one of the ‘brethren of the Lord’. Little, however, is known about either of these apostles after the events at Pentecost. Western traditions suggest that St Simon preached in Egypt before joining St Jude in Persia, where they were both martyred. In recent times, St Jude has become popular as the patron of ‘hopeless causes’. This probably originates from early Christians confusing St Jude with Judas, who betrayed Jesus. As a result people never prayed for his help and so devotion to St Jude became somewhat of a lost or hopeless cause.

Fill in the missing words to complete the story.

love second God answered yourself teacher heart first test commandment

An expert in the Jewish law tried to love Jesus. He asked, “second, what is the most important ?”

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