

SACRED HEART PARISH - MUNDARING

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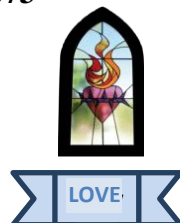
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JANUARY 2024

**Just a reminder about Services during the absence of Fr John.
Due to Fr John being unable to secure a supply priest, there will be
NO MASSES FOR CHIDLOW or MUNDARING CHURCHES
during January, while Fr John is on leave.**

**There will, however, be a
SUNDAY COMMUNION SERVICE at 9.30AM each Sunday of January
with Deacon Paul at
SACRED HEART CHURCH, MUNDARING**

**IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT DEACON PAUL,
RING HIM ON 0437 978 299...**

**IF YOU NEED HIM URGENTLY THEN USE 0455 818 718
DEACON PAUL IS HAPPY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE AND WILL BE
CO-ORDINATING THE PARISH IN MY ABSENCE.**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

'Only those who will risk going too far, can possibly find out how far one can go'
T.S Eliot

MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN: John, a priest, not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead, to the church in Mundaring. That's the way St Paul used to open his pastoral letters, so I thought it would be a nice way to break the ice.
.....cont'd...

NEWS, HAPPENINGS & CELEBRATIONS

MESSAGE FROM FR JOHNcontinued....

The days pass quickly in this chaotic cacophony of a city, polluted with lead in the atmosphere and peopled with a plethora of cultural and religious footprints. I have been working in my usual haunts and it's such a blessing to be received by the poor who genuinely appreciate the very smallest gestures of acknowledgement...for many the fact that some other human being sees them and shows them respect is a revelation and a comfort in itself. I can't imagine what it would be like to be virtually invisible to my own people...many who are now on a very prosperous trajectory. The 'invisible' poor are for many an unfortunate and uncomfortable reminder that there are still hundreds of millions of people in India living in veritable poverty. The positive side is that the numbers are decreasing and not increasing!

Each day we go out into the streets we generally find at least one person who is in need of being transported to Kalighat...the home run by the Missionaries of Charity for the Destitute and the Dying. The most recent young man was named Arjun...I came across him lying almost unconscious on a footpath in a very busy thoroughfare. His pulse was frantic and his condition very serious. After the usual process of getting a police clearance to remove him, he was soon enough clean and comfortable and on oxygen in a small bed with the sisters and volunteers caring for him. When we arrived at Kalighat there was a new superior in the men's ward, her name is Sr Mia Noel. I knew Sr Mia Noel when she was Marie, an Austrian volunteer who I knew way back around the early 2000s. She never really went in for the Mass thing, but worked as a volunteer. One day, not long after my being ordained, I was walking to Mass at Mother House (convent headquarters) when Marie came up behind me delighted to inform me that she now went to Mass...I was stunned! But when I saw her in Kalighat as the new superior, after 18 years in the order...I was overwhelmed by joy...what a blessing!

The volunteer numbers have increased over the past week and among them are many old friends with whom I have worked here for more than 20 years. This is for us a family gathering of sorts and it's not uncommon to see people hugging each other at the end of Adoration...people they may not have seen for years.

Today I met a woman from Bristol who was working here many years ago, when we were still young. It's been more than 20 years since I last saw her when we lived in the same hostel. Her name is Marian and she often spends long periods of time working with the poor in Hong Kong. In the good old days, she only had one set of clothes and used to wash them every night and wear them still damp every morning...eccentrics are plentiful in this part of the world!

I was offering Mass at Mother House over the past few days and on today's list of intentions was a Sr Shirley Jose, who is travelling to Australia. We had a good chat after Mass...she is going first to Perth and then onto Alice Springs (tough gig these days). Celebrating Mass in Mother House is certainly an experience, with the Sisters lined up right in front of the altar, tightly packed, and the very large chapel usually full. Yesterday, the Vicar General Fr Dominic was there along with a priest from Ireland and another from St John Vianney Seminary in St Paul, Minnesota. There are people here from France, Korea, Holland, Australia, Spain, Italy, England, Ireland, US, Mexico, Israel, Argentina...they are just the ones I know! **I do pray for you all as I walk the streets** and give thanks for such a beautiful vibrant community.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B

FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Samuel. 1 Sam 3:3-10, 19

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am,' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening"'. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before. 'Samuel! Samuel' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 39:2, 4, 7-10, v 8, 9.

R. Here I am Lord, I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **R.**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **R.**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **R.**
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed: you know it, O Lord. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord and the Lord for the body. God who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ: anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body, but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property, you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Jn 1:41, 17

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have found the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

Alleluia

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. 1:41, 17

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?'

'Come and see' he replied, so they went and saw where he lived and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John, you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

COME AND SEE

Samuel, in the first reading, hears a call in the night which he doesn't recognise. He is lying in the sanctuary of the Lord when his name is called. He is in the place where God dwells. He goes to Eli not once, but three times. Eli advises him to reply, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening" (1 Sam 3:9). Samuel had replied thrice to Eli, "Here I am", but the response to God was about listening.

The refrain of the Psalm (39:2), and a favourite hymn, echoes "Here I am." It renews our response to God as the psalm alerts us to God inclining and listening to us (v.2).

The Gospel opens with John the Baptist and two of his disciples, John "looked at" Jesus walking by and said, "See this is the Lamb of God" (John 1:36). Together the disciples follow Jesus. His turning around to ask what they want reveals that they seek to know where he abides. Jesus' reply, "Come and see", completes three versions of seeing. John's looking at and inviting others to see with him and Jesus also inviting them to come and see. Having seen and stayed with Jesus, one of them, Andrew, became a follower and brought his brother Simon Peter to Jesus. This coming, seeing and abiding with Jesus, is the portrayal of the call and the mission.

The invitations today to listen, to come, to see and abide with Jesus are possible for each of us every day as we turn our minds and hearts to the Word, our attention to God.

Dr Rosemary Canavan