

SACRED HEART PARISH - MUNDARING

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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.

JANUARY 2024

Fr John will be back for next weekend Masses, starting with the Vigil Mass on Saturday Feb 3 at 6.00pm and Sunday Morning at both Chidlow and Mundaring. As it's the first weekend, maybe a few people could come along and host a morning tea...that would be terrific!

THE LAST MISSIVE!

This is my last message from the streets of Calcutta...as I will be back for the weekend of Feb 3 and 4 (starting with the Saturday Vigil Mass) ...and certainly looking forward to it. So many things happen in this place that I have to make a choice about what to include. I was praying for the repose of Lucia Procopio's soul as I walked the streets this week and also for Phil, her husband, who I suspect will be lost without her. I am sure that Fr Al and the Mundaring Catholic Community gave her a suitable farewell.

This week I came across the local Police on a number of occasions: On the first occasion a woman had died in the train station...an elderly woman who had lived in the station for a long time. She had a special needs daughter aged in her mid to late teens who really didn't understand that her Mum had died. The police were advised and we waited for the equivalent of the 'funeral directors' to arrive...a man with a cart attached to a cycle...and the cart was made of broken tin...it's an ignominious exit from the world to our eyes...though I am sure that God saw it differently!

NEWS, HAPPENINGS & CELEBRATIONS

THE LAST MISSIVE! (continued)

I helped the man place the corpse in a plastic shroud and then very respectfully lifted her into the tin wagon...it's a hard image to erase from one's memory. The Police authorised us to take the girl to a home run by the Missionaries of Charity named Shanti Dan, which means Gift of Peace. She was initially reluctant, but once we started to move, she smiled...and throughout the whole journey in the taxi she just looked out the window in awe. I suspect she had probably never been outside the train station for a very long time, if ever. A volunteer at that home reported to me last night that the girl was very happy and just smiled all the time.

The other occasion was when we arrived at the train station one morning and found a group of high-ranking police officers organising to have a man who couldn't walk, be carried off on a trolley...anywhere but not there! I chanced a conversation...sometimes it can be risky...and suggested that if they leave the man for another 90 or so minutes, I will come back and remove him from the train station and take him to a place where he can be looked after. Thankfully, they agreed and all went well. The man was a bit crabby when we got him to the sisters, but he has settled nicely since...though the early signs suggest a hip replacement is necessary...imagine having no access to that kind of treatment we take for granted!

As I was walking to Mother House for Adoration the other evening, I took one of my usual short-cuts through a Muslim neighbourhood. Its more peaceful and there is less traffic. As I was walking, I felt a bicycle hit the back of my leg and so I turned and said...look where you're going! The 2 boys riding the bike passed me and one about 8 yrs old jumped off the bike and walked toward me and asked me where I came from. I was joking with him and said I was from India. He smiled and said I am from India, and you are not...so where are you from...so I relented and said Australia. He said his name was Mohammed and I said mine was John. He then said I am a Muslim and I responded by saying I am a Catholic...but that doesn't matter...we can still be friends! He hugged me there tight in the middle of a busy street in front of lots of people. What a special moment in an often-crazy place.

I plan to make the most of my last days which will no doubt pass very quickly. The sisters have me saying Mass every day, sometimes twice a day and then add to that confessions...and the work and the homily preps and trying to get some reading done and spending some time with old friends and new volunteers.

I have found paradise!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy. 18:15-20

Moses said to the people: Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said, "the voice of the Lord my God, or look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die": and the Lord said to me. "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die."

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 9

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord, hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**
2. Come in; let us kneel and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us, for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**
3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path: he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Cor 7:32-35

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

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year B

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum and as soon as the sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us Jesus of Nazareth?' Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy one of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' and the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said, 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

LISTEN

Listening is a central part of being a follower of Christ: listening to the Holy Spirit, to the Word, and to each other. Today we are called to listen and give undivided attention to the Lord, to a prophet like Moses and to Jesus in the Gospel.

Moses reveals that "God will raise up a prophet like myself from among ourselves, from your own people ... to him you must listen" (Deut. 18:15). He reminds the people that this is what they have asked for. In the letter to the Corinthians Paul addresses the anxieties of the way" (1 Cor. 7:31). Paul expresses his wish that they be free from anxieties by giving attention to the Lord.

The Gospel continues the beginning of Jesus ministry in what I call "Jesus Central" – Capernaum (Kefar Nahum). It is where Jesus made his home during his Galilean ministry. We notice it is Shabbat, the sabbath, and Jesus is in the synagogue teaching. "They" (those in the synagogue) are astounded by his teaching. "They" are listening as he teaches with authority. Juxtaposed with this is the exorcism of an unclean spirit which brings both amazement and the question: "what is this? A new teaching with authority" (v. 27). We hear that his fame spreads, but are they truly listening and do they recognise who he is? Jesus proclaims the good news in word and deed and expects a change of heart. How are we listening today?

Dr Rosemary Canavan