

'FROM THE HEART|CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY|FATHERS' DAY|CREATION'
2 SEPTEMBER 2018 - 22nd Sunday Ordinary Time

This Weekend, our Parish Child and Vulnerable Adult Safety Officer,
Clare Kennedy speaks at all Masses about protection.
The opening procession began at the memorial Healing Stone in our Prayer Garden.
Remembering anyone who has been abused.

During Mass will be the blessing in our community of our fathers and grandfathers
and those who have a fatherly influence in our lives.
A special treat for them after Mass.

We return this weekend to Mark's Gospel.
Our parents remind their children to wash their hands before meals.
In our Hospitals we have signs to remind us to wash our hands with special lotions provided.
In today's Gospel, some of the disciples get into trouble for eating without washing their hands.
The Pharisees and scribes question Jesus.

The question here is not about the spread of germs.
It is about ritual purity.
Jesus is concerned about the people who follow outer cleanliness laws
though they are false within themselves.
Clean on the outside. Unclean inside.
People who observe the outer observable customs yet are hypocritical within.
People who live by fine appearances,
and who mask their real selves.

The Gospel says:

*'So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him,
'Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders,
but eat with defiled hands?'
He said to them,
'Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,
"This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines."
You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.'*

FROM THE HEART
WHERE DO WE PLACE OUR HEARTS?

This weekend we are reminded that **Child Protection Sunday**
is not only about outer protocols and procedures,
but also, about putting our heart into protecting and loving our children.

This weekend we are reminded that **Fathers' Day**
is not only about providing resources,
but also, about putting one's heart into being a loving father.

Jesus reminds people that it is not what we eat and drink that makes us holy. We need to avoid evil intentions within.

The Gospel continues:

*'Then he called the crowd again and said to them,
'Listen to me, all of you, and understand:
there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile,
but the things that come out are what defile.'*

*For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come:
fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit,
licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly.
All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'*

Our Dads show their love. From the heart.
Their love within, is made visible by the way they show their love.

SEASON OF CREATION

During this **Season of Creation Sept 1st to Oct 4th**
may we show our care for creation,
and for our planet Earth as our common home.
May we love from the heart our common home.

Late this past week was the release of the [57-page Church's response to the Royal Commission recommendations](#). It includes a covering [statement](#).

In the letter we hear that:

'Josephite Sister Monica Cavanagh, the president of Catholic Religious Australia, and Australian Catholic Bishops Conference president Archbishop Mark Coleridge have today released a joint response, expressing their deep sorrow that vulnerable children were abused, weren't believed and weren't supported when seeking justice.'

Archbishop Mark has issued a [pastoral letter to the People of God of Brisbane Archdiocese](#). He says:

*'Now is a time for action.
Some of the action is already being undertaken;
we aren't beginning from scratch. But much of it lies ahead;
and the bishops and religious leaders commit to doing whatever is required.
To help us nationally in that task we've established
the lay-led Implementation Advisory Group
who have been involved in finalising our response.'*

He says now

'that we can focus more on pastoral care for survivors and their families.'

He intends to dedicate the Mary MacKillop candle and stone in St Stephen's Cathedral to
*'to the suffering of all those abused and a sign of hope that there is light in the
darkness'.*

MY PERSONAL REFLECTION

During this past week I found a prompt from God to read
the Story of Susanna in Chapter 13 of the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament.
After praying about it,
I have tried to express some of the insights from Susanna,
in the context of today's sexual abuse crisis.
This reflection offered is [Church Sexual Abuse, Authority & Spirituality](#).

THE CROSS

During the **month of September**,
the **large movable cross made by a parish member**
is placed at the back of our sacred sanctuary.
It will be visible in our Masses, Prayer Vigils and Liturgies.
September 14th is the international feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.
It is a mutual Day of Prayer for both Brisbane Archdiocese
and Erbil Archdiocese in northern Iraq.
That following weekend we remember
that we are all called to carry the cross of Jesus in our lives.

Our primary focus is not for appearances or image.
God is continually loving.
Our primary focus is from the heart.

We now invite our fathers and grandfathers and those with a fatherly influence
to please stand so that our community can acknowledge you, thank you and pray for you.

Fr Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/090218.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook01092018>]

