

OUR PARISH PRAYS AS A LITTLE FLOCK
19th SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME – 7 AUGUST 2022



School Mass, 12 May 2017 – praying for mothers, grandmothers & mother figures in our lives

We begin today with the words of Pope Francis six years ago.

*“... God expects something from you, God wants something from you.
God hopes in you. God comes to break down all our fences.
He comes to open the doors of our lives, our dreams, our ways of seeing things.
God comes to break open everything that keeps you closed in.
He is encouraging you to dream.
He wants to make you see that, with you, the world can be different.
For the fact is, unless you offer the best of yourselves, the world will never be different.
This is the challenge”.*

[Reflection of Pope Francis on July 30st 2016 at the prayer vigil on the outskirts of Krakow.
The prayer vigil’s theme was ‘Jesus, Source of Mercy’. <https://bit.ly/FrancisKrakow30072016>]

We reflect of those parts of our lives that might be closed. **[pause and reflect]**
We pray that God will open the doors of our lives.

We reflect on what God wants of us.
We reflect on our dream.
We reflect on how God is our treasure and where our hearts truly are. **[pause and reflect]**

GOSPEL OF LUKE 12:32 - 48

The Gospel passage today from Luke begins,
***“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s pleasure to give you the kingdom.
Sell your possessions and give alms.
Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven,
where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit.”***

OUR TREASURE

Each time we gather for the celebration of the Eucharist, we come together as a *'little flock'*. Our English word *'micro'* comes from the Greek *'mikron'*. Small enough to be humble. The image of *'flock'* reminds us that we are a community that follows the shepherd, Jesus. Because of its total trust in the shepherd, we need not fear.

We do not need to hoard possessions.

Our treasure does not wear away. It does not rot away. It does not spoil. It cannot be stolen. Our great treasure is God's continued deep and intimate love, with Jesus as our shepherd.

God's love does not drive us, but invites us to grow in love, to make a difference by actively loving.

We are not called to be a driven community, but *a loving community*.

Jesus is the Saviour, the Shepherd, showing us the way.

The little flock is alive and active, not overcome by fear and paralysis.

The Holy Spirit prompts us and helps as we pray.

PRAYING AS A LITTLE FLOCK AT EUCHARIST

When we gather in Eucharist as a little flock, as a faith community, we humbly profess our reliance on God.

As a little flock we humbly greet and listen to the Word of God in scripture.

As a little flock we pray humbly as Jesus becomes truly present in the Eucharist during the Eucharistic Prayer.

As a little flock, we prepare humbly to receive Jesus in Holy Communion by beholding him as Lamb of God.

Jesus shows us how to be a humble family, a humble community.

In love, Jesus calls us to be humble.

CONSULTATION

Each parish in our BRISBANE NORTH-EAST DEANERY receives an Archdiocesan consultation this month.

We welcome Deacon Andrew O'Brien who visits us on behalf of the Episcopal (Bishops) Council of the Archdiocese of Brisbane. Welcome Andrew to the little flock of St Joseph's and St Anthony's.

The Archdiocesan consultation invites our little flock to reflect on the present, and on the next five to ten years.

The questions were included in the parish newsletter last weekend.

Thank you to those who shared their insights with individual Parish Pastoral Council members, and to those who emailed their responses to the parish office.

Included in the interviews will be the Principals and Assistant Principal Religious Education (APREs) of St Joseph's Primary School and St John Fisher College.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Thank you for your prayers last week for the appointment process, as the panel put forward its recommendation for the next Principal of St Joseph's Primary School in 2023. We welcome Brett Kitchener as our Principal next year.

The Executive Director of Brisbane Catholic Education says that Brett is, *'currently Principal of Our Lady of Dolours Primary School, Mitchelton. Brett's leadership experience includes Acting Principal St Martin's Primary School, Carina; Acting Principal Holy Spirit Primary School, New Farm; Acting Principal Our Lady of the Assumption Primary School, Enoggera; Assistant Principal Religious Education St Benedict's Primary School, Mango Hill; Acting Assistant Principal All Saints Primary School, Albany Creek.'*

Thank you to Gary Creevey, our current Principal, for your many years of inspirational service.

Thank you for your calm leadership and for your deep faith.

Thank you for your incredible interest in each family in the school community and for your pastoral care of the school staff.

As Principal, Gary is a member of our monthly Parish Pastoral Council and our quarterly Parish Finance Council.

Gary completes his term as Principal at the end of the year.

Before then, we will have the opportunity to thank him as a community.

200 YEARS YOUNG

One of the documents that I read before the interviews, was a [Pastoral Letter in 2021 of the Australian Catholic Bishops with the title '200 Years Young'](#).

From the letter I share two quotes for reflection about Catholic Schools.

'It is there that many young people encounter Christ, intensify their knowledge and love of God, and are formed as future contributors to Australian society. We hope all our students will emerge from our schools with a deepened sense of the sacred and greater appreciation of the true, the good and the beautiful. Catholic education is steadfast in its commitment to evangelisation, catechesis, religious education and spiritual and moral formation.'

'It is essential that:

- leaders and staff understand, and are solidly committed to, the Catholic identity of the school*
- activities of pre-evangelisation, primary proclamation, catechesis and spiritual formation seek to ensure our young people have a personal encounter with Christ, develop an enduring relationship with God and the Church, and have a genuine apprenticeship in the Christian life*
- the Religious Education curriculum is sound, attractive and professionally delivered, helping students to integrate faith, culture and life*

- *other disciplines also consider the Catholic/Christian dimension of their subject areas*
- *schools are Eucharistic communities within the parish context where students regularly take part in Mass and Reconciliation and are engaged in various forms of prayer and meditation*
- *schools are places that cultivate a Catholic imagination, supported by a Catholic visual culture*
- *schools are connected to their local parish(es) and diocese, through inviting the pastors and parents into the school, and through active collaboration with the wider Catholic community*
- *families and parishes support their schools in these important endeavours'*

ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT

We hope to resume the practice of our annual prayer retreat after the COVID-19 wave considerably diminishes.

FAMILY PRAYER RESOURCES AND FAMILY RETREATS

Could we provide resources and opportunities for parents to pray with their children?

We already provide resources and workshops for the sacramental program.

We pray for ways to enrich the prayer of families from early childhood through to Year 12. Perhaps also involving Grandparents and others in the prayer.

Thank you last night to three people after Saturday night Mass who offered help.

As Pope Francis says about God:

"He is encouraging you to dream.

He wants to make you see that, with you, the world can be different.

For the fact is, unless you offer the best of yourselves, the world will never be different.

This is the challenge".

[Let Us Dream <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Let-Us-Dream/Pope-Francis/9781982171872>]

PRAYER

We pray for children preparing for their First Eucharist this month.

We pray for their families.

[pause and pray]

Last Tuesday we celebrated the Sacrament of Anointing during Mass.

We continue to pray for the 60 people who were anointed on Tuesday.

[pause and pray]

Let us journey together in prayer.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/080722.cfm>