

'TWO EYES, ONE WITH A LOG IN IT. GOOD AND BAD FRUIT'

8th Sunday Ordinary Time Year C - 3rd March 2019

TWO ISSUES

You have seen on our parish social media, posts recently

- on the Church child sexual abuse summit
- and on the India/Pakistan tensions.

Posts included praying for people affected.

The posts included

- A [link to the moving and courageous testimonies](#) of church abuse survivors at the Vatican summit
- The [21 Church Recommendations](#) for future implementations by the church worldwide.
- [The Pope Francis address on abuse](#) (various languages, including Arabic)
- A [post to an article on a prayer initiative by the Capuchins friars](#) as they prayed for peace at a village on the Pakistan/ India border.

Since then in Australia we heard the court verdict on Cardinal Pell, and the Vatican has announced a canonical investigation.

And two Indian jets crashing, the capture of one of the pilots and the Pakistani announcement that the pilot would be released.

WAY, TRUTH and LIFE

We remember in the Gospels when the disciples of Jesus were being prepared for their ministry.

Jesus taught them about the way of God.

As Jesus said to Thomas in John's Gospel 14:6

***'I am the way, and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father, except through me.'***

We seek the **TRUTH** and to live by the truth.

In John's Gospel, we are reminded that the truth will set us free.

Whether with church abuse or international rivalries we need to seek the truth.

But not only truth.

We also need to follow the **WAY** of Jesus,
with genuine repentance,
with integrity and justice,
and compassion and mercy,
with responsibility and accountability and transparency,
with healing and love.

And we are called to **LIFE**.

As Christians we need to share the life-giving grace of God's love.

ST. FRANCIS MEETS THE SULTAN – 800TH ANNIVERSARY

As well as the recent summit which Pope Francis convened on abuse, are his two visits to countries with Muslim majorities.

This is the 800th anniversary year of Saint Francis meeting with Sultan al-Malik al-Kamel in Egypt.

Pope Francis highlights this important anniversary with visits and the sending of an envoy

- Early February visit of Pope Francis to the United Arab Emirates
- Late March visit of Pope Francis to Morocco.
- Sending Cardinal Sandri as his envoy to the 800th celebrations in Egypt from March 1st – 3rd 2019. This weekend.

The prayer witness at a Pakistan / India village builds on the work already done by the Pakistan Catholic Justice and Peace Commission dialogue with interfaith leaders, and similar initiatives in India.

What happened 800 years ago between Saint Francis and the Sultan still continues today.

We need peace in our world and in our own lives.

Working for peace is ongoing.

We need to follow Jesus as the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE.

GOSPEL OF LUKE 6:39-45

Luke's Gospel challenges us further with the images of

- A log in our eye and a speck in another's eye
- Bearing good fruit or bad fruit

Jesus shows the way forward. Jesus guides us.

In Luke's Gospel we hear that we are not to fall into a pit, and not to guide others into a pit.

In guiding others, we remember that Jesus is our teacher.

Our teaching and example must be humble.

We are not above Jesus in what we do.

The Gospel says:

“He also told them a parable:

‘Can a blind person guide a blind person?

Will not both fall into a pit?

A disciple is not above the teacher,

but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher.”

The message of true humility continues

as Jesus draws a comparison of the log and the speck.

We need to be aware of our faults – understanding there is a log in our eye.

We need to desire sincerely to **repent**.

And we need to act and reform our lives – taking the log out of our eye.

The church sexual abuse of children is such a major and critical issue and log.

The 21 recommendations to the leaders of the bishops' conferences of the world on 21st February are **a part** of the taking the log out of our eye.

Acknowledging the log in the eye.

Analysis of the damage of the log to the eye.

Analysis of the best way to take such a log out of the eye.

Analysis of what damage was done to others when we couldn't see clearly because of the log in our eye.

***“Why do you see the speck in your neighbour’s eye,
but do not notice the log in your own eye?”***

***Or how can you say to your neighbour,
“Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye”,
when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye?
You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye,
and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbour’s eye.”***

HYPOCRITE

On another two occasions in Luke, Jesus uses the noun hypocrite.
Luke 12:56 and 13:15.

Jesus spoke to the crowds in Luke 12:56
using the word hypocrite about their interpretation.
They can interpret appearances in earth and sky,
but how is that they do not know how to interpret
what is before them in Jesus at that time.

Jesus cured a woman in the synagogue on the Sabbath.
The leader criticizes Jesus for healing on the Sabbath.
Jesus in Lk 13/15 challenges the religious leaders
who do not permit healing on the sabbath,
yet still lead their donkeys to water on the Sabbath.
Jesus shames the leaders.
The crowd rejoiced at the wonderful things he was doing.

FRUIT

Bearing good fruit as disciples has a tradition in both Old and New Testaments.
Examples in the Old Testament include Jeremiah.

In 17:10 Jeremiah revealed the Word of God to Judah,
speaking of the sin of Judah, and said

***“I the Lord test the mind and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.”***

And in 21:14 Jeremiah spoke the Word of God to the house of the king of Judah:

'I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings.'

In a different way in Isaiah 3:10

*"Tell the innocent how fortunate they are,
for they shall eat the fruit of their labours.'*

As we return to Luke's Gospel, we hear,

***"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit;
for each tree is known by its own fruit.
Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.
The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good,
and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil;
for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks."***

ARCHDIOCESAN LETTER THIS WEEKEND

An extract from the [Archdiocesan Letter of Archbishop Mark](#) this weekend says,

*'It seems that everywhere we turn we see stories
about the Church and its failures with child sexual abuse.
We have to accept that. ,,,*

*We have much to atone for.
We have much to do and much to continue learning'*

The Letter also speaks of the good fruit being produced by the local Catholic communities. Archbishop Mark describes the work that we as church members do.

- It includes working with people who are refugees,
- with people who are domestic violence victims,
- with Australians with a disability,
- with people on the poverty line,
- with people who are homeless,
- with people living with dementia
- with providing pastoral care to prisoners
- with protecting the environment
- with education of children
- with provision of first-class medical treatment.

Printed copies are also available at Mass today.

800TH ANNIVERSARY – ENCOUNTER OF PEACE & DIALOGUE

The 800th anniversary of the encounter of peace and dialogue between St Francis and the Sultan in Egypt is worth commemorating, not only this weekend, but throughout the year.

St Francis went to the Sultan.

We too are to be proactive.

May we continue to pray for peace for India and Pakistan.

And talk about ways of peace, and actions we can take.

May we continue to pray for abuse survivors and their families
and implement child safeguarding strategies,
and act decisively to change the culture of the church.
Safeguarding has to be by the whole church community,
not just by a part of the church.
We are church together.

And we thank God for the good fruit that is produced every day.

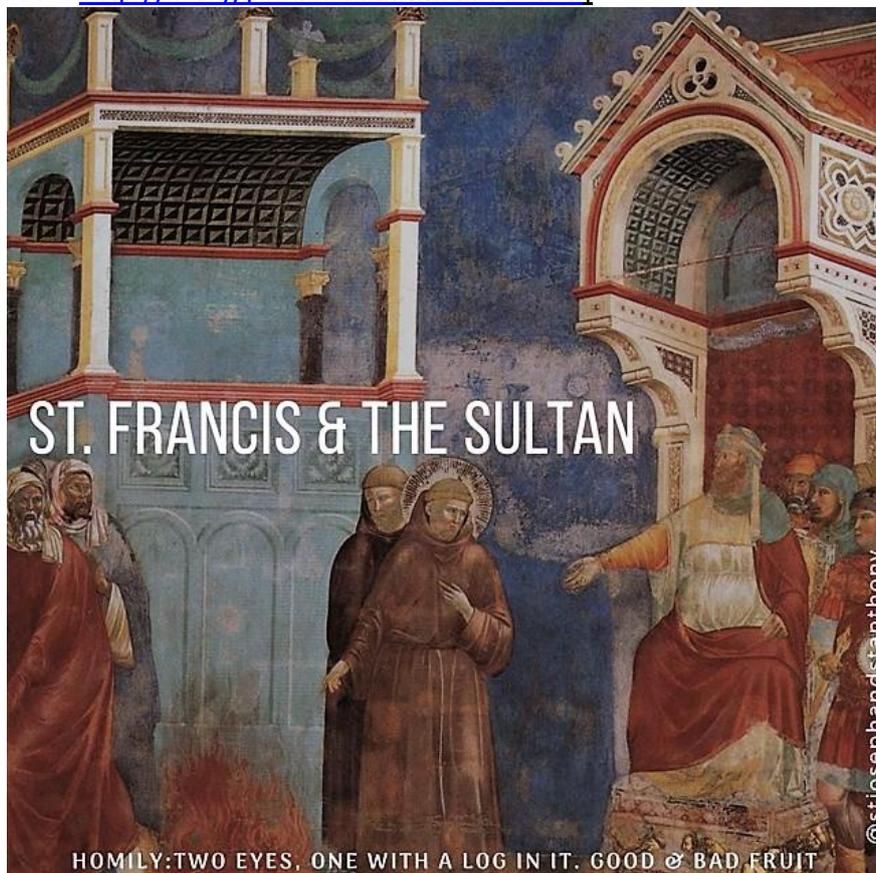
As we begin the *Season of Lent* this Wednesday
let us take the log out of our own eye first.
Let us place the fruit of our mind and heart humbly before God.
May we find in Jesus, an abundance of the heart.
May we find in Jesus, the good treasure of the heart.

Let us pray.

Fr. Gerry

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/030319.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook03032019>]



St. Francis & The Sultan, by Giotto | public domain