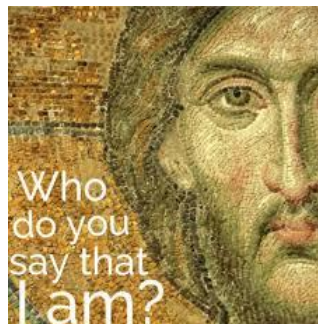


**Sunday
12 September 2021**

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday
In Ordinary Time
Year B**



Readings: Sunday, 12 September 2021

First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9

Second Reading: James 2:14-18

Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-35

Readings: Sunday, 19 September 2021

First Reading: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Second Reading: James 3:16-4:3

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:30-37

Parish website:

www.altonacatholic.org.au

Please note that everything in this bulletin is subject to change.

First Reading

Isaiah 50:5-9

Taken from the third of the Songs of the Suffering Servant, in this reading, the servant declares his confidence in divine help, even in the face of great opposition.

Second Reading

James 2:14-18

Following last week's exhortation to be doers of the word and not just hearers, this Sunday, James reminds us that our faith in Christ must be expressed in good works.

Gospel Reading

Mark 8:27-35

Today's gospel reading contains both Peter's profession of faith in Jesus and Jesus' first prediction of his own passion and resurrection. Jesus also proclaims the mystery of losing one's life in order to save it.

While many of us are unable to gather for Mass, and prayers, you are invited to consider ways of supporting your local Church. We understand that this is a difficult time for everyone. If you are able to continue supporting financially you can do so by Bank Transfer to St. Mary Help of Christians Parish Church Account BSB 083347 account 644 449 954, reference – Your Thanksgiving Envelope Number if you have one or your full name and if you would like to support Fr. Michael directly, these are the bank details:

*House Account BSB 083347;
account 644 390 868.*

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Please note: Due to the latest Government Restrictions, there will be NO MASSES until further notice.

**Humanitarian crises unfolding in
Afghanistan and Lebanon**

As the situations in **Afghanistan** and **Lebanon** deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises.

In **Afghanistan**, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection.

In **Lebanon**, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights.

Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world.

Visit caritas.org.au/lebanon or www.caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." (Mark 8:34)

Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for your own life, but for the lives of others as well. We realise that our gifts are not intended for ourselves, rather they are meant to be shared with others. "Taking up your cross" means doing things when someone else needs you and not when it's convenient for you.

"Treasuring Our Later Years" (Reflection series via ZOOM), 6 x Wednesdays, 22 September to 27 October 2021, 12.45pm - 3pm

Facilitated by Nicole Rotaru rsm, this series offers participants the opportunity to explore new possibilities that ageing offers daily. It will include input, conversation and the opportunity to depth and integrate reflections and learnings through personal reflection and creative expressions. Topics covered include: ageing; spirituality; relationships; meaning; gratitude; death. Cost \$180 for the series, or \$30 per session. Bookings and payment via Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation website at www.heartoflife.melbourne

For more information, contact email: secretary@heartoflife.melbourne or telephone: (03) 9890 1101.

Lockdown Light—week one

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown

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Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations below.

Podcasts for Christian living

Quality podcasts navigating marriage and family life

Parenting as a team:

This podcast from the Messy Family Project gives some great practical advice on how couples can be truly in sync with one another and parent together with unity, respect and God's grace. Listen at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving1

Getting to know your Bible

Resources to help you explore the Bible

How to read the Bible

Getting started: In this short video, Fr Mike Schmitz shares several reasons we should pick up our Bible again, see it with fresh eyes and allow it to transform our lives. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted1

Going deeper: In this video, Bishop Robert Barron looks at different approaches to understanding Scripture and how we can use them to hear God speaking to us today. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper1

Recently Deceased:

Mary Galea; Des Stock

Anniversaries:

Philip Cafolla, Domenic Cao Son

Latest update from the Archdiocese of Melbourne regarding Covid-19 Restrictions (Update #46 - 9 Sept) can be viewed on our parish website www.altonacatholic.org.au under the heading 'Covid 19 Restrictions'.

SmartLoving Breakthrough: An Online Course for spouses in troubled marriages

If your marriage is under stress or you feel disconnected from your spouse but don't know how to ease the pain, join us for this online course.

- Identify your conflict triggers.
- Learn strategies to de-escalate an argument.
- Restore hope with practical relationship strategies.

smartloving.org/breakthrough

In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we invite you to bring life to "the poorest and most neglected parts of God's vineyard."

Your donation to Mary MacKillop Today will support thousands of people in Timor-Leste, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and here in Australia with education, health and finance and livelihoods opportunities, bringing hope to communities for generations to come.

To make a donation please go to:

www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/donate

Or contact us at: Mary MacKillop Today, P O Box 1646, North Sydney NSW 2059

Ph: (02) 8912 2763.

"We shall steer safely through every storm, so long as our heart is right, our intention fervent, our courage steadfast, and our trust fixed on God."

St Francis De Sales

Our Parish Prayer

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians.

Through her prayers and under her protection,
may the light of Christ shine over our land.

May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.

Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.

Bless especially those who care for the poor and who seek to promote
justice and peace for all who call Australia home.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

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