



Pius News

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

5th February 2017

GOD'S POWER AS POWERLESSNESS BY FR RON ROLHEISER OMI

The French novelist and essayist, Leon Bloy, once made this comment about God's power in our world: "God seems to have condemned himself until the end of time not to exercise any immediate right of a master over a servant or a king over a subject. We can do what we want. *He will defend himself only by his patience and his beauty.*"

God defends himself only by his patience and his beauty! How true! And how significant for our understanding of power! The way we understand power is invariably bound up with how we see power exercised in our world. Our world understands power precisely as a force that can lord it over others, a force that can compel others to obey. In our world, power is understood to be real only when it can forcibly assert itself to make others obey it. For us, strong people have power, political rulers have power, economic systems have power, billionaires have power, the rich and the famous have power, muscular bodies have power, and the playground bully has power; power that can make you buckle under, one way or the other.

But such a notion of power is adolescent and superficial. Power that can make you buckle under is only one kind of power and ultimately not the most transformative kind. Real power is moral. Real power is the power of truth, beauty, and patience. Paradoxically, real power generally looks helpless. For example: If you put a powerfully muscled athlete, the CEO of a powerful corporation, a playground bully, an academy-award winning movie star, and a baby into the same room, who has the most power? Ultimately, it's the baby. At the end of the day, the baby's helplessness overpowers physical muscle, economic muscle, and charismatic muscle. Babies cleanse a room morally; they do exorcisms, even the most callous watch their language around a baby.

That's the kind of power God revealed in the incarnation. Against almost all human expectation, God was born into this world, not as Superman or Superstar, but as a baby, helpless to care for its own needs. And that's how God is still essentially present in our lives. Pulitzer prize-winning writer, Annie Dillard, suggests that this how we forever find God in our lives, as a helpless infant lying in the straw whom we need to pick up, nurture, and provide with give human flesh.

She's right, and her insight, like that of Leon Bloy, has huge implications for how we understand God's power in our lives and for how we understand God's, seeming, silence in our lives.

First, God's power in our lives: When we examine the biblical account of Adam and Eve and original sin, we see that the primary motivation for eating the apple was their desire to somehow grasp at divinity, to become like God. They wanted Godlike power. But they, like us, badly misunderstood what makes for genuine power. St. Paul shows us the antithesis of that in how he describes Jesus in the famous Christological hymn in the Epistle to the Philippians. Paul writes there that Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at, but rather that he emptied himself of that power to become helpless, trusting that this emptying and helplessness would ultimately be the most transformative power of all. Jesus submitted to helplessness to become truly powerful.

That insight can shed light on how we understand God's apparent absence in our world. How might we comprehend what is often called "the silence of God"? Where was God during the Holocaust? Where is God during natural disasters that kill thousands of people? Where is God when senseless accidents and illnesses take the lives of countless persons? Why doesn't God forcefully intervene?

(Continued over page)

Catholic Church Dernancourt— PO Box 85 Dernancourt 5075 Telephone: 08 8261 2428

Fr Matthew Raj OMI Parish Priest, Fr O'Doherty OMI Assistant Priest

Email: dernancourt@oblates.com.au

ABN 21465985101 Web: www.oblates.com.au/dernancourt

(Ron Rolheiser continued:)

God is present and intervening in all these situations, but not in the way we ordinarily understand presence, power, and Intervention. God is present the way beauty is present, in the way a helpless, innocent newborn is present, and in the way truth as a moral agent is always present. God is never silent because beauty, innocence, helplessness, and truth are never silent. They're always present and intervening, but unlike ordinary human power, they're present in a way that is completely non-manipulative and fully respectful of your freedom. God's power, like that of a new born, like the power of beauty itself, fully respects you.

When we look at the struggles within our world and within our private lives, it often seems like divine power is forever being trumped by human power. As the cartoon character, *Ziggy*, likes to put it: *The poor are still getting clobbered in our world*. But, like David, standing with a just a boy's slingshot before Goliath, a giant who looks overpowering in terms of muscle and iron; and just like the apostles being asked to set five little loaves of bread and two tiny fish before a crowd of 5000, God always looks underwhelming in our world.

But we know how these stories end.

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Tuesday	21 February	6.00pm
Saturday	11 March	11.00am
Saturday	18 March	11.00am
Saturday	1 April	11.00am

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Annual Clergy-Laity Golf Day

The golf day, at Adelaide Shores on Mon March 27, will commence with a 12.30pm shotgun start. Attractive prizes for men and women. The John Mahoney Parish Trophy will be awarded to the parish with the best three Stableford scores.

Cost is \$40 (discounted for clergy & pensioners).

Entries close on Friday March 17.

Field limit of 100.

Enquiries: Denis Toohey, 8353 1273

Farewell and Thank you

Deacon Casimir, who has been with us to support Fr John, is returning to Melbourne this week to continue his studies as he moves towards ordination later in 2017. We appreciate everything he has done while he has been with us and we will miss him. There will be a morning tea after the 9.30am Mass this weekend to say goodbye.

Please continue to keep Br Casimir in your prayers for his ordination and for his life as an Oblate priest.

Diary Dates:-

March 1st: Ash Wednesday

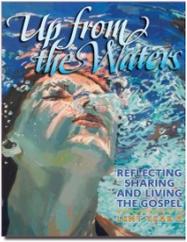
March 3rd: World Day of Prayer

April 4th: Regional Reconciliation at Modbury Parish 7pm

April 16: Easter Sunday

Lenten Program 2017

UP FROM THE WATERS



The LENTEN MEDITATIONS this year will be based on the theme, UP FROM THE WATERS. We have 26 people so far who signed up last week, including 9 leaders. This week I will try to sort into groups, and there will still be time to re-arrange if necessary. There will still be an opportunity to join a group during the month. Add you name to the sheets that will be at the back of the Church NEXT Weekend. We are optimistic that others will want to join in, so we have ordered 50 books. (This way we have reduced the price – just \$6.50 each)

Watch this space next week more information!!!

Fr John OMI

Out-of-work and looking for a Job?

One of our parishioners has his own CLEANING SERVICE and is willing to help.
Contact details: ALL SEASONS Falah Bona – Manager Mobile: 0449220761

2017 Jesuit Prayer Program

There are still a few copies of the Australian Centres of Ignatian Spirituality 2017 Program booklets available at the back of the Church. In this time of Parish Renewal it would be a good opportunity to take time out to pray about how God is calling you to serve the parish as well as just taking time out to be with God.

Please take a copy of the booklet or check the websites for retreats in South Australia.

www.loyolasp spirituality.org.au (Email: Loyola@cis.jesuit.org.au)

Or

www.cis.jesuit.org.au (Email: sevenhill@cis.jesuit.org.au)

Parish Renewal

We are in the process of a parish renewal. Please read the notices in the main foyer of the Church to see what we are achieving and where we are hoping to go. Take time to study the ministries already active in the parish and pray about where God might be calling you to serve, especially if you are not currently involved in any ministries. The parish can only grow if each of its members is involved actively and spiritually.

Be prepared to be tested on this topic!!!!

Fr John OMI

Mass Times at St Pius X

Saturday Vigil 6.30pm
Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm
Tues & Wed 9.15am Mass
Thurs 9.30am
Fri 9.15am
 3rd Sunday of the Month 12.30pm Indonesian
 Mass

Daily Morning Prayer: Tues, Wed, Fri 8.40am
 Thurs, 8.55am

Rosary: Tues, Wed, Fri 8.55am. Thurs 9.10am

RECONCILIATION: Saturdays 11.30am-12noon

EXPOSITION: Fridays during school term
 time
 10am—12 noon
 6pm – 9pm



Today's Readings: Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5;
 Mt 5:13-16

Next Week's Readings 6th Sunday

Ordinary Time: Sir 15:15-20; 1 Cor 2:6-10;
 Mt 5:17-37



PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK OF OUR PARISH IN YOUR PRAYERS

Alan Birtles, Alan Hughes, Alex Stirrat, Alicia Prince, Alison Hellams, Anna Johnston, Anne McEvoy, Anthony Young, Anton Niemoeller, Ayyette Ramos, Barbara Stirling, Bernadette Thornton, Bill Adcock, Charles Greeneklee, Charlotte Johnstone, Cherri Hyde, Christine Brasser, Christine Gordon, Claudia Rose, David Beaven, Damian Canavan, Emma Altin, Eva McCarthy, Fr Alfred Farrugia, Fr David Shelton OMI, Fr John O'Doherty OMI, Fran Lewis, Geoff Monteleone, Georgina Evans, Gill Chuachett, Giuseppina Parella, Graham Hellams, Granville Davies, Greg Cashmere, Helen Durkin, Hermy Ramos, Herby Weber, Ian Roberts, Ian Wallace, Jackie Chin, Jason Luis, Jean Keanan, Jet Robinson, John Muscat, Josie Cinmino, Justin Rowe, Katie Correll, Kath Bradfield, Kathleen Duggan, Lisa Johnstone, Margaret Baugham, Martin Cox, Maria Galinato, Maria Schinella, Marie Trainor, Marthese Cinelli, Mary Meatheringham, Maryrose Aquilina, Maureen Cunningham, May Green, Michael Frederick, Mollie Davidson, Moya Nussio, Murray Williams, Paddy McLean, Pat Durkin, Paul Halman, Peter Hale, Peter Kelly, Philip McKelliff, Ray Bragg, Renata Stirrat, Richard Walsh, Robert Kean, Roeben Johnstone, Ron Todd, Ros Venn, Stanley Sagucio, Tania Altin, Terry Bayldon, Theresa Sara, Tony Petrie, Tony Siciliano, Trish Hehir

Feast day of the Week

St Josephine Bakhita Wednesday February 8th

At the age of nine, St Josephine Bakhita was kidnapped from her home in Sudan, force-marched for eight days, and sold into slavery. "Bakhita" (Arabic for fortunate one) had five masters who treated her with great cruelty. One mistress "tattooed" Bakhita by repeatedly cutting her skin and rubbing salt into the wounds. Finally reaching Venice with a kindly Italian family, Bakhita was entrusted to the Canossian sisters. There she embraced the Faith, ultimately entering the order herself. She served in humble ways, and spent her last years in a wheelchair. "The whole of my life has been God's gift, Men, his Instruments; thanks to them for providing me the gift of faith" she declared. Bakhita died in 1947 and was canonised in 2000.



St Vincent de Paul Food Bank

This week—**WEETBIX, BREAKFAST CEREAL, RICE, FULL CREAM LONG LIFE MILK, PASTA, PASTA SAUCE, Tinned Fruit,** Cans of Tomatoes, Jam, Milo, Vegemite.

Items for baby layettes: cotton vests, socks or booties, nappies, nappy pins, disposable nappies, cotton blankets, cotton sheets, towels, soap, wipes, wash cloths, baby shampoo, bibs, onesies, wool. Items can be left in foyer.

Thank You



Parish Prayer Network:

Prayers for any need.

All you need to do is call one of the following:
 Marie 8264 9569, Maureen 8261 6906
 or Beth 8396 2079

MINISTRY ROSTER 11/12 February 2017

Ministers Please Note:

This roster follows the original roster. If you have made any changes they will not be reflected here. Please check the notice board at the back of the church for updates.

6.30pm
 C Rod Hearn
 R1 Anna Szczepanik
 R2 Hughette Rignanese
 EM1 Jim Kelly
 EM2 Roman Szczepanik
 EM3 Patricia Beaven
 EM4 David Lloyd
 M James Lloyd

9.30am
 C Helen Mysak
 R1 Bernadette Davies
 R2 Jos Hensing
 Em1 Annette Stone
 Em2 Tommy Morrison
 Em3 Marie Sterai
 Em4 Doris Taylor
 M Peter Roberts

5.30pm
 C Amy Bartjes
 R1 Mark McCarthy
 R2 Christine Clift
 Em1 Judith Mohan
 Em2 Jijimol Poulouse
 Em3 Heather Hier
 Em4 Esma Gagliardi
 M Michael & Tim Carter

Church Cleaners: Team D: Griffith/Fameli/Laping/Winkler

Altar Linen: 12th February: Trish