



Pius News

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

12th February 2017

EMBITTERED MORALIZING By Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI

One of the dangers inherent in trying to live out a life of Christian fidelity is that we are prone to become embittered moralizers, older brothers of the prodigal son, angry and jealous at God's over-generous mercy, bitter because persons who wander and stray can so easily access the heavenly banquet table. But this isn't unique to faithful church-goers. It's part of the universal struggle to age without bitterness and anger. We spend the first-half of our lives wrestling with the sixth commandment and spend the last-half of our lives wrestling with the fifth commandment: Thou shalt not kill! Long before anyone is shot by a gun, he is shot by a word, and before he is shot by a word, he is shot by a thought. We all think murderous thoughts: Who does he think he is? And it becomes harder and harder not to think them as we age.

Aging without bitterness and anger is in fact our final struggle, psychologically and spiritually. The great Swiss psychologist, Alice Miller, suggests that the primary task of the second-half of life is that of mourning, mourning our wounds so as not to become bitter and angry. We have to mourn, she says, until our very foundations shake otherwise our unrieved wounds will forever leave us prone to bitterness, anger, and cold judgments. At the end of the day there is only one remaining spiritual imperative: We are not meant to die in anger and bitterness. And so, as we age, we can progressively slim our spiritual vocabulary down to one word: Forgive, forgive, forgive. Only forgiveness can save us from bitterness and anger.

Indeed, there are few Gospel texts as sobering as the Gospel story of the Prodigal Son. As good commentaries on this text are quick to point out, the central character of this story is not the prodigal son, but the father, and the central message of the text is his over-generous mercy. He is a father who is trying to get his two sons into his house (his house being an image for heaven). But the younger son is, for a long time, out of the house through weakness, while the older son is just as effectively outside the house through a bitterness and an anger that have soured his fidelity. Unlike the father who is grateful and joyous because his wayward son has come home, the older brother is angry and bitter that the father has not withheld his mercy and that his errant brother was not first punished and made to meet certain conditions before he was welcomed back home.

Now there's an older brother of this sort in all of us. We see it, for instance, in the fierce resistance many, wonderfully faithful, church-going, Christians express apposite certain people receiving communion at the Eucharist. Granted, there are legitimate ecclesial issues here, to do with public forum and scandal, which need to be sorted out, as the recent Synod on family life tried to do. But that synod also highlighted the resistance that many feel towards persons that they deem unworthy to receive communion at the Eucharist.

Independent of the ecclesial issues coloring this, those of us who struggle with certain others going to communion should still ask ourselves: Why is this bothering me? Why am I angry about someone else going to communion? What's really the basis for my resistance? What might this be saying about me? Is my heart wide and mellow enough right now to go to heaven, to sit down at the banquet table with everyone? Do I have the courage and humility to ask myself this question: Am I not akin to the older brother standing outside the house, bitter that someone who seems undeserving is receiving the Father's love and blessing? But we need to ask ourselves that with sympathy. We aren't bad persons; it's just that a certain bitter moralizing is an occupational hazard for us. Still we need to ask ourselves these hard questions, for our own sake, lest, blind to ourselves, we become the older brother of the prodigal son.

Paradoxical, ironic, strange, but we can be faithful, upright-morally, duty-bound, church-going Christians, preaching the gospel to others and, at the same time, carry inside of ourselves an anger, a bitterness, and an unconscious envy of the amoral which has us standing outside the house of celebration, blocked from entry because we are angry at how wide and indiscriminating is our own God's embrace.

But that weakness and bi-polarity have already been taken into account. The story of the Prodigal Son ends, not with the father's joy at the return of his sinful son, but with the father at the door of the house, gently pleading with his older son to give up his bitterness and enter the dance. We don't know how that story ends, but, given God's jealous love and infinite patience, there's little reason to doubt that eventually the older brother entered the house and sat down at table with his prodigal brother.

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"What more glorious occupation than to act in everything and for everything only for God, to love him above all else?" – St. Eugene



Greeting from Casmir, omi.

You all know a little bit of my vocation story, having been here at Dernancourt for the past month as an Oblate Deacon. I have been in Melbourne for the past 4 years, doing my scholastic formation. As you know, I originate from the Oblate Province of India.

I would like to tell you a little more about my story. I joined Oblates in 2004, India. The first year was learning English which was part of our Formation Programme. Then went to do a degree in Philosophy in Bangalore, before making my First Profession of Annual Vows at the end of my Novitiate in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, India in 2011.

I came to Melbourne in 2012. At St. Mary's seminary, we were 7 scholastics: three of which were Australians. We had a great time of formation.

Over the next couple of years, from 2012-14, things changed. There was a period of 6 months where I was the only scholastic in the seminary. A few had left and others were been ordained and sent to their mission places. Being a lone seminarian wasn't a lot of fun although the Oblate Spirit and Formation was the same.

After 2015 things changed again, this time for the better. Our trust in God and our prayers came to fruition in the arrival of new students. Now, there were 4 students in the seminary including me. John Nash, omi, Thuan (novice), Steven (pre-novice) and myself. The great news was that all the seminarians except me were Australians. And, we have a few more local young men discerning the call to oblate way of life, which is wonderful to see.

We need your prayers. Please, continue to pray for the ones discerning and the current seminarians.

I am sure I have your prayers in a special way as I go to complete my formation & looking toward my Priestly Ordination, sometime later in the year.

I have had a great month of oblate life & friendship here at Dernancourt!

Thank you. God bless!

Casmir Arul, omi.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP EVENING

Diary Dates:

- March 1st: Ash Wednesday, Masses 9.15am & 7pm**
March 3rd: World Day of Prayer
April 4th: Regional Reconciliation at Modbury Parish 7pm
April 16: Easter Sunday

We would like to invite all the ladies of the parish to an evening of conversation over a cuppa this Wednesday 15th Feb at 7pm in the Church hall.

This will be our 6th meeting, and in just a short time we have seen friendships grow. This is especially noticeable for a few ladies who are new to Australia and don't have other family members with them.

We gather every 3rd Wed of the month.

For further information, phone Janine 8263 7068 or 0415 507

Pub Theology

We are back again for 2017!! We are thrilled to have Peter Brierer from the USA, who is now Adelaide's own Diocesan Youth Coordinator! The Wakefield Hotel, Monday 13th February, 6.30 pm dinner, 7.30 pm talk followed by Q and A. Title: Deep Gladness: Discerning Gifts and Vocation -Theologian, Frederick Buechner, defines vocation as the place where one's "deep gladness meets the world's deep hunger." What is your deep gladness? What is the world's deep hunger? Peter Bierer will lead a conversation about youth and young adult ministry in the Church today and the role of charism in discernment for vocation. This event is for ages 18-35 Any age for priests and religious!

World Day of Prayer International

You are cordially invited to join with the family of nations from 170 countries from around the world in celebrating the annual, international and ecumenical Prayer Service.

Date: Friday 3rd March 2017

Venue: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 29 Muller Road, Greenacres, 5086

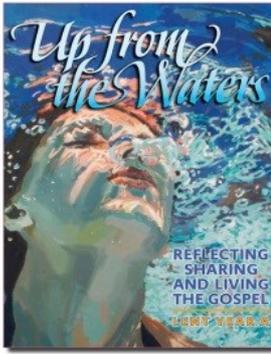
Time: 7.30pm

The program this year has been prepared by Christian women for the Philippines, taking as their theme, "Am I being unfair to you?" After the service you are invited to join us for light refreshments in the church hall.

RSVP Thursday February 23rd, by calling Jan, 0427 777 046 or by email: gmjfhitch@ozemail.com.au

All most welcome

Lenten Program 2017



UP FROM THE WATERS

Thanks to all those who have signed up. Please take a copy of your group from the table in the porch. THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN IN. Take one of the blank forms fill in your details and hand the COMPLETED FORM to one of the Priests. We will do the rest. Come and join us.

Fr John OMI

CALL TO MINISTRY.

Thank you to all those who "ticked the boxes" last Sunday. We are still collating the information. Maybe you were away last Sunday, so do please take a blank form fill in your name etc. and TICK AS MANY BOXES where you feel able to help.

We do NEED YOU.

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!!!!

Prayer Chain.

A special mass to pray for the sick of the parish on Monday night 13th February at 7pm in the Church. We will use the votive Mass of our Lady of Lourdes. All are welcome. We hope you might also wish to be part of the team who pray for our sick. Come and join us.

Please bring a small plate, See you there Monday.



Fr John OMI

40 Days For Life March 1-April 9 2017

Help Save Lives in Adelaide! Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 725,000 volunteers world wide. After 19 coordinated campaigns—12,668 babies have been saved from abortion; 141 abortion workers have been converted; 75 abortion clinics have been closed.

Venue: Outside the Pregnancy Advisory Centre, 21 Belmore Terrace, Woodville

Vigil hours: 8am-6pm daily

For more information call Alan Tyson on 0412 389 875 or 8364 4516 or 0400 364 403 or email: itm54au@gmail.com or go to the website: <http://40daysforlife.com/Adelaide>

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

Next Week's Readings 7th Sunday

Ordinary Time: Lev 19:1-2, 17-18;
 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48



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, Elisabeth Burns, 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

Sts Cyril & Methodius Tuesday February 14th

Born in Thessalonica of a senatorial family, brothers Cyril and Methodius began a mission to Moravia (present-day Czech Republic) in response to the request of Prince Ratislav for "a bishop and teacher...able to explain to them the true Christian Faith in their own language." Accordingly, Cyril and Methodius set about translating the Scriptures into the Old Slavonic language, using an alphabet devised by Cyril. After Cyril died in Rome in 869, Methodius carried on with the mission, for a time suffering imprisonment at the hands of a fellow bishop. Methodius spent his final years creating the *Nomokanon*, a manual of Byzantine ecclesiastical and civil law. He died in 885.



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 18/19 February 2017 6.30pm

Ministers Please Note: C Anna Sczcepanik
 This roster follows the original R1 Jean Canil
 roster. If you have made any changes R2 Sr Pat Keane
 they will not be reflected here. Please EM1 Dennis Rodrigues
 check the notice board at the back of EM2 Terrance Cheah
 the church for updates. Em3 Hilda Cheah
 Em4 Patricia Rice
 M James Lloyd

9.30am

C Jos Hensing
 R1 Sue Griffith
 R2 Jos Hensing
 Em1 Charlie Baldacchino
 Em2 Joe Colangelo
 Em3 Brigitte Colangelo
 Em4
 M Peter Roberts

5.30pm

C Heather Hier
 R1 Kathy Nicholls
 R2 Amy Bartjes
 Em1 Michael Wright
 Em2 Philip Matthews
 Em3 Terry Roberts
 Em4 Stuart Feircough
 M

Church Cleaners: Team E: Pearce/Kaminski/Beaven

Altar Linen: 19th February: Marie