



Pius News

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year A

19th February 2017

WELCOMING THE STRANGER BY RON ROLHEISER

In the Hebrew Scriptures, that part of the bible we call the *Old Testament*, we find a strong religious challenge to always welcome the stranger, the foreigner. This was emphasized for two reasons: First, because the Jewish people themselves had once been foreigners and immigrants. Their scriptures kept reminding them not to forget that. Second, they believed that God's revelation, most often, comes to us through the stranger, in what's foreign to us. That belief was integral to their faith.

The great prophets developed this much further. They taught that God favours the poor preferentially and that consequently we will be judged, judged religiously, by how we treat the poor. The prophets coined this mantra (still worth memorizing): *The quality of your faith will be judged by the quality of justice in the land; and the quality of justice in the land will always be judged by how orphans, widows, and strangers fare while you are alive.*

Orphans, widows, and strangers! That's scriptural code for who, at any given time, are the three most vulnerable groups in society. And the prophets' message didn't go down easy. Rather it was a religious affront to many of the pious at the time who strongly believed that we will be judged religiously and morally by the rigor and strictness of our religious observance. Then, like now, social justice was often religiously marginalized.

But Jesus sides with the Hebrew prophets. For him, God not only makes a preferential option for the poor, but *God is in the poor*. How we treat the poor is how we treat God. Moreover the prophets' mantra, that we will be judged religiously by how we treat the poor, is given a normative expression in Jesus' discourse on the final judgment in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25. We are all familiar, perhaps too familiar, with that text. Jesus, in effect, was answering a question: What will the last judgment be like? What will be the test? How will we be judged?

His answer is stunning and, taken baldly, is perhaps the most challenging text in the Gospels. He tells us that we will be judged, seemingly solely, on the basis of how we treated the poor, that is, on how we have treated the most vulnerable among us. Moreover at one point, he singles out "the stranger", the foreigner, the refugee: "*I was a stranger and you made me welcome ... or ... you never made me welcome.*" We end up on the right or wrong side of God on the basis of how we treat the stranger.

What also needs to be highlighted in this text about the last judgment is that neither group, those who got it right and those who got it wrong, knew what they were doing. Both initially protest: the first by saying: "We didn't know it was you we were serving" and the second by saying: "Had we known it was you we would have responded." Both protests, it would seem, are beside the point. In Matthew's Gospel, mature discipleship doesn't depend upon us believing that we have it right, it depends only upon us doing it right.

These scriptural principles, I believe, are very apropos today in the face of the refugee and immigrant issues we are facing in the Western world. Today, without doubt, we are facing the biggest humanitarian crisis since the end of the Second World War. Millions upon millions of people, under unjust persecution and the threat of death, are being driven from their homes and homelands with no place to go and no country or community to receive them. As Christians we may not turn our backs on them or turn them away. If Jesus is to be believed, we will be judged religiously more by how we treat refugees than by whether or not we are going to church. When we stand before God in judgment and say in protest: "When did I see you a stranger and not welcome you?" Our generation is likely to hear: "I was a Syrian refugee, and you did not welcome me."

(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 cont)

This, no doubt, might sound naïve, over-idealistic, and fundamentalist. The issue of refugees and immigrants is both highly sensitive and very complex. Countries have borders that need to be respected and defended, just as its citizens have a right to be protected. Admittedly, there are very real political, social, economic, and security issues that have to be addressed. But, as we, our churches, and our governments, address them we must remain clear on what the scriptures, Jesus, and the social teachings of the church uncompromisingly teach: We are to welcome the stranger, irrespective of inconvenience and even if there are some dangers.

For all sorts of pragmatic reasons, political, social, economic, and security, we can perhaps justify not welcoming the stranger; but we can never justify this on Christian grounds. Not welcoming stranger is antithetical to the very heart of Jesus' message and makes us too-easily forget that we too once were the outsider.

Lenten Bible Study Understanding the Gospel according to Matthew

Fr Jack Boog of Modbury parish is presenting this course on the Mondays of Lent in the Modbury Church, 50 Reservoir Road, Hope Valley, starting on Monday March 6th at 7pm.

All welcome

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

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

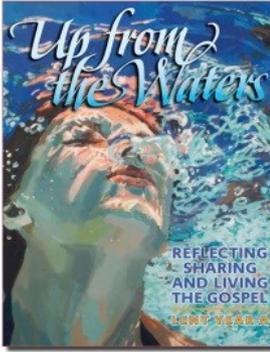
Vigil hours: 8am-6pm daily

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>



UP FROM THE WATERS

Lenten Program 2017



There is still time to join in with the Parish Lenten Prayer Reflection. Fill in the form in the foyer and give it to one of the Priests. The books for **Reflecting, Sharing and Living the Gospel** will be available next weekend. The books will cost **\$6.50 each**. There is also a CD to help the leader direct the sharing. The leaders will be giving the CDs next week, also. I would suggest that others take turns in leading the group sharing. In this way, we will build up a good team for future years.

Fr John OMI

KILDARE COLLEGE



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TERM 1 ~ 2017 COLLEGE TOURS

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

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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!!!!

CALL TO MINISTRY.

Thank you to all those who have "ticked the boxes". We are still collating the information, 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**.

Fr John OMI

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

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: Lev 19:1-2, 17-18;

1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

Next Week's Readings 8th Sunday

Ordinary Time: Is 49:14-15;

1 Cor 4:1-5; Mt 6:24-34



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, 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

Chair of St Peter Wednesday February 22nd

The feast of the Chair of St Peter commemorates the teaching authority of the Vicar of Christ. The Catechism teaches that "it is this Magisterium's task to preserve God's people from deviations and defections and to guarantee them the objective possibility of professing the truth that liberates" (CCC 890). "How blessed is the Church of Rome, on which the Apostles poured forth all their doctrine along with their blood!" (Tertullian). "The Chair represents (the pope's) mission as guide of the entire People of God. Celebrating the 'Chair' of Peter means attributing a strong spiritual significance to it and recognising it as a privileged sign of the love of God" (Pope Benedict XVI). "Perhaps it would be a good thing if every Christian, certainly if every priest, could dream once in his life that he were pope, and wake from that nightmare in a sweat of agony" (Ronald Knox).



St Vincent de Paul Food Bank

This week—**WEETBIX, BREAKFAST CEREAL, RICE, FULL CREAM LONG LIFE MILK, PASTA, PASTA SAUCE,** 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 25/26 February 2017 6.30pm

Ministers Please Note: C Sr Pat Keane
 This roster follows the original R1 Martyn Pearce
 roster. If you have made any changes R2 Patricia Beaven
 they will not be reflected here. Please EM1 Jaippee Paje
 check the notice board at the back of EM2 Bill Edmonds
 the church for updates. EM3 Jean Canil
 EM4 Marie Smith
 M James Lloyd

9.30am

C Margaret Duggan
 R1 Betty Vowles
 R2 Vin Thomas
 EM1 Marie Sterai
 EM2 Tommy Morrison
 EM3 Sue Griffith
 EM4 Charlie Baldacchino
 M Helen Mysak

5.30pm

C Anne Goss
 R1 Susan Timpani
 R2 Michelle v d Kieboom
 EM1 Heather Hier
 EM2 Amy Bartjes
 EM3 Ian Goss
 EM4 Esma Gagliardi
 M Sonia & Group

Church Cleaners: Team F: Bona Family

Altar Linen: 26th February: Lucy