



Ss Peter and Paul's Catholic Parish

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**WEEKEND MASSES HAVE BEEN
TEMPORARY SUSPENDED DUE TO THE
COVID 19 PANDEMIC**

Our Vision

We are a Catholic Community who profess, celebrate and witness that Jesus lives, and to whom the Father sends His Spirit. We express that belief by living out and spreading the message of the Gospel.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 25th and 26th of July 2020 – Year A

Unite in Prayer Every Tues at 8pm

Fr Jerald would like you to join in prayer every Tuesday at 8.00pm, where together as a community we can bring forth our intentions for the resolution to this Covid pandemic and for the resumption of our public masses. The Lord said "Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven." [Matt 18: 19]

You are welcome to pray in any of the following ways:

- Join with others in a 30min Zoom online prayer session by clicking on the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82880786051?pwd=c1ppOHRQsXJIWWpTZG55b0czd0JwUT09> or entering Meeting ID: 828 8078 6051 and Password: 3rAVW0
- pray with family members or friend over the phone
- pray on your own

You can use the suggested prayer which is on our website and the link to this prayer will also be included in our Mailchimp mailout at the weekend.

Together in prayer and faith, we will overcome this adversity.

**What is the greatest reward the world can offer you?
What are you willing to sacrifice so you can own it?**

Everyone makes a life choice that leads to a life compromise. When people get married, they forsake all others for matrimony. When people buy housing, they may not be able to afford additional dwellings. When people choose careers, they close the door on other earning options. Every single "yes" leads to many "no's."

Every person makes an ultimate choice about life. This choice reveals and defines the character of the person. The choice clearly tells others what gives this person a sense of purpose. Some people choose possessions, popularity, or power. Others cling to security. Still, a few risk all for a greater prize. In today's passage, Jesus addressed those who gave up all for the Kingdom.

Matthew presented three parables, two about choice, one about the consequences of choice. In the end, he painted another parable image about the one who presented the choice for God's Kingdom.

The first two gave a "cost-benefit analysis." The Kingdom cost everything but had the greatest value. However, the risk to obtain the Kingdom might escape our modern sensibilities. The contemporaries of Jesus might have considered the risk so high that only a fool would have taken it.

Jesus painted the absurd images found in these two parables to reveal the risk factor of God's Kingdom. God's Kingdom demanded everything from the believer. Loyalty to family or neighbours, the desire for financial security, the drive for political power, all came second. The believer must put God first in all things, even if he or she looked like a fool.

Jesus told the last parable as a counter weight to the fears people face when they consider the faith option. God's messengers would separate the bad from the good. Then, these messengers would punish the evil in a fiery furnace. Separation meant judgment, both human and divine.

The separation was God's final judgment. All people would gather. God would separate the evil from the good (i.e., those doing right). And the age of humanity would end. The dawn of God's age would begin. [13:49-50]

Even in risk, we make the faith choice in the freedom God gave us. God based his relationship with us on love. Since love cannot be coerced, neither can faith. Because we are free, we can believe in a God who loves us.

Once we choose faith, however, we cannot turn our backs on the One we trust or the truth he reveals. The faith choice cannot be made in a haphazard manner. Indeed, the faith choice must be fed with God's Word in Scripture and the wisdom of the Church, in prayer, and in works of charity. For without a well-nourished faith, we slip away from God.

Evangelization as judgment has a flip side. When we say "yes" to God, we walk closer to him. We trust in him. In turn, he nourishes us with his very life. In this sense, faith begins our journey to eternal life. The life of faith we live invites others to join us on that journey. Faith involves risk and changes. The risk and the changes that we endure influences others. Sometimes others grow closer to God. Sometimes we scandalize them away from God. The choice faith presents us has the power to unite and divide, to gather together and to separate. Let us use it wisely. Let us use it in love.

Sense of the Faithful

The clouds have lifted a little. The Plenary council discernment papers have been disseminated & the committee is now asking us for further comments & encouragement before the "working paper" is written for the Plenary council discussion next year. A varied body of people under the website ["senseoffaithful.org.au"](http://senseoffaithful.org.au)

Is writing some thoughts about major issues like governance, women's roles, language in the liturgy & climate change We encourage you to look up this website ,make some comments (as long as they are not defamatory) & "subscribe (no charge) & you will receive updates. For further information please ring St Kevin's Templestowe 98505983.

Message from Fr Jerald

My fellow parishioners, over the last few weeks, things have been changing constantly everyday. Unfortunately not for the better. At this stage while we still hope to be out of this current lockdown in a few weeks time, ultimately however the final decision cannot at this time be known. Could I ask you all to be especially aware of those in our community who are vulnerable. I would like to encourage all of you to stay safe at home whilst this storm is raging around us. Whilst we can't be together again for a few weeks, please know that you are all constantly in my prayer. Please keep me in yours.

I will continue to have our Tues to Sat 9.00am Zoom masses and our weekend video masses will still be available.

For the safety and well being of our staff, we will be closing the parish office for the time being. You can still contact us on doncastereast@cam.org.au or on the Parish mobile of 0473 873 479.

I wish you all a safe week ahead. For emergencies , please contact the parish office and I will get back to you.

Prayers of the Community

Our Prayers are asked for those who died recently: especially Carlos , Cesare and Victoria Caballero and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially Charles Cross, Carmine Cococcio, Elvira Beltrame, Frances Chen, Brenda Parkinson, Pietro Ventura, Ron Rigby, George Smith, Antonio Mosca, Giovanna D'Abaco, Fr Brian Murphy, Andrew Healy , Juanita Karman, Mary Collins, Flora Herrero, Ida Barrasson, Ashley Seedsman, John Dowling, Andy Doria, Jimmy Vincitoria

For those who are sick: Paul O'Connor, Emily Patrikis, Madeline Gilmore, Dan McMahon, Teresita Leung, June Webster, Joel Pemberton, Angela Selva, Anthoula Miras, Danny and Alice Zanon, Margaret Jansen, Teresa Talia, Mary Ritus, Lois Norton Old, Salaka Hewamaduma, Priyanthi Perera, Josh Davis, Maree Spinks, Joyce Foo, Peter Wilkinson, Tai Thomas, Pat Carty, Khek Hong Tan, Choi Yeng Chew, Marie Simpson, Ann Weerappah, Bronwyn Burke, Filomena Fusco, Carmenza Cruz, Alicia Nivia, Frank Prendergast, Joan O'Hanrahan, Mary Tancredi, Irma Ciccotelli, Jovina Ebell, Gina Giracona, Dr Hong Nguyen, Cesare Iozzi, Ian Stuart, and Sharon Rodrigo, Richard Woodgate Climaco, Carmen Climaco and Sandra Gonzales.

Parish Office

The Parish office will remain shut until further advice is received and employees will be working from home. We can still be contacted via our Parish Mobile of 0473873479 or on Doncastereast@cam.org.au. Thank you for your patience during this time.

A Coronavirus Prayer

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and for concern for the well being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us peace.

Jesus Christ, Heal us.

