



## **Ss Peter and Paul's Catholic Parish**

23 Leeds Street, Doncaster East,  
Victoria, 3109.

Tel: 03 9842 1480

Web: [www.sspp.org.au](http://www.sspp.org.au)

Email: [doncastereast@cam.org.au](mailto:doncastereast@cam.org.au)

**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.*

## **18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2020 – Year A**

### **Unite in Prayer Every Tues at 8pm**

Fr Jerald would like you to join us 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. Last Tuesday 25 parishioners from SSPP and OLOP joined together towards this end. 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=c1ppOHRQSXJlWWpTZG55b0czd0JwUT09> 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 lessons can we learn from Jesus' feeding of the 5,000?**

In all four of the Gospels, Jesus is recorded performing a great miracle for His followers—usually known as the feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–14). A large crowd began following Jesus as He travelled and healed the sick. In this particular instance, Jesus and the disciples had withdrawn, but the crowds followed and when Jesus saw them, He "had compassion on them and healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14). In the evening, the disciples wanted to send the people away so they could reach the surrounding villages before dark and buy food (Matthew 14:15). "But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat'" (Matthew 14:16).

One of the disciples found a boy who had five loaves of barley bread and two fish (John 6:9). Certainly this would not be enough for the large crowd! But Jesus thanked God for the food and each person who gathered to see Him was fed.

The bread and fish were multiplied until everyone ate their fill, and there was even food left over ([John 6:11–13](#)). This is astounding because the Bible notes 5,000 men in attendance, plus women and children ([Matthew 14:21](#)). Some scholars believe that the crowd could have been between 15,000 and 20,000 people.

Through Christ's miracle of feeding the 5,000, God demonstrates that He is big enough to shatter all of our finite expectations and abundantly provide for our needs. His goodness exceeds our imaginations. Christ amplified the meager provisions that were brought to Him, and similarly, God amplifies our gifts, money, and talents when we bring them to Him. Our possessions and attributes are never too small to serve God. He delights in blessing and surprising us, and Scripture continually shows us that He uses smallness and weakness to display His glory ([1 Corinthians 1:27](#)).

Through this miracle, we can also learn that Jesus uses His disciples to be His arms and hands. [Mark 6:41](#) depicts Jesus blessing the crowd through His disciples passing out the food. Jesus could have manifested sustenance in the hands of each person in the crowd, but instead chose to use the food the boy had shared and use His disciples to distribute the meal. By feeding the crowd through the agency of His disciples, we see how we also can be the arms and hands of God. God graciously involves us in His work. We also learn about trust. The disciples had to trust that Jesus would provide the means to feed the crowd, and they could only give what they received. This makes the disciples, and Christ's current believers, a huge part of God's plan in blessing others.

Just as we learn that Jesus' disciples could only give what they received, we also learn that nothing came through their own efforts. When Jesus asked His disciples how they would feed the multitudes, Phillip leaned on his own rationality and logic ([John 6:7](#)). His disciples' own efforts are, of course, not how Jesus chose to feed the crowd. Any amount of human striving could not have fed the thousands. Jesus bypassed human effort to show that all good things come from God, not man's effort ([Zechariah 4:6](#)). God involves us, but He is the one who equips the work. This miracle is also a great reminder that nothing we face here on earth is too big for God. Even standing with the King of kings, Christ's disciples were worried that thousands of people would go hungry ([John 6:9](#)). No matter what we face, we must remember that God is larger still.

It is interesting to note that God had performed a similar miracle before. In 2 Kings, Elisha tells his servant to feed a crowd gathered around them. The food is seemingly not enough for the hundred men, and one of Elisha's servants questions Elisha's command, saying, "How can I set this before a hundred men?" ([2 Kings 4:43](#)). The crowd ate their fill and even had some food left over, just as with Jesus' miracle. God loves giving in abundance ([2 Kings 4:42–44](#); [Psalm 132:15](#)).

Christians must trust God, that He will provide for our needs and amplify our offerings to bless others. We know that God is larger than we can imagine, and He delights in providing for and blessing His children ([Psalm 23:5](#)).

## 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](mailto: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.

## Refresh Your Understanding of the Holy Mass – over 9 Tues beginning 18th Aug, 10.30 – 11.30am online over Zoom

While we may not be able to gather together for mass for the moment, our parish is facilitating a series of 9 online sessions for those wishing to refresh and renew their understanding of the Holy Mass. The sessions will centre around watching and reflecting on a series of short videos on the different parts of the mass by Jeff Cavins, and sharing of our reflections thereafter. Jeff Cavins is an American Catholic evangelist, author, and biblical scholar. He is the creator of The Great Adventure Bible Study program and Director Emeritus and teacher at the Catechetical Institute at the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Please email [cheryl.tay@cam.org.au](mailto:cheryl.tay@cam.org.au) by Wed 12 Aug to register your interest.

If you'd like to participate but the timing is not suitable, please fill in the form in this link [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbjPfbPNCLDSFe7XpH7AcMwNz9yZ-IKT6CFCNujD4VwAoig/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbjPfbPNCLDSFe7XpH7AcMwNz9yZ-IKT6CFCNujD4VwAoig/viewform?usp=sf_link)

## Expression of Interest for Sacrament of Reconciliation Classes

Expression of interest is now being taken for preparation classes for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Classes is for children in Grade 3 and above, studying in schools not offering sacramental preparation. Pending the lifting of restrictions on gatherings in Metropolitan Melbourne, classes are projected to be run on Sundays at 10am around late Sept / early Oct. The completion of this Sacrament is a pre-requisite to proceed on to preparation classes for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. Please email [cheryl.tay@cam.org.au](mailto:cheryl.tay@cam.org.au) to register your interest.



# Treasuring Our Later Years

(via Zoom)

**6 x Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm  
4 August - 8 September 2020**

*(Facilitator: Nicole Rotaru rsm (Sister of Mercy, Educator, Social Worker and Creative Arts Therapist, with a deep interest in spirituality)*

Our ageing offers us opportunities to be awake to the new possibilities offered daily. Because of the Coronavirus, we have all had to make many adjustments in our lives. Our experience of ageing may be presenting us with both challenges and opportunities we did not expect. Our time together will include reflections on the following themes, which take on particular relevance and meaning in our ageing years.

- Ageing! Decline and ascent; both loss and gain...
- Spirituality... deepest dimension of our life
- What is giving my life meaning?
- At its core, life is about relationships
- Gratitude... thanks for the past... thanks for the present
- My death... as an act of communion  
...into the Mystery

There will be opportunities for conversation in the large group and to share thoughts and experiences in chat-rooms. A handout of each theme will be emailed to you prior to the session as a guide.

Upon registering for this event, we will send you some tips to help you to gain the most from your time with us on Zoom.

Cost: \$115 for the Series, or \$20 per session  
Book and pay at <https://www.trybooking.com/BKLUH>



Heart of Life

Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern Vic 3144

Tel: 03 9890 1101

Email: [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com)

Web: [www.heartoflifemelbourne](http://www.heartoflifemelbourne)

## Prayers of the Community

**Our Prayers are asked for those who died recently: especially and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time especially** Isabel Zhou, Domenica Sofo, Concetta Calcagno, Laurence Castles, Joseph Sleeth, William Nolen, Rosslyn Verspay, Edward Murray, Miroslaw Kimucs, Ivy Irene Wise, Mary Daly, Frederick Parkinson, Elizabeth Fresser, Mara Matulin, Francesca Bibno,

**For those who are sick:** Paul O'Connor, Emily Patrikis, Madeline Gilmore, Dan McMahan, 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](mailto: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.

