

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 5 July 2020

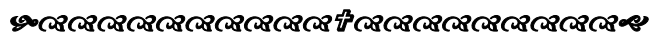
'My Yoke Is Easy.' During the Vietnam War a soldier once saw a boy carrying a child on his back. 'He must be heavy,' the soldier remarked. 'He's not heavy,' the boy replied, 'he's my brother.' Hopefully, we experience the yoke of Jesus as light and easy. Serving others and living the Gospel can be burdensome at times but it also brings freedom and joy to our hearts and rest for our souls.

Responsorial Psalm:

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!



'Open Our Churches' national petition

While it is pleasing to see progress made on the easing of restrictions on churches in NSW, our fellow Catholics in some other states and territories are still struggling to practice their faith under unfair restrictions at this time. You can voice your concerns directly with all the premiers and chief ministers by signing the Open Our Churches petition at this address:

www.openourchurches.com.au

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or call (02) 9390 5810 or You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



Fr. Brian Egan, Parish Priest
Fr Chaminda Wanigasena, Assistant Priest
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admin@stambrose.org.au
sacraments@stambrose.org.au
parishcouncil@stambrose.org.au
www.stambrose.org.au
Phone: 02 9743 1023
VASA: 9736 3686, 8765 1295
St Ambrose Primary School
Stuart St, Concord West
Principal: Ms Linda McFadden
Ph: 9743 5605
info@stambconcord.catholic.edu.au

Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sunday 9.30am & 5pm
Live-streamed Mass: Sat Vigil 5pm. You can participate from your home online & receive the Spiritual Communion.

Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)
Tuesday evening 7.30pm

Saturday 8.30am Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday 9am Mass

Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm

Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,

Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am

Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

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2020 Sacraments Program

We are very pleased to announce that our First Reconciliation Sacrament will go ahead as planned – however there will be restrictions to ensure the health of our children and their families.

First Reconciliation- Saturday 8, 15 and 22 August at 2pm

First Holy Communion- Sunday 1, 8 and 15 November at 11am

Please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information
sacraments@stambrose.org.au



**Please remember in your prayers the following
for whom Masses will be offered.**



Recently Deceased: Gaylene Ann Hickey, Cecilia Marcaida, Lynette Prins, Leena D'Mello

Anniversaries: Maria Colongioli, Gordon & Gwen Cootes, Ettore Ciccotti, Joe and Mary Mangion

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Terry Tully, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickananickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betro, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloj, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, Antoinette Constable, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Ruby Madera, Anwar Ghraiche & Family, Nguyen Families, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Anthony Abraham, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the sick especially:

Theresa Tan's mum, Veronica Rutherford, Baby Willow Rose Frazer, Paul Dovico, Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Imogen Warner, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, Gary and Leslie McGrath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfeloe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

SAFEGUARDING POLICY IN ST AMBROSE'S PARISH

IMPOTANT: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DROP OFF POINT FOR YOUR COMPLETED PAPERWORK FROM PIETY STORE TO PRIESTS' SACRISTY

Archdiocesan directions as to the particular volunteers to be covered by the above policy are as follows:

All Eucharistic Ministers (including at Mass, in the home or at the Hostel), Children's Liturgy Ministers, Collectors, Counters, Lectors/Ministers of the Word, Youth Choir Ministers

Special Individual K I T S have been prepared for as many of the above volunteers, as I have been personally able to find through the various rosters, as there is no Parish list as such.... For this reason I have left S P A R E K I T S in the foyer of the church....

The KITS are fairly self-explanatory and give directions for completion of the information required for Parish Records. You will find a LARGE PLASTIC CONTAINER in the PRIESTS' SACRISTY where you are asked to please leave all your completed documents (in their plastic sleeve) on completion of the FOUR requirements listed on your K I T.

NOTE: online training is quite simple. When you are ready to complete it, please email me and I shall send you the website for the training which takes about 1 hour but can be done in two sessions if needed.

judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au

Face to face training cannot be done until the time when we can gather without restraints of any kind.

Please phone Sr. Judith on 0455 727 501 is you need any help. Sr Judith will be residing at Edgecliff for four or five weeks as necessary repairs are undertaken in the Convent in MacKenzie Street.

The Safeguarding process is tedious but its purpose is for the protection of our precious children, so as a F A I T H community let us give our best.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS COMPLETING SAFEGUARDING PAPERWORK



Working With Children Checks

Once you have received your WWC number and report you will need to be verified by St Ambrose Parish as a volunteer who has been cleared to undertake voluntary work in this parish.

In order for us to do this verification with the NSW Working With Children Office **we need your date of birth.**

Please include a copy of your WWC check with your date of birth clearly printed on it so we can verify you to volunteer in this parish.

Could you please also include a contact number or email address so we can contact you if necessary.

Please return KITS when all requirements have been completed.

Baptism --



St Vincent de Paul – Winter Appeal

Due to current restrictions, we will still be holding our Winter Appeal, but in a slightly different format.

We are most grateful for the support given to St Vincent de Paul and ask if you would like to make a donation that the following procedures please be observed.

Cash donations via the Poor Box or Blue Bucket at the Church exit. If you require a receipt for your cash donation, would you kindly provide your **own envelope** with your details.

Credit card donations to be made using **appeal envelopes**. These envelopes are old unused ones for either our Christmas Appeal or last year's Winter Appeal. The envelopes are available at the Burke Street side door and can be placed in the Blue Bucket.

As a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, we are all affected in one way or another. Our volunteers continue to assist the needy and St Vincent de Paul Concord West Conference are extremely grateful for your ongoing generosity and support of the local community that we serve.

Prayer Resources during time of Pandemic

The Archdiocese of Sydney has a dedicated webpage with prayers and scriptural reflections to help nurture your faith during these difficult times. You'll find the webpage here-

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/coronavirus-updates/prayer-resources-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare and the Parishes of the Sydney Archdiocese are here to support vulnerable people in our local communities during lockdown. We can connect local volunteers to people who need help with their

shopping and errands or even just for a regular friendly chat over the phone. If you, or someone you know, could use a little help during this time, CCareline 13 18 19 can connect you with a local volunteer from your community. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health. CCareline is here to help. Call 131819 Monday - Friday 8am to 6pm.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PROJECT COMPASSION 2020

COVID-19 is affecting all of us. In these challenging times, your kindness and solidarity can make a world of difference to the lives of the most vulnerable. Your support is life saving.

DO YOU HAVE PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND CASH TO HAND IN?

We know that many of you may not be able to hand in your PC Boxes, or cash, to parishes or schools at this time.

Did you know that you can go online at ['lent.caritas.org.au'](http://lent.caritas.org.au) and securely donate with your credit card, or you can send a cheque to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Sydney, NSW 2001. Alternatively, if you require assistance with your PC Box or cash please call our friendly team on 1800 024 413.

Room available in retired professional's home with verandah and garden. Close to Concord Hospital and transport. Suit mature working lady or pensioner. Dog OK. Terms Negotiable. Please see or ring Fr Brian.

Br Julian's Reflection. 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, and have revealed them to little ones..."

"Take up my yoke and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart..." Matthew 11, 25-30

The following is a story that I have shared several times over the years of writing these reflections, but I believe it bears repeating:

Towards the middle of the 17th century, the Japanese Zen Buddhist master, Tetsugen Dōkō embarked on a project to have printed 7000 copies of a Japanese translation of the teachings of the Buddha. To raise funds for his venture, he travelled around Japan seeking donations. After ten long years of collecting, he had enough money to meet the printing costs. However, just as the printer was about to embark on the job, the river Uji flooded and broke its banks, leaving countless people without food and shelter. Tetsugen halted the printing and spent all his collected funds on bringing relief to the flood victims. When the crisis was over, he set out again collecting for the printing. After ten more years, he had collected enough, and returned to the printer. However, just as the printer was about to begin a second time, a plague broke out across the land, claiming many lives and leaving many others sick and disabled. Tetsugen spent all he had collected on relieving the suffering of the sick, and burying the dead. When that crisis eased, he set out a third time on his collecting rounds, and years later realised his dream of seeing the sacred texts finally printed. The printing blocks are still on display in the Obaku monastery in Kyoto. Those who practice Obaku Zen Buddhism recount how Tetsugen actually had three editions of the sacred texts printed: the first two are invisible, but far superior to the third.

What Tetsugen did effectively models for us the exhortation of today's gospel-reading: Jesus' message is best proclaimed not in fine rhetoric but in the way in which we reach out to others through our compassion, care and generosity. It is through our actions that justice and mercy come to life.

Both the English word "yoke" and its Greek equivalent carry the meaning of something that is a burden. As Jesus looked at the way in which the Jewish religious leaders of his time expected their people to live, he came to see that ordinary people had been taught to see the Law as an endless set of rules and regulations that affected every aspect of their lives. Religious practice became such a heavy burden that it was almost impossible to be faithful to it.

It is important to remember the political context in which Matthew's Gospel was written. Matthew was writing for a newly-formed Christian community that was coming together shortly after Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Roman Emperor Vespasian. The traditional, orthodox Jews of the time had their hopes set on the restoration of a Jewish State. The members of the new Christian community had their hearts set on the "reign or kingdom of God", which Jesus had proclaimed in his life time. While those

belonging to the Christian cult spoke of gentleness and humility, those who adhered to traditional Judaism had a very strong political agenda. The image of the "yoke", which Matthew put into the mouth of Jesus, was a very fitting one. Those who owned oxen had yokes specially made to fit their animals, so that they were not too heavy, but rather, fitted comfortably. So, Matthew's Jesus speaks of a way of relating to God which fits comfortably on people. Jesus was inviting those who would be his disciples to relate to God and to the people around them not in a measured, legalistic way but in a way that is built on the gentle, compassionate way of God's love for us. It is a love that grows out of gratitude and hope; a way that looks more like the way in which children love and relate - with directness and optimism, free of the kind of self-interest, rationalisation and complexity that are often features of the way in which adults relate.

As today's gospel-reading concludes, Jesus invites all of us who would be his disciples to learn from what he has learned from God: "Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart. Your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy (comfortable) and my burden light" (Matthew 11, 28-30). This invitation follows on immediately from his comment that all he is and has comes from God. If he is "meek and humble of heart", so, too, is God meek and humble of heart. To be like Jesus, to be like God is to be meek, gentle and humble - a far cry from the way our world wants us to be - people of power, control, status and importance.

In contrast to all this, we can probably remember times when we tried to live our lives conforming to what we thought our Church and the people we knew expected or wanted of us. Being a Christian is not about trying to live in accord with a set of rules we fail to follow. Rather, it is about following in the footsteps of Jesus who was a law-challenging, justice-promoting, selfless, loving, and generous-hearted person who had been labelled by his critics as a glutton and drunkard because he ate and drank with sinners. He challenged unfair and unjust social and religious systems. He had the ability to enjoy life even as he critically engaged with it.

In today's gospel-reading, Jesus makes reference to things hidden from the wise and intelligent and, yet, revealed to ordinary, little people. Perhaps those "hidden things" are things we have failed to grasp: that we can set aside the burdens we and others create and come to Jesus. We can stop being weary of our own inadequacies and failings and rest in a God whose mercy is limitless. We can get so trapped in "Catholic guilt", so preoccupied with the belief that we are not good enough, that we don't even recognise that we contribute to systems, structures and practices that dehumanise and harm our sisters and brothers whom God has loved into life. Our social sins get buried under our own personal efforts to be perfect.

There is nothing to be gained from trying to hide from the world of which we are a part nor from letting ourselves be drawn into submitting to the status quo. But, if we were to live our lives with meekness, gentleness and humility high on our list of priorities, we might find ourselves involved in transforming our world and ourselves into the dream Jesus had for us all.

