



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, 5th February 2023

First Reading

Is 58:7-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Your light will shine like the dawn.

Thus says the Lord:

Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.

Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'

If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 111:4-9. R.

v.4

(R.) A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. (R.)
2. The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. (R.)
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Cor 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I came to you to proclaim Christ crucified.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 5:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven

Announcements

From the Parish Priest

Gathering on Wednesday night at St Mary's Cathedral, with Cardinal Pell's coffin lying in state in front of the sanctuary, we sang Vespers for the Dead and heard from Fr Joe Hamilton preach, known to many Lane Covians. Fr Joe has been the private secretary to the Cardinal for the last few years. A scholar of the Latin Fathers, Fr Joe's sermon was masterful and a delight, although the atmosphere in the Cathedral was sombre, as we all experienced a real sense of loss for a Spiritual Father and for many of us, a dear friend and mentor. Fr Joe's principal message was that the Cardinal was hailed around the world, and especially in the Vatican City itself, as a Confessor of the Faith. The Cardinal fearlessly proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ in season and out of season. Like his Lord, this made him many enemies who refused to accept the Gospel and hated him for preaching it to them.

Evidence of that was already on display last night as I write this on Thursday morning, readying myself to go to the funeral mass. Protesters were covering the fences of the Cathedral in ribbons, allegedly in protest against the Church's mishandling of historical child sexual abuse, but in fact simply in protest against the Catholic Faith which the Cardinal so fearlessly preached throughout his life. Ordinary Catholics, greatly outnumbering the protestors, cut down the ribbons almost as quickly as they were put up. Cathedral staff or clergy did not need to do anything about the ribbons and in my observation didn't touch them. It was the ordinary faithful who removed them, seeing them for the cynical misuse of victims of clerical sexual abuse to make an ideological attack on the Cardinal and on the Faith.

Please join with me in continuing to pray for the repose of the soul of Cardinal George Pell. And remember with me with thanks all the good that he did in the Church in Sydney and beyond.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Him O Lord and Let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Him and May He Rest in Peace, Amen.

Saint's feast days this week:

- 6th Feb: Saints Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
- 8th Feb: Saint Jerome Emiliani
- 10th Feb: Saint Scholastica
- 11th Feb: Our Lady of Lourdes



Coming up:

Sunday 12th of February is Catechist Sunday! There will be the blessing of the Catechists during the 9.30am mass and an opportunity to volunteer.

St Michael's men's group meeting Thursday 9th of February in St Michael's Presbytery at 8pm. Topic will be "Why men need the Sacraments". All men welcome.

St Vincent de Paul is looking for a treadmill or exercise bike for a client. If anyone has one to donate, please contact the parish office at: admin@lanecoveparish.org.au

The Seven Sundays Devotion to Saint Joseph

Pray with us!

In preparation for the Feast of Saint Joseph on Sunday 19th March, our Parish will commence the Seven Sundays Devotion on Sunday 5th February prior to the Sunday evening Mass.



Each Sunday we will honour Saint Joseph with prayers and reflections.

This long-standing tradition and devotion of the Church honours the seven joys and seven sorrows that Saint Joseph experienced as the husband of the Mother of God, faithful guardian of Christ and head of the Holy Family.

Please gather in Our Lady's Chapel at 5:45pm. Prayer booklets will be provided each Sunday.

We pray for our sick: Jeanette Sharp, Eszter Kalotay, John Tesoriero, Caroline Simmonds, Pam Lenehan, Val Oberle

Anniversaries: Berta Montano, Geoff Malloy, Frank Music, Elizabeth Mc Elvogue

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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 at **(02) 9390 5810** or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. 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.