

Gospel Acclamation

Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your laws.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Lk 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All who do not renounce their possessions cannot be my disciples.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

'Hate' is an emotive and extremely harsh word in our society. In its gospel context, the word is not used as an opposite of 'love' but as an indication of deserving of less significance than another thing. So the teaching about hating father, mother, etc can be read as saying that being a disciple of Jesus must take precedence over everything else, even family. In 1st Century culture, family was foremost above everything else; it was the very fibre that held society together. Jesus is saying that discipleship must be put above even that which is most important and most intrinsic to life in this world. That is why he goes on to tell the two stories about the need to count the cost before undertaking an important venture. He makes clear to his listeners that discipleship is more important than anything else and that there are huge costs associated with taking it on. A believer has to literally 'count the cost' of what it will mean to place discipleship above family, friendships, career, politics and even life itself. Jesus makes no apologies for the fact that what he is asking is incredibly demanding.

Our 'possessions' are all those things – material, emotional, and psychological – that we cling to and that we think give us our identity and status. Jesus called for a radical reinterpretation of status and position. He tells his listeners that they cannot truly be disciples if they continue to cling to those things that are considered important in this world. They have to surrender the things that bind them to this world's ideas of status and position before they can fully embrace the kingdom view of the world. As Jesus said, you have to really count the cost!

Sacramental Program Reconciliation

If you would like your child to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time [NOTE: your child must be in **year 2 or older**], the enrolment form will be available from the **16th of September** from the Parish Office or the website. Enrolment forms must be submitted before the Information Evening on the 22nd of October. *Enquiries to Lynne.*



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C - 8 September 2019

St Declan's parish acknowledges that we gather, pray and live together on the land of the Bidjegal people of the Eora Nation.

First Reading

Wis 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Who can comprehend the will of God?

What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

The word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 89:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. v.1

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

1. You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.' To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night.

2. You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades.

3. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants.

4. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands.

(R.) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Second Reading

Phlm 9-10, 12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon.

Receive him, not as a slave anymore, but as a very dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God.

ST DECLAN'S PARISH

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Web: www.stdeclanspenshurst.org

Parish Office hours:

Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 9am - 3pm

Thursday: Closed

Parish Priest: Fr Chris Ryan MGL

Assistant Priests: Fr. Adam Crouch MGL

Fr Tony Alex MGL

Secretary : Frances Watton
declans@tpg.com.au

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Email: declans.finance@gmail.com

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Sacramental Coordinator: Lynne Taylor

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MASS TIMES

Mass Times at St Declan's Parish

Saturday : 6pm

Sunday: 7am, 9am, 11am, 6pm

Weekday: Mon, Wed, Fri: 6.45am

Tues, Thurs: 9.15am

Saturday: 8.00am

Public Holiday: 9.15am

Communion Services

Tues, Thurs: 6.45am

Confession : Saturday: 5.00pm-5.30pm

Baptisms & Weddings: by appointment

(Please contact the office or email

declans@tpg.com.au)

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursday 9.45am-

10.45am and 7.00pm-8.00pm, Sunday 10.15-

10.40am.

Mass Times at Our Lady of Fatima Peakhurst

Saturday: 5.00pm

Sunday: 9.15am & 6.00pm

Wed, Fri: 9.30am

St Declan's Primary: 9580 4831

Marist College Penshurst : 9579 6188

Welcome to St Declan's Parish

If you are new to our parish we invite you to leave your name, email address and number on the sheet provided in the front foyer (Near the Crying Room). Thank you.

We Remember in our Masses:

Recently Deceased

Mary Higgins, Michael Ryan, Charlie Jones, Guiseppe DiMeo, Luka Lebic, Nicolina Montesin, Ernestina Aservi, Marica Vukelich, Kata Majnarich, Branko & Bozica Rasic.

Anniversaries

Spiro Bajada, Joseph Fahham, Christine Cruickshank, James Anthony Lobina, Janelle Scott, Marica-Ifisa Grabovac, Lillie Irene Forde, Judy Cooper, Josip Vukelich, Ivan Abramovich, Mile Jugovich, Vincenzo Giannone, Joseph Zarb.

Also

Genoveba Leabres, Jugovich Family members, Majetich family members, Dominic, Mary, Vincent, Cecily Ryan, Noel Sheather, Stjepan Kranjec, Maria Vukobrat, Stjepan Obrovac, Stanko Prorokovic, Ignac Krfin, Ivan Kucinic, Mijo Trupkovic, Nikola Dragisic, Kevin & Stephen & Jim McElroy, Denis & Ante Bacic, Betty & Danny Dusek, Michael O'Sullivan, Betty & Brian O'Sullivan, Frances Anne O'Sullivan, Teresa & Joseph Macinante, Spiro & Josephine Bajada, The Holy Souls in Purgatory and all the deceased members of our Parish.

Parish Sick List

Massimo Mascolo, Christopher March, Sr Alma Pollard, Alina Kizeweter, Tim March, Sonny Venal, Kathy Dennett, Mary Phillips, Mirna Mundigo, Peter Tabutoa, Una Canute, Brian Lloyd, Terence Lang, Ann Steele, Elias Francis, Geraldine Brenston.

Mass Intentions: please indicate on the Mass Intentions envelope if you would like the name of the person published in the bulletin.

Parish Sick List: If you are no longer sick or you know someone on the list who is no longer sick, please contact the office so the list can be updated.

National Child Protection Week

is an annual Australian wide event that raises awareness of child abuse prevention and is held Sunday 1 September to Saturday 7 September. St Declan's Parish continuously supports the efforts of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office to ensure that our parish environment is safe for children and young people.

Prayer for Child Protection

Lord,

You asked that the little children be allowed to come to you; for it is such as these that the Reign of God belongs.

You entrust them to the care and protection of our communities of faith.

Guide us as we strive to ensure that our Catholic communities provide a safe environment for each child.

We pray especially for all those who have been harmed in their childhood. Give them courage in facing the past and lead them to your healing protection.

Amen

Declancraft

Something for the over 40s...

Come along to a "Games Morning" for some games, giggles and fun!

WHEN: Saturday, 14th September, 10am to 12.30pm.

WHERE: Meeting Room.

COST: \$2.00 (morning tea donation).

BOOKINGS: BY 9th September with your contact details to Paulineke on 0419 426 123 or email wpnolan@internode.on.net

Bring a friend or make new friends; join in for some old favourites and learn some new games. An opportunity for a bit of fun and a few laughs. Includes morning tea. **Bookings are essential!**

Thank you, Paulineke

Stand for Life Rally

Sunday 15 September 2.30pm

Hyde Park Archibald Fountain.

Please see posters and postcards around the church foyer.

Declan's Well is out now!

The new issue of Declan's Well was emailed last Saturday. If you requested a copy but didn't receive it, please check your junk mail folder and get in touch with us so we can fix the problem. If you haven't subscribed but would like to receive a copy, please email your first name, last name and email address to well.stdeclans@gmail.com. For those without an email account, limited printed copies are available at the piety stall.

Anointing Mass

followed by Morning Tea

Saturday, 28 September at 10.30am

This is an opportunity to experience, as a community, the prayerful and healing power of our faith through the sacrament of 'Anointing of the Sick'.

This sacrament is for: those who are sick; those who are recovering from surgery or have upcoming surgery; those who are suffering from psychological or physical affliction; those who have spent time in hospital or going through rehabilitation/therapy; those in special need of God's healing love.

All are welcome.

If you know any friends or parishioners who could benefit from this sacrament and are physically able to attend, please bring them along. Enquiries: Kate 0401028295

iStand Conference

coordinated by Sydney Youth Mission Team (YMT)

Date: Saturday 28 September

Time: 9am-9pm

Venue: Fernlands Hall, St Declan's Parish

Cost: \$30

The iStand Conference day is a great way to learn more about your faith, and take the next step in your personal relationship with Jesus. With sessions focussing on Theology of the Body, this is an amazing opportunity to know how God designed us through games, dramas and talks; only made better by the people and food around.

Contact Pete Dominish on 0428 771 744

Or sydney@ymt.com.au