

A Call to Prayer



Vol 28 no.2 November 2018 - Published by The Combined Societies of Mary,
Tel 03 - 9509 2207 P.O. Box 8114, Armadale Victoria 3143 Australia, www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com

Holy Mass and Candlelit Eucharistic STREET PROCESSION to Honour Christ The King

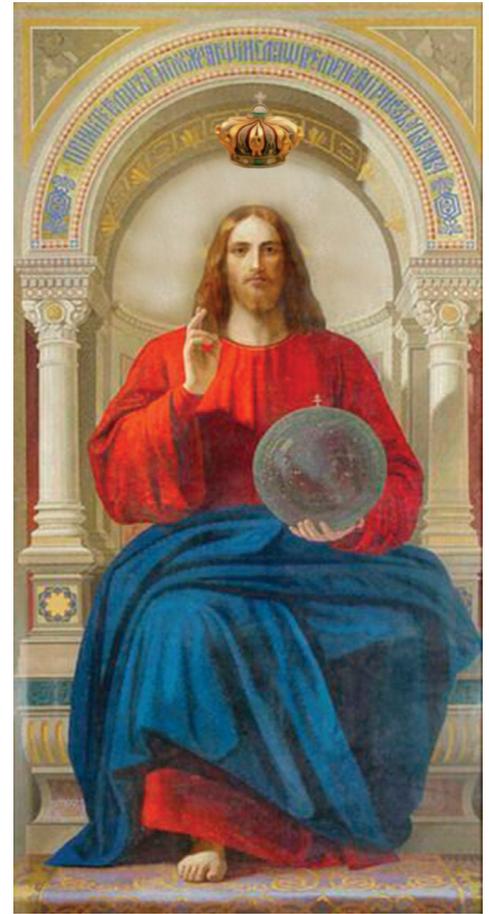
How important it is to honour Christ Our King. It is only right that we have a grand celebration on this day to in some ways, console the Heart of Jesus for the ridicule and indifference which He endures to this day.

It is several years since we have had a street procession to honour Christ the King, and we are delighted to announce that the street procession is returning! Our new Archbishop Most Reverend Peter Comensoli is most enthusiastic about this celebration. It will commence at 7.30pm for the Holy Mass followed by the Eucharistic candlelit procession. We anticipate a wonderful atmosphere as it will be the nice soft twilight of late Spring, and the later start will ensure that it is truly candlelit.

What a wonderful grace it promises to be and what a tremendous gesture, asking the Lord, as we process, to extend His blessing to all the corners of our Archdiocese.

Christ the King is a marvellous Solemnity. Oh, how grateful we should be that we are members of His Kingdom. All worldly kingdoms are like dust and ashes compared to His Heavenly Kingdom. How incredibly blessed are we to be members of His Church where He demonstrates just how loving and intimate He wishes to be with us as He gives us His Body and Blood every day in the Holy Eucharist. With how much love should He be carried in the streets in the Monstrance. With so much love and devotion should we all come on this very special occasion, when we bring Our Lord and Saviour out onto the streets in the Blessed Sacrament of His love. What a grace for us all. We know what Jesus said: If you declare yourself for Jesus in this life, He will declare Himself for you in the next! What a great exchange. So please take this opportunity to come to enjoy a very special, blessed and marvellous evening with Our Lord. We are very pleased to announce that the main celebrant for the occasion will be Most Rev. Bishop Mark Edwards.

Flower children are needed. Banners and icons are welcome. A special invitation to everyone: families, parishes, parish groups, the various ethnic parishes, pious associations, individuals, children. Please invite everyone for this great event.



End of Year Celebration in Honour of the Immaculate Conception

This Feast is always a very special and blessed occasion, and we always feel the presence of Our Lady showering us with blessings. This day commemorates the moment in history when Our Lady was conceived in the womb of Her mother, Saint Anne. The conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, free from all sin signalled that the era of salvation had arrived. The Immaculate Conception has such richness and depth. It proclaims the coming of Our Saviour Jesus Christ. It tells of the power and the honour God has given to Mary. It helps us appreciate the wonderful gift we have with Mary as Our Mother, Our Intercessor, our guide on the way of salvation.

All our joys do come through Mary. Do come yourself and encourage others to join us on this special day.

We are so pleased to announce that Bishop Peter Elliott will be with us on this special day.

There will be afternoon tea to conclude. Ladies please bring a plate, and the men a drink to share.

Holy Cross Church 707 Glenhuntly Road Caulfield. The afternoon programme commences at **1:30 pm**. Adoration, Prayers, Holy Mass.



Free Newsletter

Special Relic of St Catherine Labouré

Comes to Melbourne, Holy Cross Church, Sunday 9th December

St Catherine Labouré is one of the best known and loved Saints in the entire Church. She was the one chosen by God to receive the vision of Our Lady and that most precious gift destined for the whole world, the Miraculous Medal.

Both Our Lord and Our Lady appeared to Her as well as the famous St Vincent de Paul, the founder of her Congregation. Our Lady made many prophecies through St Catherine Labouré which all came true so that everyone could believe and accept the authenticity of the visions. The details were clear: the end of the French monarchy, a time of revolt, the murder of the Archbishop and the martyrdom of the clergy, all of which came to pass exactly as she prophesied.

Pure and holy, and faithful to the end, she is one of those

elect saints who are incorrupt. One can still see her incorrupt body in the Chapel of the Visitation at Rue de Bac, Paris, even today. Since St Catherine Labouré is incorrupt we feel we are especially blessed to have her holy First Class relic coming to Melbourne for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in December.

Free Miraculous Medals will be given to all who attend.



Our Lady of Guadalupe

Patroness of the Americas (Latin America and USA)

Close to a billion souls come under the direct patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is believed that the shrine in Mexico City, where She appeared receives more pilgrims each year than any other shrine in the whole world: around 20 million pilgrims each year. On Her Feast day alone at estimated 6 million plus give reverence to Our Lady at this unique site.

We had the privilege to visit the Shrine in 2000. It was an unforgettable experience. Apart from the miraculous image, one of the memories most deeply engraved on the mind was the scene before the sunrise. Looking out over the huge square (much bigger than St Peter's Square in Rome) was as a sea of pilgrims sleeping under the stars. It looked like hundreds of thousands sleeping in the cold Mexican night on the cold hard pavement with just a thin blanket or coat for their protection. They were not perturbed at all as they were pleased to be under the mantle and care of Mary, their loving mother.

Now regarding the apparitions: The simple peasant farmer, a convert to Catholicism, who saw Our Lady in 1509, is now a canonised Saint, the first native born Saint of Latin America, Saint Juan Diego. There are three wonderful points we would like to share with you about these marvellous apparitions.

Firstly, Our Lady spoke with such tenderness to St Juan. **“Do not fear..... Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms?”**

Secondly, Our Lady left us, what is unquestionably one of the most incredible images we have of Her. At the request of the Bishop Our Lady produced the most remarkable sign. She made roses bloom in the winter! These were collected by Saint Juan in his cloak. When in front of his bishop the cloak was dropped open a miraculous image appeared at that moment. The image has been thoroughly tested scientifically, and led to the conversion of those scientists who investigated because they can see that it is an image made by heaven.

Thirdly, Our Lady performed one of the most amazing miracles of all times through this visitation and through this miraculous image: The conversion of an entire nation to faith in Her Son Jesus Christ.



Mary's Immaculate Conception

The title of Mary as the "Immaculate Conception", is a title that is clearly loved by God. This is why when Mary was sent by God and appeared to St Catherine Labouré in 1830 in order to give the world that very special sacramental the miraculous medal, it came with the inscription, "Oh Mary Conceived Without Sin...." This is also why He directed the Mother of God to reveal at Lourdes, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

And in between these two great apparitions of the 19th Century the Holy Spirit directed the Church to solemnly pronounce that Our Lady was conceived and preserved from all stain of original sin and personal sin throughout Her whole life.

So why was this gift stored up for this later modern era, the time characterised by the Industrial Revolution?

God no doubt foresaw that this would be an age of increasing godlessness and strife, an era in which sin would be trivialised, and where great immorality would flourish. The title



reminds us that sin is not acceptable to God. It reminds us that God wants us to come ever closer to Him and to be cleansed from sinful ways of thinking and acting. Finally, it was proclaimed to give us a beacon of light and hope.

Just as Jesus gave Mother Mary to us at the foot of the Cross and placed us under Her loving care, God has seen fit to give us Mary once again under the most beautiful title of the Immaculate Conception as a sign of hope and protection. Who can lead us out of the darkness into the light of Her Son if it is not the one who is free from all sin, and who is filled with every spiritual perfection.

A very special celebration is being planned for

Sunday 9th December at Holy Cross Church 707 Glenhuntly Road Caulfield commencing at 1.30 pm.

Prayer for the Poor Souls in Purgatory

Please say this prayer daily especially in November

O Jesus, You suffered and died that all mankind might be saved and brought to eternal happiness.

Hear our pleas for further mercy on the souls of:

My dear parents and grandparents, *My Jesus Mercy*

My brothers and sisters and other near relatives,

My godparents and sponsors of Confirmation,

My spiritual and temporal benefactors,

My friends and neighbors,

All for whom love or duty bids me pray,

Those who have suffered disadvantage or harm through me,

Those who have offended me,

Those whose release is near at hand,

Those who desire most to be united to Thee,

Those who endure the greatest sufferings,

Those whose release is most remote,

Those who are least remembered,

Those who are most deserving on

account of their services to the Church,

The rich, who are now the most destitute,

The mighty, who are now powerless,

The once spiritually blind, who now

see their folly,

The frivolous, who spent their time in idleness,

The poor who did not seek the treasures of heaven,

The tepid who devoted little time to prayer,

The indolent who neglected to

perform good works,

Those of little faith, who neglected the frequent

reception of the Sacraments,

The habitual sinners, who owe their salvation to a miracle of grace,

Parents who failed to watch over their children,

Superiors who were not solicitous for the salvation of those entrusted to them,

Those who strove for worldly riches and pleasures,

The worldly minded, who failed to use their wealth and talent for the service of God,

Those who witnessed the death of others, but would not think of their own,

Those who did not provide for the life hereafter,

Those whose sentence is severe because of the great things entrusted to them,

The popes, kings, and rulers,

The bishops and their counselors,

My teachers and spiritual advisors,

The priests and religious of the Catholic Church,

The defenders of the Holy Faith,

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine on them. Amen.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God,

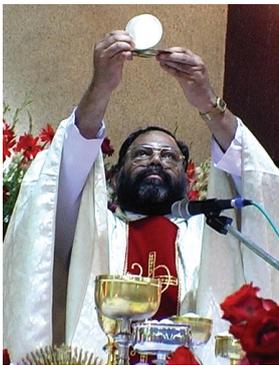
rest in peace. Amen.

My Jesus Mercy

My Jesus Mercy

A Priest in Need

Fr John is a missionary priest from the Jamshedpur diocese who suffers from Leukaemia and who has been instrumental in the spreading of the Divine Mercy devotion to millions of people throughout India. His medication is very expensive: \$1300 per month. We are asking your prayers for Father and are most grateful for any contributions large or small. You can send donations to The Combined Societies of Mary, P.O. Box 8114 Armadale. 3143, or phone 03 95092207 for bank details. God is never out done in generosity and will truly bless you. Fr John remembers all his benefactors at every Holy Mass.



Prayer Support

In December/January, a team will travel to India to spread the message of the Divine Mercy. To day, over the past sixteen years they have visited India some 23 times and spoken in over 100 Dioceses, to over 3 million souls in Parishes, schools, institutions, and retreat centres. Please keep the mission in your prayers in this preparation phase and especially during January, that God's merciful love will really touch the hearts and souls of all who hear this wonderful Mercy message.



Vailankanni Basilica 2017

In an Approved Apparition

to mother Eugenia in 1932 it was said; **"I desire you to celebrate this feast of the Kingship of My Son in reparation for the insults He received before Pilate and from the soldiers who scourged his holy and innocent humanity..I ask you...to celebrate it enthusiastically and fervently..."**

So please do all you can to make this year's celebration of Christ the King a beautiful event.

"Know that I will do All for the Love of You"

Our Lady said, "do these things for love of me and know that I do all for love of you."

So what are "these things?" It is this: that on the First Saturday of every month we receive Holy Communion, go to confession, meditate for fifteen minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary, and recite the rosary.

We are asked by the Queen of Heaven to do the above and to offer these things to God in reparation for all the blasphemies committed against Her Immaculate Heart.

She also added that if we do these things for five consecutive months we will receive the graces necessary on our death needed for eternal life.

If you have in the past done them for yourselves, then perhaps you could consider doing them for another family member. We have heard reports of great graces being granted when this has been done. Otherwise you may like to do it for the best motivation of all: for love of Our Lady, for the conversion of the world and for the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

What a reward in heaven will await you if, in this world, you have done your part to hasten the triumph of God through your devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Please do join us as we do exactly this and all of the above at the beautiful De La Salle Chapel 1312 High Street Malvern 10 am to 11.30 am, First Saturday of each month except in January.

Coming events

Each Month

FIRST FRIDAYS

SACRED HEART DEVOTIONS- ALSO FOR AUSTRALIA AND PEACE
1.05 pm Mass, Adoration, Prayers to the Sacred Heart, Chaplet of Mercy
St. Augustine's Church,
631 Bourke Street City
Every month except January

FIRST FRIDAYS

SACRED HEART DEVOTIONS- 7.00 pm Adoration, Prayers to the Sacred Heart, Chaplet of Mercy
Confessions Holy Mass
St Joseph's Church 71 Orrong Road Elsternwick
Every First Friday except January

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS AS REQUESTED BY OUR LADY

De La Salle Chapel 1312 High Street Malvern
10.00 am to 11.30 am Adoration, Prayers, Confession, Holy Mass

November

Feast of Christ the King

Saturday 24th November
St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne,
7:30pm Holy Mass followed by Street Procession

December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 9th December
1.30 pm Adoration, Prayers in honour of the Immaculate Conception, Holy Mass. Veneration of relic of St Catherine Labouré

Holy Cross Church,
707 Glenhuntly Road Elsternwick
End of year afternoon tea:
"Bring a plate to share".

2019

Sunday 10th February, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes St Colman's Church Balaclava 1:40 pm
Sunday 7th April, Walk With Mary, St Patrick's Cathedral

Wishing You all a Blessed Christmas and a Grace filled Year in 2019