



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

4 HARTLEY STREET, P.O. BOX 9, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, strengthened by the Word of God, is united by our Sacramental Life into a Covenant to make Jesus the Christ known and loved in Central Australia.

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Deadline for Bulletin submissions is Wednesday 5 p.m.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

9 am - 12 noon & 4 pm - 5 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am - 10:30 am

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

13th - 14th September 2014

LOOK AT THE CROSS

By Fr. John Foley S. J.



It is very easy to see the spiritual correlation between the First Reading and the Gospel on this feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

You may know that the First Reading and the Gospel on each Sunday have been picked in coordination with each other so that there will be thematic unity.

The First Reading is the one about Moses showing a bronze serpent to the people to get them over being bit. What makes the connection with the Gospel so easy to see this Sunday is that Jesus himself makes the association.

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.

Handily, the Second Reading turns out to be an in-depth explanation of the connection of the two. Nevertheless, let us start with the first one.

The people [of Israel] were on their great exodus through the desert to the promised land. But they were being bitten by Seraph serpents and dying. Moses asks God for a way to save them. God's instructions are strange: make an imitation of a serpent, a symbol, and mount it on a pole. Anyone who has been bitten will be made well if they simply gaze it.

What is the logic behind such a command from God? Would the victim of a gunshot get well by staring at the gun or a drawing of it? Why would a snakebite victim be cured by gazing at a snake image?

The reason comes a bit clear if we look further.

God had been punishing the people for their revolt against him. You can read about the revolt and see the rebellion explicitly. But God's issue of snakes was not vindictive. The bites were not paybacks out of resentment. They were more simply the symbol of the hurtful distancing from God that the people were choosing. Sin.

It hurts.

Moses obeys God by fashioning a bronze serpent and affixing it on a pole. The people are to gaze upon this symbol of their pain, the serpent. Not everyone will do it. But those who do are healed of their wounds.

Jesus, in effect does the same thing at the end of his life. He himself is lifted up on the cross, like the serpent, and ever since then, those who will contemplate the saviour in his pain and death are given the grace to behold their own distance from God—their sin.

Why would gazing upon the crucifix that displayed your sins, or upon a snake that had represented your sins by biting you, render salvation from your wounds and sins?

Because in each case you and others can take ownership of your sins and as a result pull back from them, into the forgiveness and love that await you.

Own your sins. Take them to yourself and you will be wrapped in a tender blanket of love tendered by God himself. Your welcome will be a declaration that sin truly can be subsumed into the splendour of God's ongoing love and forgiveness.

Exult in the Holiness of the cross.

Parish Team:

Parish Priest:

Fr. Jan Szweda, SVD

Aboriginal Chaplain:

Syro-Malabar Chaplain

Fr. Binesh Naramattathil

RCIA Coordinator:

Secretary:

Mel Buenviaje

Parish Past. Council Chairman

Fred Twohig

OLSH College Principal

Br. Matthew Green, FMS

Parish Mass Schedule:

Monday to Friday: 7 am & 5:30 pm

Saturday 11 am & (Sun Vigil) 6 pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9:30 am & 5:30 pm

Ngkarte Mikwekenhe Community

1st, 3rd, 4th (and 5th) Sundays of the

month - 11am *Aboriginal*

Community Mass at South Terrace.

2nd Sunday of the month—11 am

Aboriginal Community Mass at

Amoonguna, Southeast of Alice

Springs, off the Ross Highway.

Sacraments:

Reconciliation:

Saturday 11:30 am & 5:30 pm

Baptism:

By appointment: one

month's notice required.

Marriage:

By appointment only, 6 months'

notice required.

Daily Readings: starting 15 September

Mon: Heb 5:7-9 Lk 2:33-35
Tues: 1 Cor 12:12-14,27-31 Lk 7:11-17
Wed: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 Lk 7:31-35
Thu: 1 Cor 15:1-11 Lk 7:36-50
Fri: 1 Cor 15:12-20 Lk 8:1-3
Sat: 1 Cor 15:35-37,42-49 Lk 8:4-15
Sun: Is 55:6-9
 Phil 1:20-24,27 Mt 20:1-16

+ **Pray & read your Bible every day** +

**Please pray for the elderly
and those who are sick**

Isobel Laverty, Margaret McNaught, Rita Knchel, Graciano Mercado, Kevin Feed, Penelope Sleming, Hermon Turkey, Tilde Cabantog, Benedicto J Chupungco, Eileen Sanvictores, Manuel Sarangay, Alice Costa, Do Quyen, Paul Rindahl, Gwyneth Allwright, Kathleen Williams, Lafie Saanga, Dianne McGinn, Georgina Gilbert, Editha Baslot, Ann Vernon, Kevin Edwin, Paul Manard, Heather Cent, Jala Breanna, Singmia Fofung, Colleen Langcake, Cathy Golotta, Marissa Johnston, Allison Burgess, Rosemarie Schnell, Bill Sims, Antonio Mutia, Gill Dew, Mark McGinley, Patricia Wyatt, Lorraine Gore, Peter Strachan, Gary Brenton, Glen Clarke, Imblisa, May Lee Shah, Bill Costa, Maria Lourdes Sacramento.

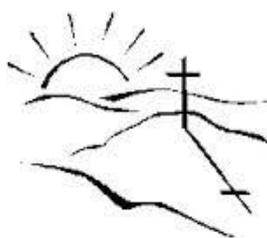
May the Lord grant them healing.

Recent Death: Charlotte Langdon

Death Anniversary: John Costa

May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Cross Compels People to Act



The Cross is one of the most central objects of the Christian faith. It is the symbol of God’s love for us expressed by the self-sacrificing death of Jesus, his Incarnate Son.

The public veneration of the Cross originated in the fourth century. According to legend it began with the miraculous discovery of the True Cross by Helena, mother of the Emperor Constantine, on 14 September 326 while she was on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was then built at the site of the discovery, by order of Helena and Constantine.

In the year 627, during the reign of the Emperor Heraclius I of Constantinople, the Persians conquered the city of Jerusalem and removed a major part of the Cross from its sanctuary. The emperor determined to recover the relic which he regarded as the new Ark of the Covenant for the new People of God. Before leaving Constantinople with his army, Heraclius went to the church wearing black in a spirit of penance; prostrated himself before the altar and begged God to sustain his courage. In the ensuing war, the emperor was victorious. One of the conditions of a peace treaty was the return of the Cross, in the same condition as when it was removed. On his return to Constantinople, Heraclius was received by the acclamations of the people. They came out to meet him with olive branches and torches. The Cross was honoured with a grand triumph.

The emperor then wished to give thanks to God by going in person to return the Cross to Jerusalem, after an absence of 14 years. In Jerusalem, he wished to carry the Cross on his shoulders but on reaching the gate leading to Calvary, he could not go forward. He was astonished and his retinue could not understand. “Take care, O Emperor!” the Patriarch Zachary then said to him. “In truth, the imperial clothing you are wearing does not sufficiently resemble the poor and humiliated condition of Jesus carrying His cross.” Heraclius then removed his shoes and bejewelled robes. Wearing a poor man’s tunic, he was able to proceed to Calvary and replace the Cross.’

The above extract is from a reflection on the Triumph of the Cross, by the Irish Jesuits.

- <http://livingspace.sacredspace.ie/F0914s/>

“A man does not climb a mountain in great bounds, but by taking slow, steady steps.”

- Pope Saint Gregory the Great

LITURGICAL NOTES

The **LITURGY** is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; at the same time it is the **fount** from which all the Church’s power flows. *SC 10*

Communion under both kinds

Drinking from the chalice is the preferred method of receiving the Blood of Christ because of the Lord’s command: **Take and drink**. If intinction is used, it is the minister who dips the host in the chalice and places it in the communicant’s mouth. *GIRM 286-287*

WELCOME!

Welcome to children who received First Holy Communion last year.

Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us, whether long time residents or those newly arrived in the Parish. Welcome to all guests and tourists. We pray that you have a lovely stay!

Devotional Practices:

Divine Office & Morning Prayer

Monday to Friday 6:45am

Prayers of the Holy Rosary

Monday to Friday 5pm

Saint Joseph Devotion

First Wednesday of the month 9am

Contact: Cathy Golotta 8952 1991

Malayalam (Indian) Fellowship

Sunday 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Adoration

Adoration every second Saturday of the month at Missionaries of Charity Convent 12 Standley Crescent, from 3-4 pm

Parish Diary

Sunday 14 September

The EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS

Monday 15 September

Tuesday 16 September

- Prison Ministry 5:45 -7:30pm

Wednesday 17 September

Thursday 18 September

Friday 19 September

Saturday 20 September

Sunday 21 September

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
11:00am Syro-Malabar Mass



Come to the Old Telegraph Station and join the Parish Community for time of togetherness and fun. Bring your children along. Invite your friends. There will be activities for everyone who likes to join in! Please bring a plate of food to share with others.

The theme of the gathering will coincide with the theme for the 2014 Social Justice Sunday which will be celebrated on 28 September: "A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation".

The Parish Picnic will be held next Sunday, 21 September, from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

At this time we are looking for volunteers to assist in various ways. A list to sign up for any help needed is placed at the back of the church.

We will also provide transport for those who like to attend the picnic but have no way of going to the Telegraph Station. Please enter your name, address and contact number on a paper placed also in the back of the church so that we may organize transport to get you there and back. For more information contact Helena Casseeram on 89551099 or the Parish Office.

Cleaning: 20 September **Group 5**
Bernie O'Loughlin, Rita Steller, Andre Simon

Counters: 21 September
Mike & Rita Steller, John Lillecrapp

Last Week's Collections:
1st Collection: \$1,370.25 (for the presbytery)
2nd Collection: \$2,229.10 (for the parish)

Thank you for your generosity!

Groups please remember to keep the Bulletin team informed if you change your days/times etc.

URGENT PRAYERS NEEDED

(From: Monica Cavanagh rsj, Congregational Leader)

Dear Friends,

I received the following text message on my phone from Sean Malone who leads Crisis Relief International (CRI). We then spoke briefly on the phone and I assured him that we would share this urgent prayer need with all of our contacts.

"We lost the city of Queragosh (Qaraqosh). It fell to ISIS and they are beheading children systematically. This is the city we have been smuggling food too. ISIS has pushed back Peshmerga (Kurdish forces) and is within 10 minutes of where our CRI team is working. Thousands more fled into the city of Erbil last night. The UN evacuated it's staff in Erbil.. Our team is unmoved and will stay. Prayer cover needed!"

Please pray sincerely for the deliverance of the people of Northern Iraq from the terrible advancement of ISIS and its extreme Islamic goals for mass conversion or death for Christians across this region.

May I plead with you not to ignore this email. Do not forward it before you have prayed through it. Then send it to as many people as possible.

Send it to friends and Christians you may know. Send it to your prayer group. Send it to your pastor and phone him/her to pray on Sunday during the service - making a special time of prayer for this. We need to stand in the gap for our fellow Christians.

DID YOU KNOW

- The serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert was a walking stick that he was holding when God appeared to him in the burning bush. It was a proof of the power of God to intervene for the Chosen People and save them.
- This same stick was used again by Moses, at God's command, to turn the water of Egypt into blood - one of the plagues sent to help liberate the people from bondage.
- The stick was again used to bring forth water from the rock in the desert when the people were dying of thirst after their escape from Egypt. It brought salvation to people dying.
- The raising up of the 'serpent' brought power over death, liberation and salvation. Jesus being 'raised up' on the cross would do the same.

Roster for weekend of 20 / 21 September 2014

	Commentator	Readers	Special Ministers
Sat 6:00 pm	John Appleby	Binu Katherine Sue Bain	Marian Maddocks Darryl Smith Mary Dick
Sun 7:30 am	Pat Gallagher	Carmel Leonard Charles Gamon	Fred Twohig Rita Steller Mike Steller
Sun 9:30 am	Bro Tony Caddy	Pauline Otieno Hilda Reeder	Mark Bensted Beth Madden Helena Casseeram
Sun 5:30 pm	Miguel Ociones	Jad Daet Anthony Hay	Mel Buenviaje Cristina Buenviaje Marieta Ives

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Feast of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
13th - 14th September 2014

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 65:4

We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

When those that were afflicted looked upon it, they were healed.

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here: we are sick of this unsatisfying food.' At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him. 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 77:1-2,34-38 **R/** Do not forget the works of the Lord!

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

He humbled himself, therefore God has exalted him.

The state of Jesus Christ was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: John 3:13-17

The Son of Man must be lifted up.

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Prayers of the Faithful: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Antiphon: Jn 12:32

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself, says the Lord.