

## noticeboard

### in the parish this week

**Mon 28 Monday**—Augustine, bishop of Hippo,  
Teacher of the Faith, 430  
11.00 am Mass

**Tue 29 Tuesday**—The Beheading of Saint John  
the Baptist  
12.00 pm Mass

**Wed 30 Wednesday**—John Bunyan, preacher  
and spiritual guide, 1688  
10.30 am Mass

**Thu 31 Thursday**—Aidan, bishop of Lindisfarne,  
651  
7.30 am Mass

**Fri 1 Friday**—  
*Fr Stuart's day off*

**Sat 2 Saturday**—The Martyrs of Papua New  
Guinea, 1901 and 1942

### next sunday – 3 September

#### The Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**9.00 am** Lauds

**9.30 am** Solemn Mass

#### readings next week

Jeremiah 20:7-9; Ps 63;  
Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 16:21-27

### forthcoming events

**1 Oct Festival of Creation**  
—Annual Blessing of Animals  
*If you can assist in some way to  
help make this year's memorable  
and 'different'—  
Louise McGuire would love to  
speak with you!*

### next choral masses

**17 Sept** 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**1 Oct** St Francis of Assisi—Quartet

**15 Oct** 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### new on the trading table

grapefruit and three fruits marmalade.  
stock up now!

### Annual Winter Soup Festival

We had a wonderful soup morning after  
Mass last Sunday. Delicious flavours ensured  
our palates were satisfied and hunger sated.  
Thanks to our soup providers, the ones who set  
up and packed up! The Friends of St Mark's  
raised just over \$300 from the morning.



## directory

**Parish Priest:** Fr Stuart Soley SCP T: 03 9419 5051 E: frstuart@stmarksfitzroy.com  
**Priests Assisting:** Fr Tom Brown, Dr Cecilia Francis, Dr Graeme Garrett, The Reverend Louise Lang, Dr Brian Porter, Dr John Spring  
**Director of Music:** Dr Geoffrey Cox  
**Wardens:** Mr Rod Conn, Mr Philip Cornish, Ms Louise McGuire **Secretary:** Ms Heather Stock  
**Addresses:** A: Cnr George & Moor Streets, Fitzroy P: PO Box 124, Fitzroy, Vic 3065

### community programs

**St Marks Community Centre—250 George St Fitzroy**  
A Partnership with Anglicare Victoria  
**Hours:** Mon—Fri: 11.00 am—3.00 pm  
**Coordinator:** Ms Louise Lang T: 03 9419 3288

**St Marks RECYCLED—298 Smith St Collingwood**  
**Hours:** Mon—Sat: 11.00 am—5.00 pm  
T: 03 9417 2965  
**Manager:** Mr Michael Goldwaser



27 August 2017

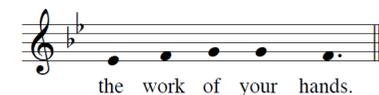
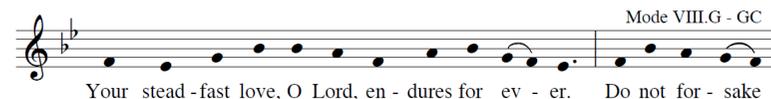
## The Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

### guide to today's solemn mass

*The liturgical colour used on the Sundays in Ordinary Time is Green. It symbolises the bountiful life we receive from God. In winter, although the days are cold and intermittently pierced by warm sunlight, the knowledge that many plants lie dormant and warmer days beckon, we are afforded the opportunity to deepen our spiritual roots in God, stimulated by God's creative Spirit.*

**PRESIDING** Fr Stuart Soley PP **HOMILIST** The Reverend Louise Lang  
**HOSPITALITY** **WELCOMING TEAM** Robin Murray, Peter Owens

**PROCESSION** **365** **Set Tune** London New  
**SETTING** St Mark's Setting—*De angelis*—Cox and Skinner, 1984  
**READINGS** Isaiah 22:15, 19-23; Ps 138; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20  
**LECTOR** Rod Conn **CANTOR** Anna Bornemisza  
**PSALM**



**COLLECTION** **484** **NEH 167** Aurelia  
**EUCCHARISTIC ASSISTANTS** Andrew Buchanan  
Ros Simmons

**COMMUNION** **306** **Set Tune** Ach Gott und Herr  
**THE ANGELUS** See on page 14 of the booklet  
**RECESSIONAL** Fantasia—Orlando Gibbons  
**HOSPITALITY** Our celebration continues with morning tea in the Old School Hall  
**HOST** Jacque Joslin

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www.stmarksfitzroy.com

## Contemplating the Gospel ...

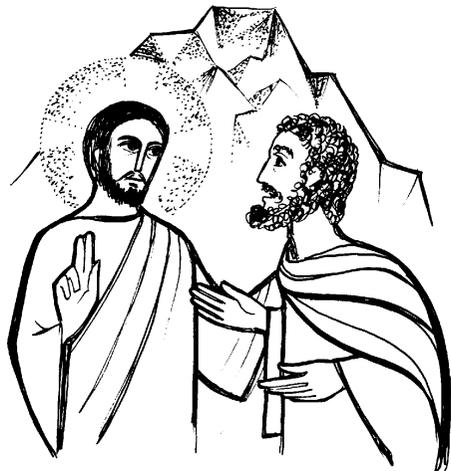
Reflection by © Veronica Lawson RSM. Reprinted with permission.

“Be yourself. Everybody else is taken”, sings Melinda Schneider. The lyrics of this lovely song, composed for Melinda’s dying father, affirm some fairly obvious truths. Even though we know that “everybody else is taken”, most of us spend much of our lives trying to measure up to other peoples’ expectations and fail to be truly ourselves. In our self-absorption, we can also misread others and fail to know them as they are. Being accepted as we are is among the most precious of gifts.

Jesus knew this. He was utterly true to himself and he allowed others time to discover for themselves his real identity and the nature of his mission. If the mission was to succeed, then “people” needed to look beyond their preconceptions about him and accept him as God’s anointed one, as the revelation of the living God. Jesus’ true identity is a key issue for Matthew’s community as it is for us.

In the first verse of the gospel, he is presented as the anointed one of God, the Messiah or Christ. Before his birth, the reader knows him as “Emmanuel”, God with us. What the narrator asserts at the outset, certain characters in the story come to understand as the narrative unfolds. Jesus’ fearless teaching and his healing ministry bring the crowd to recognise him as a prophet in the tradition of Elijah or Jeremiah or John the Baptist, and as the incarnate Wisdom of God. The power

of God at work in Peter leads him to a deeper understanding of Jesus’ identity. No matter that Peter has faltered in the past and will falter again, even to the point of denying any knowledge of or association with Jesus. He finally arrives at deep insight and proclaims his faith in Jesus as both Christ or Messiah and son of the living God. Insight is a gift, and God can work wherever there is openness and goodwill. Peter has both in abundance. He is declared “blessed” on account of this gift of insight, and entrusted with the “keys” of God’s kin-dom.



The specific power of binding and loosing that is given to Peter is subsequently given to the community of disciples (18:18) where the saying is framed on the one hand by instructions about dealing with transgressors and on the other by the assertion that where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, he is there in their midst. “Binding and loosing” belongs to Peter and to all who gather in the name of Jesus whom Matthew presents as God-with-us, as prophet and Wisdom, as the Christ or Messiah, and as the revelation of the living God. The exercise of the power “to bind and to loose” demands the same wisdom and insight as does the capacity to recognise and affirm the true identity of Jesus.

## Fr Stuart writes . . .

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### BEING ACCEPTED

Sister Veronica Lawson, in her reflection on today’s gospel (opposite), says

*‘being accepted as we are is among the most precious gifts’.*

This gift is what is lacking in much of the debate about marriage equality. In various contributions to what the government hoped would be a ‘respectful’ debate, there are reminders of just how unacceptable members of the LGBTIQ+ communities people are to some people.

To be honest, I have felt quite distressed on a number occasions when I heard these things. Indeed when I spoke with some friends during the week that distress increased because I heard how hard they were finding it.

It is very hard.

Why?

It is because the dignity and very authenticity of LGBTIQ+ people is being questioned and in some cases besmirched. In the case of the appalling posters in the city early in the week quoting thoroughly discredited statistics. It matters not, though, that these are proven incorrect. It is that they get trotted out repeatedly.

Any person who hears those things that have traumatized them in the past re-live those traumas in each telling. This was the experience of many survivors of abuse.

But this is an index of a larger issue of justice. Many people—have to fight just to be seen and heard—let alone be respected.

So I repeat my plea from last week: ‘In short, do look out for your LGBTIQ+ friends and relations at what is already a rather stressful time due to the more extreme expressions of opinion. Tell them you love them!’

May I suggest that if you want to talk, sound off, or share stories—please contact me. We will all get through this—I say this to our LGBTIQ+ friends too—for you understand in deep ways too.

It makes me more determined to do what I can to encourage a ‘Yes’ vote depending on the deliberations of the High Court next week.

### LAST SUNDAY

Thank you to all who made me feel glad to be back last Sunday. The largest Sunday Mass attendance for many months was a source of great thankfulness and encouragement to me—and I hope to you also.



### FESTIVAL OF CREATION

**SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2017**

**9.30 am SOLEMN CHORAL MASS**

*Followed by the  
Annual Blessing of the Animals on the lawns*

*Speak to Louise McGuire with your ideas  
to make it memorable*