In one with the Lord

In the Scriptures, numbers are often used to tell us about something. The number 72 is used several times in the Scriptures. In the Book of Numbers, we find there were 72 elders chosen to assist Moses. Also, there were 72 ornaments in the Tabernacle. And in today’s gospel, Jesus sends 70 disciples to preach the gospel.

Reflecting on the use of these numbers, we can determine at least three things: First, it tells us about people whom God chose to bring God’s message to the people, to speak on God’s behalf. Second, it is about instruments that God uses to reveal God’s message of love and mercy. Third, it is about God’s message being for everyone, no matter who they are and where they come from. Jesus, in choosing the 72, wants to involve us in His work of mercy. In doing so, Jesus invites us to rejoice because, first of all, God wants us to experience God’s love and mercy through the life of His Son.

Jesus’ invitation extends to each one of us because we are all God’s children, created in God’s own image and likeness. So, now it is our turn, like the 72, to be sent out to share Jesus’ life with others, so they too can experience His love and receive His mercy.

As we continue our daily life and faith journey, we need to acknowledge that it is an easy call to experience God’s mercy but it is not always an easy message to proclaim. But our invitation to share Jesus’ life with others is not like a heavy burden to carry. Rather it is an invitation to a journey, a journey of gospel witness, a journey of discipleship as agents of and witnesses to God’s love and mercy.

Today’s gospel is an invitation for each one of us to a new life. Our committed response to this invitation becomes the foundation from which, firstly, to experience God’s mercy in our life, and secondly to allow ourselves to be sent as His witnesses and agents into our wounded world. Only in union with the Lord can we experience His mercy in our lives. And only in union with the Lord can we give witness to His gospel and share with others His mercy, love and peace.

Pope Francis has called us to leave behind our fears and self-interest, in order to put ourselves into contact with the real world where people suffer and rejoice, struggle and work, and are wounded and abandoned. Am I ready to experience God’s mercy in my life's journey? Am I ready to be sent as an agent of God’s mercy? Let us remember that God’s mercy is always with us and that, with Christ, there is true joy and plentiful redemption.
Naidoc Week

Reconciliation week is an important event on the Australian calendar and this year, we are asked to reflect on our national identity, and the place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and rights in our nation’s story.

Prayer of the Aboriginal People.

Father of all, You gave us the Dreaming,
You have spoken to us through our beliefs,
You then made Your love clear to us in the person of Jesus, We thank You for Your care.
You own us, You are our hope.
Make us strong as we face the problems of change.
We ask You to help the people of Australia to listen to us and respect our culture.
Make the knowledge of You grow strong in all people,
So that You can be at home in us and we can make a home for everyone in our land. Amen

Peter’s Pence Annual Appeal

Next Sunday 14th July is the annual offering to our Holy Father for the works of charity supported by the Holy See. Pope Benedict XVI stressed the proper meaning of this offering: “Peter’s Pence” is the most characteristic expression of the participation of all the faithful in the Bishop of Rome’s charitable initiatives in favour of the universal Church. The gesture has not only a practical value, but also a strong symbolic one, as a sign of communion with the Pope and attention to the needs of one’s brothers; and therefore your service possesses a refined ecclesial character”.

Envelopes will be available next weekend.

Solemnity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

There will be a 10.00am Mass in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Tuesday 16th July at the Carmelite Monastery, Goonellabah.
The “Friends of Carmel” will be offering a cup of tea after the Mass and will be holding a stall. All are most welcome.

Please note there will be no 7:00am Mass on this day.

The Winsome Soup Kitchen

We are still in need of blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothing. Please leave your donations at the Parish office and we will arrange the transfer of stock to the Winsome.

Thank you. Deacon Graeme & Rosemary Davis

Hymn - O God Beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
At blessings without number and mercies without end:
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
We honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

Then hear, O gracious savior, accept the love we bring,
That we who know your favour may serve you as our king;
And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill’
We’ll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

You are a priest forever within God’s Church on earth,
In the order of Melchizedek, a priest before your birth.
Called out to be a pastor, the flock of Christ to serve;
From the humble to the mighty, the Word of God make heard.
To celebrate the sacraments, in fitting praise proclaim
The love of Holy Trinity, give honour to God’s name.

Position Vacant – Plenary Council Discernment and Writing Group Chairs and Members

As we move into the Listening and Discernment stage of our preparation for the Plenary Council 2020, the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council is seeking both lay people and clergy who are willing to be leaders and partners in the process of discernment. Opportunities are available to apply to be the Chair, or to be a member, of one of six Discernment and Writing Groups. The Discernment and Writing Groups will explore one of the 6 following themes regarding how the Catholic Church is being called to be a Christ-centred Church that is: Missionary and Evangelising, Inclusive, Participatory and Synodal, Prayerful and Eucharistic, Humble, Healing and Merciful, A Joyful, Hope-filled and Servant Community and finally, Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform.

For more information, visit the Office for Renewal and Reform.

www.employmentrelations.catholic.org.au or contact
Ms Olivia Lee on (02) 9919 7822 or olivia.lee@catholic.org.au.

Applications close on 22 July 2019.

Take Some Time

“Things have a price and can be for sale, but people have a dignity that is priceless and worth far more than things.”

Pope Francis.
LITURGY ROSTER – for 14th July - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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<th>Time</th>
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<th>Reader 1</th>
<th>Reader 2</th>
<th>Extra Ordinary</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Carmenite Monastery</td>
<td>Cathy Donnelly</td>
<td>Kellie-ann Bugden</td>
<td>Brian Bingham</td>
<td>Annabel, Alanna</td>
<td>Michael M, Bryan</td>
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<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Mary’s Grange</td>
<td>Remi Andrews</td>
<td>Alison Cleaver</td>
<td>Janelle Heffernan</td>
<td>John Muscat</td>
<td>Candice, Lani</td>
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<td>5:30pm</td>
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FIRST READING
Isaiah 66: 10-14
Rejoice, Jerusalem, be glad for her, all you who love her! Rejoice, rejoice for her, all you who mourned her! That you may be suckled, filled, from her consoling breast, that you may savour with delight her glorious breasts. For thus says the Lord: Now towards her I send flowing peace, like a river, and like a stream in spate the glory of the nations. At her breast will her nurslings be carried and fondled in her lap. Like a son comforted by his mother will I comfort you. And by Jerusalem you will be comforted. At the sight your heart will rejoice, and your bones flourish like the grass. To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand. The Word of the Lord. Response: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. v.1
(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.
Cry out with joy to God all the earth, O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise. Say to God: ‘How tremendous your deeds! (R.)

‘Before you all the earth shall bow; shall sing to you, sing to your name!’
Come and see the works of God, tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)

He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod. Let our joy then be in him; he rules for ever by his might. (R.)

Come and hear, all who fear God. I will tell what he did for my soul. Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

SECOND READING
Galatians 6:14-18
The only thing I can boast about is the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world is crucified to me, and I to the world. It does not matter if a person is circumcised or not; what matters is for him to become an altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, who form the Israel of God. I want no more trouble from anybody after this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, my brothers. Amen. The Word of the Lord. Response: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

GOSPEL
The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, ‘The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, “Peace to this house!” And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, “The kingdom of God is very near to you.” But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, “We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near.” I tell you, that on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town.’

The seventy-two came back rejoicing. ‘Lord,’ they said, ‘even the devils submit to us when we use your name.’ He said to them, ‘I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.’ The Gospel of the Lord. Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS
Deuteronomy 30: 10-14
Colossians 1: 15-20