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**13th Sunday in Ordinary Time 29/30 June 2024 - Year B**

**Growing Givers**

June 29 celebrates the Solemnity of two of my great heroes, Sts. Peter and Paul; it is also my first anniversary of ordination – along with Fr Francis' third! It is believed that Peter and Paul were martyred during the 60's AD, during the Emperor Nero's persecution of Christians. While June 29 originally celebrated the feast of Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome according to Roman mythology, Peter and Paul's feast on June 29 was intended to make an existing Pagan celebration Christian – thus commemorating the giving of their lives as the seed of a new Christian Rome.



Two things are notable about these prominent saints – especially in the context of our two-week preaching series on sacrificial giving: the first is that, like Jesus, they gave everything. Indeed, tradition has it that St Peter felt unworthy to be crucified like Christ, and so requested to be crucified upside-down. St Paul on the other hand was beheaded, as Romans did not crucify their own people. The second notable thing is that both Peter and Paul grew along the course of their Christian journey to the point that they were able, and even desired, to give everything.

This gives us the opportunity to think about our parish's approach to 'growing givers'. Talking about giving from this perspective both grounds the conversation in biblical truth and means that wherever we find ourselves right at this point in time as a giver is exactly where God meets us. The Good or perhaps challenging News is that God never leaves us where we are.

The stories of Sts. Peter and Paul very much relate to our story; illustrating that although we are human and have our flaws, we can, and necessarily must grow into Christian maturity – always seeking to become that which we are not yet fully: daughters and sons of God. Peter may have been the first Pope, but this did not mean he was perfect, denying his knowledge of Jesus not once, but thrice! Despite these flaws, Peter's story is ultimately one of redemption and transformation. After Jesus' resurrection, Peter was forgiven by Jesus (John 21:15-17) and he went on to become a steadfast leader of the early Church, demonstrating courage, wisdom, and deep faith. Peter's flaws and subsequent growth highlight the Christian journey and the potential for personal transformation.

St. Paul, too, was not always a faithful follower of Jesus. Before his conversion he persecuted and killed many Christians, notably, St Stephen, the first martyr. While Paul had significant flaws, a confrontational nature, and rigid views, these aspects also contributed to his depth as a person and his powerful narrative of transformation and growth in faith – to the point of dying for what he believed.

Growing givers is profoundly related to growth in our Christian journey. That journey often leads me to think and pray about how God worked in Peter and Paul's lives, and how God continues to work in our own lives. While God definitely does not make us more of this and less of that, we are offered opportunities to freely choose how we respond. Sometimes those opportunities are offered in a spiritual sense, sometimes they are offered through written text in the words of another person. As we listen and read about sacrificial giving over these two weekends, I encourage you to reflect on your personal growth as a Christian giver. I also encourage you to build your friendship with Sts. Peter and Paul at this time of the year.

*Stay strong in the faith, Fr Gerard*

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### Catholic Worship

The feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, celebrated on July 3rd, presents an opportune moment for worshipping Catholics to reflect on and move beyond their doubts and personal issues. St. Thomas, often dubbed "Doubting Thomas" for his initial skepticism about Jesus' resurrection, ultimately made one of the most profound declarations of faith, exclaiming, "My Lord and my God!" His journey from doubt to faith encourages us to embrace our struggles and uncertainties as pathways to deeper belief and more active participation in our parish communities

In day-to-day worship, we may encounter various personal issues, ranging from spiritual dryness to everyday stressors, which can hinder our enthusiasm and commitment. Drawing inspiration from St. Thomas, we are called to confront these challenges with a prayerful heart, transforming doubt into an opportunity for growth. Just as Thomas' doubt led to a stronger affirmation of faith, we can use our struggles to seek a closer relationship with God, asking for the grace to overcome obstacles.

A vibrant and active parish thrives on the enthusiastic participation of its members. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their full selves into worship, including doubts and personal issues, and to engage with their faith community authentically. This means participating in Mass with a spirit of openness, joining parish activities, and supporting one another in times of need. By doing so, we mirror the transformative journey of St. Thomas, who moved from doubt to a dynamic proclamation of faith.

Moreover, the feast of St. Thomas serves as a reminder that faith is not the absence of doubt but the courage to move beyond it. All Catholics are challenged to deepen our prayer lives, seeking guidance and strength from God in moments of uncertainty. This can be facilitated through personal prayer, community prayer gatherings, and participation in the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist. These practices not only strengthen our individual faith but also build a more robust and supportive parish community.

In conclusion, the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle invites all of us to embrace our doubts and personal issues as integral parts of our faith journey. By doing so with enthusiasm and prayer, we can contribute to a vibrant, active parish that reflects the living presence of Christ in the world

By Paul Castelli, Worship Ministry Team Leader.

### First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Saturday 6th July @ 7.45am OLR Church Caloundra. You are all welcome.

#### Readers (and Listeners!)

The second Vatican Council reminded us of the central place of scripture in public worship: 'Christ is present in his word since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the Church' and 'The Church is nourished spiritually at the table of God's word and at the table of the Eucharist'.

The only contact that many Catholics have with the biblical texts occurs at Sunday Mass. It is vital that this encounter be a positive experience so that they will develop over time a 'warm and living love of scripture'.

Those who are called to be readers at Mass, then, take on an important ministry. In fact they are not 'readers' at all. Almost everyone can read, but only some can effectively proclaim the word of God. Carrying out the role well requires faith in the word of God, a love of scripture, thorough preparation and the skills needed for reading aloud in public.

Proclaiming the word is a two way process which requires attentive listeners for it to be effective. We will hear the word of God better if we prepare by reading the texts before coming to Mass then put our Missals aside during the Liturgy of the Word and engage in dialogue with the word.

By Elizabeth Harrington.

### Save the Date! Bake Sale!

There will be a bake sale after the 9:30am Mass at OLR on Sunday 14th July to raise funds to help send the youth and young adults in the parish to Ignite Conference in September this year.

### Men's Rosary Crusade

The Men's Rosary Crusade is on this Wednesday 3rd July at 6.30pm OLR Church. All welcome to stay and share tea and coffee after prayer, please bring snacks to share. Please join our WhatsApp group using the Linktree QR code.

### Looking to Explore God's Word? Consider Bible Study Groups

There are multiple Bible Study opportunities on offer across the parish. The groups are guided by work booklets that offer questions and reflections.

- The new study for the Caloundra groups is called "Growing Older & Wiser" and begins in July after the school Holidays. To register interest contact: Caroline Kettle 0435 828 092.
- For the Hinterland - watch this space!!! Exciting things to come.
- Upcoming - At Kawana Good Shepherd Centre. For those looking for more, a course on the Acts of the Apostles will be offered over 10 sessions from 22nd August. This rich course is written by renowned Catholic biblical scholar Dr Mary Healy and is entitled "Evangelism/Acts of the Apostle". A small donation of \$15 is appreciated to cover resources. Sessions 8am-9:30am. You can register interest with John Manion at [johnmanion101@gmail.com](mailto:johnmanion101@gmail.com)

### Position Vacant

A new paid secretarial position has opened in the parish office. If you would love to work as part of a dynamic team, have a welcoming personality, and have experience with computer skills and can work 16hr p/w, we invite you to submit your resume to [caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:caloundra@bne.catholic.net.au)

### Peter's Pence Collection

Each year parishes in the Archdiocese of Brisbane take up the Peter's Pence collection as a retiring collection. The collection will take place at the end of all Masses this weekend. The Peter's Pence Collection is an annual collection of the Catholic Church around the world. The collection allows the Holy Father to respond to the most needy throughout the world, to offer timely effective emergency assistance to our suffering brothers and sisters.

### Term 3 First Holy Communion - starts 16th July

All children from grade 4 or older and who have been confirmed are welcome to make their First Holy Communion in Term 3.

The program starts on Tuesday 16th July, 5-6pm in the OLR Church.

The program concludes with the First Holy Communion ceremony on the weekend of 24th /25th August 2024 To register please go to our website – Sacraments – First Holy Communion. Complete the registration form with signatures by both parents and submit. Please note the form cannot be completed on your mobile devices. Any questions don't hesitate to contact the Parish office

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Registrations close Friday 12th July, 2024

### Year of Invitation Prayer

My Lord and my God,  
you never cease to invite me to know, love and follow your Son, Jesus.  
Give me the grace and courage to be a channel of your love so that my "yes" to you becomes an invitation to others.  
I offer up my entire self - heart, mind and will - to your purpose for me.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### On the Journey

We welcome *Louis Hodgkinson, Amora Mortaud, Isla Mylchreest, Hudson O'Connor & Keeva O'Connor* who will be baptised at OLR this weekend. We pray for *Kevin McMahon, Errol McCoster & Patricia Orrell* who recently died, their funerals will be on Thursday 4th July at 11am, Thursday 4th July at 3pm, and Friday 5th July at 11am all at OLR respectively. May their souls and the souls of our deceased priests, religious and parishioners *Rest in Peace.*

### Parish Diary

#### Monday 1 July

Mass (OLR) 9am  
Adoration (OLR) 9.30am

#### Tuesday 2 July

Mass (OLR) 9am  
Rosary (OLR) 9.30am  
Adoration/Rosary (Maleny) 8am  
Mass (Maleny) 9am

#### Wednesday 3 July

NO Mass (UNITY) 7.50am  
NO School Liturgy 9am  
Mass (Lt Mt) 9.30am

#### Thursday 4 July

Mass (OLR) 9am  
Mass (Currimundi) 9:15am

#### Friday 5 July

Mass (OLR) 9am  
Adoration/Rosary (Lands) 8am  
Mass (Landsborough) 9am

#### Saturday 6 July

Reconciliation (OLR) 8.30am  
Mass (OLR) 9am

#### Vigil Mass

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Mass (OLR) 5pm  
Mass (Beerwah) 5pm

#### Sunday 7 July

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Mass (OLR) 6.30am  
Mass (Landsborough) 7am  
Mass (Unity) 8am  
Mass (Kawana) 8am  
Mass (Maleny) 9am  
Mass (Currimundi) 9.15am  
Mass (OLR) 9:30am  
Mass (Lt Mt) 10.30am  
Mass (Unity) 5pm

### Linktree QR Code

