

Sister Marta is giving her service, at a time in which one hears the air-raid alarm almost everyday, and Russian missiles continue to destroy civilian infrastructure and strike people's homes. "I am aware", she concludes, "that I am not alone. I know that the Lord is with me, and with the people I help."



What is more, through prayer I can bring their pain to God, who can give them the strength to go on and not focus on evil. A real temptation is to analyse evil, or try to understand it. But evil does not have any logic, and one cannot understand it. Instead, you need to direct your energy and thoughts toward action, understand the concrete needs of people, and try to help them. **SR MARTA MESHK—UKRAINE**

OLOF CHRISTMAS HAMPERS RAFFLE

Tickets for our Christmas Hamper and Christmas Cakes will be on sale at this weekend's and next weekend's Masses. The Hampers will be on display at ALL Masses.



Many thanks to you ALL, who have so generously donated the products used to produce the Hampers. There will be one large Christmas Hamper as:

1st Prize, plus seven(7) other smaller Hampers for selection for the next prize winners. There will also be three(3) Christmas Cakes, all 'up for grabs', WOW, a great effort by ALL involved!

Tickets will be \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, great value for so many wonderful prizes, with ALL funds used for next year's OLOF Centenary Celebration Events.

A special thanks to Tania Herbert and Lisa Platt, for so beautifully assembling and wrapping the Hampers, to Teresa Finocchiaro for baking the Christmas Cakes and Ana Rebelo for the crocheted hats and headbands.

Ugo Landro—

Our Lady of Fatima Community Photo



We are appealing to anyone in the Parish who may have photos or taken photos or know of anyone with photos of past events and celebrations held in the Parish Hall over the last ten years, to kindly contact either by Josephine's email: jopurple@westnet.com.au or Pauline's email – pcburwood@gmail.com.

wood@gmail.com.
We thank you in anticipation.
Pauline Burwood

PARISH HALL & PARISH FINANCES

The good news announced recently is that the debt on the Parish Hall will be paid off by the end of this year. That means that donations to the Hall Building Fund will no longer be tax-deductible after December 31st 2022, however donations **before December 31st** will still be tax-deductible. We are required to abide by Australian Taxation Regulations.

This achievement is a tribute to parishioners who have regularly contributed (by direct debit, cheque or cash in the second collection) since the Hall was built in 2008. The \$250,000 loan from the Archdiocese was a 20-year loan but will be paid off in just 14 years! All parishioners should know that the first collection at Mass goes to Fr Francis for his personal expenses. The second collection goes to the Parish for it to continue to operate. General expenses for the Parish include insurance, rubbish collection, electricity, water, telephone, printing, cleaning costs and the wages for Andrena, our Parish Secretary, who does a magnificent job in helping to run the Parish. The total cost for operating the Parish is between \$100,000 and \$120,000 every year. That's about \$2000 a week.

Sincere thanks to all parishioners who financially support Fr Francis and the Parish. Your generosity is appreciated. Please continue to support both Fr Francis and the Parish through your regular donations. **DICK FINUCANE**

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR FIRST AND SECOND COLLECTIONS FIRST COLLECTION:

BSB: 086 006;
A/C NO: 551882724
A/C NAME: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth Our Lady of Fatima Parish PALMYRA PRESBYTERY ACCOUNT

SECOND COLLECTION

BSB: 086 006
A/C NO: 670197711
A/C NAME: The Roman Catholic Archbishop



THE FEEM WEEKLY

(FEEM = Faith Enrichment & Evangelising Ministry)

**Vol 01 Issue 40, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A
Weekend 10TH/11TH DECEMBER 2022**

VISION STATEMENT **Christ's Love in Action**

MISSION STATEMENT

Meeting Christ as All in all through: Our relationship with others in creation, Seeking God in the stillness, Embracing the Good News of the Gospel, Accepting the challenges of the Cross, The power of the Holy Spirit and the *Intercession of Our Lady of Fatima*



Our Lady Of Fatima Catholic Church

10 Foss Street, Palmyra WA 6157.

Parish Priest: **Fr Francis Ughanze**

Email: emyfrank@iinet.net.au

Website: olfpalmyra.org.au

Direct: 0418 550 119

Parish Secretary: Andrena Inopulos

Email: emyfrank@iinet.net.au

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri:

10.00am - 4.00pm

Office Phone: 9339 1298

Our Lady Of Fatima Parish Pastoral Council

Parish Councilors:-

Bernard Landro (Chairperson) - Email:

blandro@iinet.net.au Mob:0418 955 610

Carl Carcione, Ugo Landro, Pauline

Sweeny, Lorraine Szefczyk, Joe Terribile & Stefano Zagami.

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Primary School

3 Harris Street, Palmyra WA 6157.

Principal: **Jacinta Petersen**

Email: Jacinta.admin@olof.wa.edu.au

Office Phone: 9333 7900

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS:

Margaret Matassa: matassa@bigpond.com

Bernie Keane: bernieandanto@yahoo.com.au

GOSPEL COMMENTARY:

A prophet is one who speaks on God's behalf. John the Baptist would always remain a great prophet. Perhaps, today, our generation's prophesying has overtaken his prophesying. But what does it mean to speak on God's behalf. It means: to be of one mind with God. But how does one know what God's mind is in order to conform one's own mind or oneself to it? Since it is human beings who interpret God's mind and since human beings cannot see beyond the tip of their nose, they can only go slowly relying on the glimpses of God.

In practical terms, it is about those glimpses, which attract the best in human thoughts. That is, every generation aims to be better than the generation before it. The best in man and woman's thinking in every age is measured by how deeply every human being has deepened the love for another human being in their hearts.

Every expression of love is a glimpse of God. Every expression of love needs to be filtered, improved, and sublimated, be it Storgé meaning "empathy bond," or Philia meaning "friend bond," or Eros meaning "romantic love", or Agape meaning "unconditional love or God love."

If Agape (God love), is the apex of the best of man's or woman's thinking, then every love is a glimpse of God love though imperfectly. Every love requires arduous work to make it better to grow to mirror God love. So long as an attempt is being made in every generation to cleanse itself, there lies a tending towards God love.

MASS TIMES

Saturday: @ 9.00am & 6.30pm (Vigil).

Sunday: @ 7.30am, 9.45am & 6.30pm.

Monday & Thursday: @ 9.00am

Reconciliation: Available on request or 5.45pm Saturdays

HAPPINESS

Everyone wants to be happy. We all seek happiness. But if all of us are searching for happiness, why are so few truly happy and even those who are happy are only happy for such a short time? I believe that the principal reason is that, in our climb to the summit of the mountain, we go up the wrong side, we decide to take the wrong way up. Revelation says: "God is love," but man has tried to reverse the phrase so that it says: "Love is God"!



Revelation says: "God is happiness," but man again inverts the order and says "Happiness is God"! But what happens here? On earth we do not know pure happiness, just as we do not know absolute love; we only know bits and pieces of happiness, which often become mere passing stimulation of our senses. Thus, when we say, "Happiness is God," we divinize our little experiences; we call the works of our own hands or our own minds "God." We make happiness into an idol. This explains why he who seeks God always finds joy while he who seeks joy does not always find God. Man is reduced to looking for quantitative joy: chasing down ever more intense pleasures and emotions, or adding pleasure to pleasure — just as the drug addict needs bigger and bigger doses to obtain the same level of pleasure.

Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap (the preacher to the papal household)

JOURNEY WITH POPE FRANCIS

—Advent is a moment of grace to take off our masks — every one of us has them — and line up with those who are humble, to be liberated from the presumption of the belief of being self-sufficient, to go to confess our sins, the hidden ones, and to welcome God's pardon, to ask forgiveness from those whom we have offended.



There is only one way, the way of humility — to be purified from the sense of superiority, from formalism and hypocrisy, to see ourselves, along with our brothers and sisters, as sinners, and to see Jesus as the Saviour who comes for us, not for the others, for us, just as we are, with our poverty, misery and failings, above all with our need to be raised up, forgiven and saved." 7th December 2022

—Let us remember one thing: with Jesus, there is always the possibility of beginning again. It's never too late. There is always the possibility to begin again. Be courageous. He is near to us, and this is the time of conversion. Everyone might think: "I have this situation inside, this problem that I am ashamed of". But Jesus is next to you. Begin again. There is always the possibility of taking a step forward. He is waiting for us and never gets tired of us. He never gets tired! And we are annoying, but he never gets tired! And let us not let this Advent go by like days on the calendar because this is a moment of grace, a grace for us too, here, and now! May Mary, the humble servant of the Lord, help us to meet Him, Jesus,

and our brothers and sisters on the way of humility, which is the only one that will help us go ahead." 8th December 2022

Mary's Dream

"I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son.



The people in my dream had been preparing for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts.

It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our son. They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right inside their homes! They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments. There was a figure like an angel on the top of the tree.

Everyone was laughing and happy. They gave the gifts to each other Joseph, not to our son. I don't think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name.

I had the strangest feeling that, if our Jesus had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding. How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party! I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real! (Author Unknown)

This is something we can meditate upon over the next couple of weeks. Michael Keane

"DO NOT BE AFRAID"

Scholars tell us that the phrase "Do not be afraid" appears 365 times in the Bible. The words are repeated by the angels to Mary, Joseph and even to the shepherds at the time of Jesus' birth. What does this signify? In the Old Testament people were often afraid of God and his punishment. But a central teaching of Jesus is that God is a loving Father to all. No child is ever afraid of a loving father.



In every age there were reasons why people were afraid. In our own time there are many events that cause fear: the war in Ukraine, conflicts in various parts of the world, COVID, sickness, natural disasters, poverty, domestic violenceGod doesn't stop these things occurring but He can give us the courage to face these challenges with faith and endurance. Then often problems are overcome or at least reduced through the ingenuity of gifted men and women. A current example is the work of scientists who have developed vaccines and antiviral tablets that have saved many lives and reduced the suffering of victims of the pandemic.

Of course it is natural for people to be afraid, but it is also natural for people to be courageous, to be calm in the face of danger, to have sound judgment and to possess the power of love. Sometimes people underestimate their own strength, ability and endurance.

We can all be encouraged by the words of Isaiah (41:10): "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Dick Finucane

SISTER MARTA MESHK- THE NUN RE-BUILDING HOMES AND HOPE IN UKRAINE

Sister Marta Meshk organises the donation of building materials to those whose homes have been destroyed by missile strikes in Ukraine. "It's a miracle that after so much pain one can still feel gratitude," she says.



Evil is without logic: Sister Marta also notes that, although Ukrainians speak openly about their pain, they are desperate at heart, and manage to show deep gratitude when somebody lend them a hand. "I remember Sina, a grandmother, more than eighty years old, who lives in the village of Moschshun. Her house was also destroyed, and she went to live in a hut. We decided to buy a small premade wooden house for her, and she was so moved. She couldn't believe that we'd done this for her. These people, in one short period, have experienced very strong emotions, contradictory and not easy to process. At the beginning of the year, they saw their property destroyed, and now they meet somebody who helps them and expects nothing in return."