



Parish of St. John the Baptist - Perth.

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PARISH WEEKLY NEWS 19th –26th Feb 2012

This is a weekly Parish newsletter for all to read to inform you of what is happening in our Parish and share with you some interesting reading.

This week-Readings Epistle 1 Cor 8:8-9, 2 Gospel Mat 25, 32-46—35th Sunday after Pentecost Meatfare Sunday Tone 3

We welcome to Perth—Bishop Peter Stasiuk, Right Rev Olexander Kenez and Fr Stepan Sapun

Epistle 1Cor 8:8-9, 2 8:8 But food will not commend us to God. For neither, if we don't eat, are we the worse; nor, if we eat, are we the better. 8:9 But be careful that by no means does this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to the weak. 8:10 For if a man sees you who have knowledge sitting in an idol's temple, won't his conscience, if he is weak, be emboldened to eat things sacrificed to idols? 8:11 And through your knowledge, he who is weak perishes, the brother for whose sake Christ died. 8:12 Thus, sinning against the brothers, and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 8:13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will eat no meat forevermore, that I don't cause my brother to stumble. 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Haven't I seen Jesus Christ, our Lord? Aren't you my work in the Lord? 9:2 If to others I am not an apostle, yet at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel - Matt 25:31-46 25:31 "But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 25:32 Before him all the nations will be gathered, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 25:33 He will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 25:34 Then the King will tell those on his right hand, 'Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 25:35 for I was hungry, and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you took me in. 25:36 I was naked, and you clothed me. I was sick, and you visited me. I was in prison, and you came to me.' 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, and feed you; or thirsty, and give you a drink? 25:38 When did we see you as a stranger, and take you in; or naked, and clothe you? 25:39 When did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?' 25:40 "The King will answer them, 'Most certainly I tell you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' 25:41 Then he will say also to those on the left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels; 25:42 for I was hungry, and you didn't give me food to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink; 25:43 I was a stranger, and you didn't take me in; naked, and you didn't clothe me; sick, and in prison, and you didn't visit me.' 25:44 "Then they will also answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and didn't help you?' 25:45 "Then he will answer them, saying, 'Most certainly I tell you, inasmuch as you didn't do it to one of the least of these, you didn't do it to me.' 25:46 These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



Reflection of the Week Great Lent



During Great Lent, the Liturgy of Presanctified gifts reads from Book of Isaiah. This Lent, let us look at a few parts of Isaiah and see how this applies to us.

Today, all of us who live in the major cities of this world have never known poverty. Those of us who are under the age of 65 have never known war. The wars were usually somewhere else. Materialism has made God irrelevant. The whole concept of institutional religion or shall we say, living in a Christian community is not really in keeping with today's society. Sport or work, quite easily replace praying in a Christian community on Sunday. This is not a young person's issue. The self indulgent society embraces several generations. This type of society is nothing new.

Isaiah lived in a time much like ours. His country, Judah, was strong both commercially and militarily. Like our own society, morality was declining. Isaiah spoke to people who were ungrateful to God and who lived simply for pleasure. They did not have God centred lives. Isaiah was commanded by God to preach God's word of hope to His people. When moral decline comes, a breakdown in society soon follows. The words of hope were written for the post hedonistic Israel. As surely as night follows day, when people are in real trouble, they will turn to God.

Let us give some thought, are we a part of the cause of the problems in today's society? Do we pray in a Christian community on a Sunday? Or is it not important enough to deserve our attention, because we are just too busy.

Right Rev. Olexander Kenez

Meat fare Sunday and Cheese fare Sunday - next week The point of bringing an Easter basket to church on Easter Sunday is to bless the food which we have abstained from during Lent. Now the Church does not demand of us such strict fasts. There is a reason why the two Sundays before Lent have the names they do. In the past, on Meat fare Sunday everybody gave up meat till Easter and on Cheese fare Sunday everybody gave up all dairy products till Easter. Hence the name. Though we are not forced to keep this discipline during Lent there are many families that do so. Indeed there are many families that give up secular music as well. The reason for this is to have the minimum of distractions while we concentrate on our relationship with God.

4. The Last Judgment - Meat Fare Sunday from Great Lent - Journey to Pascha - by A Schmemmann

This Sunday is called "Meat-Fare" Sunday because during the week following, it is a limited fasting - abstention from meat - is prescribed by the Church. The Church begins now to "adjust" us to the great effort which she will expect from us seven days later.

Love constitutes the theme of Meat-Fare Sunday. The Gospel lesson for the day is Christ's parable of the Last Judgment (Matt 25:31-46 see front page) When Christ comes to judge us, what will be the criterion of His judgment? The parable answers: Love - not a mere humanitarian concern for abstract justice and the anonymous "poor" but concrete and personal love for the human person, any human person, that God makes me encounter in my life.

This distinction is important because today more and more Christians tend to identify Christian love with political, economic and social concerns; in other words, they shift from the unique person and its unique personal destiny, to anonymous entities such as 'class', 'race' etc. Not that these concerns are wrong. It is obvious that in their respective walks of life, in their responsibilities as citizens, professional men etc, Christians are called to care, to the best of their possibilities and understanding. For a just, equal and more humane society. All this stems from Christianity and may be inspired by Christian love. But Christian love is something different and this difference is to be understood and maintained if the Church is to preserve her unique mission and not become a mere "social agency" which she is not.

The parable of the Last Judgment is about Christian love. Not all of us are called to work for "humanity" yet each one of us has received the gift and the grace of Christ's love. We know that all men ultimately need this personal love - the recognition in them of their unique soul in which the beauty of the whole creation is reflected in a unique way. We also know that men are in prison and are sick and thirsty and hungry because that personal love has been denied them. And we know that however narrow and limited the framework of our personal existence, each one of us has been made responsible by that very gift of Christ's love. So on whether or not we have accepted this responsibility, on whether or not we have loved or refused love, shall we be judged.

For "inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least My Brethren, you have done it unto Me..."

Laughter and Joy

If we read the Book of Job we may imagine that joy and laughter will never return to Job. There are times that we may identify with Job. When some of our moments or days are dark, and it looks like the sun will never shine again, we need to remember that nothing can overshadow God's care and love for us (for me). When Job was suffering intolerably, he could not see for himself, but he needed to be reminded that he was not abandoned by God.

"God will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. Those who hate you will be clothed with shame and the tent of the wicked will be no more." (Job 8:21-22)

I would like to share a story which often encourages me. It comes from a book, KEEP ON DANCIN', By Tim Hansel

"One day I asked a friend what she thought the five most important ingredients were to being a quality human being. After a long and a thoughtful pause, she said, 'Humour, love, responsibility, courage, and humour.' I tried to point out that she already said humour, but she informed me that she meant exactly what she said.

Humour has the unshakable ability to break life into little pieces and make it liveable. Laughter adds richness, texture, and colour to otherwise ordinary days. It is a gift, a choice, a discipline and an art.

I enjoy laughing. I believe that laughter is a sacred sound to our God. I also believe that it has an incredible capacity to heal our bodies, our minds, and our spirit."

I believe that these thoughts will help us in our trials, and as we journey through the great fast (lent). Jesus told us not look gloomy and not make a show of ourselves when we fast.

*Jesus helps us to open our hearts to you,
And not to be afraid of joy and laughter.
May these wonderful human qualities honour you and praise you.
May we receive your healing as we open ourselves
to your gifts of joy and laughter.*

Sister Maria Moravski, SSMI

1. The Ukrainian Hromada AGM will be held on 18 March 2012 after church at 11.30am in the Ukrainian Catholic Church Hall. We need your attendance and support!



2. A Ukrainian Community BBQ sponsored by our Hromada and CYM will be held after church on 26 February 2012 in the Bardon Park/Maylands picnic area. Meat, salads and bread will be supplied by the Hromada. Please bring your own chairs and drinks. Come along and have a great time!

Ps. The following day is when Great Lent starts and fasting from meat and dairy products.

ACN News, Thursday, 16th February 2012 – UKRAINE

By Eva-Maria Kolmann

Ukraine: Head of the Greek-Catholic Church praises relations with the Orthodox Church

“Excellent” was how Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, described its relations with the Orthodox Church during a visit to the headquarters of the international Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need (ACN). Relations have never been as good as today, he said. The task of maintaining these friendly and brotherly relations lay especially close to his heart, Shevchuk emphasised.



Ukraine can look back at a history of over a thousand years of Christianity. But in the last century it went through a period of aggressive atheism. According to Shevchuk, it is the special responsibility of the Christian Churches to “rediscover these Christian roots and to find new ways to reveal their presence in society as Christians.”

“At a time of uncertainty, when many people feel that processes occurring in society can no longer be controlled, great faith is placed in the Christian Churches. According to opinion surveys, more people trust me than the President,” said Shevchuk. Since the Church is not dependent on the state, it can “tell the truth and play an important role in society”. Christianity has an important role to play for the national unity of the Ukraine. “We are politically neutral, but we teach Christian social values, preach the Gospels and defend those who cannot defend themselves,” he explained. In order for it to be able to perform these tasks in an authentic way, priority is given to the good training of priests.

At the same time, the head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, which is in full communion with the Holy See, thanked ACN for the assistance that the charity has provided Ukraine for many years. He expressed special praise for the founder of ACN, Father Werenfried van Straaten, who died in 2003. Shevchuk described himself as “a fruit of the work and beneficence of Father Werenfried”; after the collapse of the Soviet Union he was able to study for his doctorate in Rome with a scholarship from ACN, subsequently to return to his homeland as the first Doctor of Theology where he rebuilt the seminary of Lviv, also with the aid of ACN.

Editor’s Notes

Directly under the Holy See, **Aid to the Church in Need** supports the faithful wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need. ACN is a Catholic charity – helping to bring Christ to the world through prayer, information and action.

The charity undertakes thousands of projects every year including providing transport for clergy and lay Church workers, construction of church buildings, funding for priests and nuns and help to train seminarians. Since the initiative’s launch in 1979, Aid to the Church in Need’s Child’s Bible – God Speaks to his Children has been translated into 162 languages and 48 million copies have been distributed all over the world.

While ACN gives full permission for the media to freely make use of the charity’s press releases, please acknowledge ACN as the source of stories when using the material.

For more information or to make a donation to help the work of Aid to the Church in Need, please contact the Australian office of ACN on (02) 9679-1929. e-mail: info@aidtochurch.org or write to Aid to the Church in Need PO Box 6245 Blacktown DC NSW 2148.

On Line donations can be made at www.aidtochurch.org

Day.	Date.	Time.	Feast.	Special Feast Days - Julian Calender
Sun <i>Tone 3</i>	19th Feb, 2012	9:30 am	Holy Liturgy	35th Sun after Pentecost—Meatfare Sunday
Mon.	20th Feb, 2012	7pm	No Holy Liturgy	Parish Council meeting with the Bishop
Tues.	21st Feb, 2012	8:30am	Holy Liturgy	
Wed	22nd Feb, 2012	8.30am	Holy Liturgy	
Thurs.	23rd Feb, 2012	8:30am	Holy Liturgy	
Fri.	24th Feb, 2012	9am	Holy Liturgy	
Sat	25th Feb, 2012	7pm	Holy Liturgy	Holy Liturgy in English
Sun <i>Tone 4</i>	26th Feb, 2012	9:30 am	Holy Liturgy	Cheese fare Sunday



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all special occasions.

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Dianella Flowers and Baskets are supporters for our Ukrainian Church of St John the Baptist Perth.

A RESTORATION (Maintenance) fund has been organised for our Church renovations. This is separate to the yearly upkeep (podatok) fund. If you wish to donate, please see Mr Basil Czerwenczuk. The Church building is in need of repairs and so the Parish Council is asking for your support.

Total now \$5793.00

Gardening Roster for church grounds

Please put your name on the list to volunteer to help mow the lawns and do some gardening at the Parish.

If everyone helps then you may only need to do this one or two times a year. Please try to do the lawns at the beginning of each month or when it needs it. Please let Luba or Lynette know if you can help. Thank you for your assistance. Much appreciated

Gardening Roster:

Feb ? 31st

March—Stefan and Mark Petrowsky

Cleaning Roster:

Natalia Liakishev and Slavka Marouchtchak—Sat 11th Feb—thank you

Dear Members, Parents & Friends
Hartius!

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ukrainian Youth Association “Krutyy” in WA (Inc), to be held in the Ukrainian Catholic Parish Hall on the 11th March 2012, 20 Ferguson St Maylands at 11.30am.



Please ensure your membership has been paid prior to the commencement of the AGM. Payment can be made in person to Irka Konderewicz, or online (contact v4valega@gmail.com).

Честь України! Готов Боронити!

John Karpewycz President
Peter Valega Secretary

Donations—

Church donation—Paraszczyn family \$300.00
upkeep fund. Ostaszewskij family \$20.00
Kolada and Marouchtchak family \$110.00
upkeep fund.

Many thanks for your kind donations.
May you receive God's blessings

Important dates

Bishop Peter Stasiuk, Fr O Kenez and Fr Stepan Sapun are visiting Perth from 16th-23rd Feb

Great Lent starts 27th Feb (fasting day)
And fasting days on Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent

Good Fri—13th April, (fasting day)
Palm Sun/ Easter fete—8th April
Easter (Julian) 15th April

A course on how to be Altar Servers—boys and Girls will be starting soon. Children who are interesting in learning—please see Fr Wolodymyr.

If you wish your house to be blessed, please ring Fr Wolodymyr and make an Appointment.

Church calendars are still available—