



Tea Tree Gully Parish - St David's Catholic Church

Incorporating - Our Lady of Hope Chapel - Greenwith

Under the care of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

email: secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au

8264 4694



23rd January, 2022

3rd Sunday Ordinary Time - Year C

Readings next weekend 4th SOT Yr C: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19, 1 Cor 12:31 - 13:13, Lk 4:21-30

THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY - WRITING ABOUT IT OR WRITING IT

In the world of the arts, they make a distinction between persons who create an artifact, an artist, a sculptor, or a novelist, and persons who write about artists and their works. We have novelists and literary critics, artists and art critics, and both are important. Critics keep art and literature from bad form, sentimentality, vulgarity, and kitsch; but it's the artists and novelists who produce the substance; without them critical assessment has no function.

For example, the book *The Diary of Anne Frank* is a masterpiece. Countless books and articles have been written about it, but these are not the masterpiece, the substance, the artifact that so deeply touched the soul of millions. They are commentaries about the artifact. Of course, sometimes a person can be both, a novelist and a literary critic, an artist, and an art critic, still the distinction holds. These are separate crafts and separate disciplines.

That same distinction holds true within the area of theology and spirituality, though it is often not recognized. Some people write theology and others write about theology, just as some people write spirituality and others write about spirituality. Right now, I'm writing about theology and spirituality rather than actually doing theology or spirituality.

Perhaps an example can help. Henri Nouwen was one of the most popular spiritual writers in the past seventy years. Nouwen wrote spirituality; he never wrote about it, he wrote it. He was not a critic; he wrote spiritual texts. Many people, including myself, have written about Nouwen, about his life, his works, and why he influenced so many people. Strictly speaking, that's writing about spirituality as opposed to writing spirituality as Nouwen did. Truth be told, we don't have an abundance of spiritual writers today the caliber of Nouwen. What we do have, particularly at an academic level, is an abundance of critical writings about spirituality.

I offered the example of a contemporary spirituality writer, Henri Nouwen, but the distinction is perhaps even clearer when we look at classical spiritual writers. We have in fact created a certain "canon" of spirituality writers whom we deem as classics: the Desert Fathers and Mothers, the Pseudo-Dionysius, Julian of Norwich, Nicholas of Cusa, Francis of Assisi, Dominic, Ignatius, John of the Cross, Theresa of Avila, Francis de Sales, Vincent de Paul, and Therese of Lisieux, among others. None of these wrote works of criticism in se, they wrote spirituality. Countless books have been written about each of them, critically assessing their works. As valuable as these books are, they are in the end not spirituality books, but books about spirituality.

The same is true for theology. We have infinitely more books written about theology than we have books that are actual theology. The word "theology" comes from two Greek words, Theos (God) and logos (word). Hence, in essence, theology is "words about God". Most theology books and courses on theology contain some "words about God", but these are generally dwarfed by "words about words about God."

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This is not a criticism, but a clarification. I have taught and written in the area of theology and spirituality for nearly fifty years and am blissfully unaware of this distinction most of the time, mainly because we need both and the two simply flow in and out of each other. However, there is a point where it becomes important not to confuse or conflate the critical assessment of an artifact with the artifact itself, and in our case to recognize that writing about theology and spirituality is not the same thing as actually doing theology and doing spirituality. Why? Why highlight this distinction?

Because we need the artist and the critic to speak to different places inside of us and we need to recognize (explicitly at times) where we need to be fed or guided. The artist speaks to the soul with one kind of intent, namely, to inspire, to inflame, to deepen, to bring new insight, and to move us affectively. The critic speaks with a different intent: to guide, to keep us balanced, sane, robust, clear-headed, and within the bounds of decency, community, proper aesthetics, and orthodoxy. Both are important. One saves the other from unbridled sentimentality and the other saves the other from simply being an empty exercise. In a vast over-simplification, we might put it this way. Critics define the rules of the game and hold the players to the rule; but art, theology, and spirituality are the game. Games need to be refereed or they quickly degenerate.

In our churches today there is often a tension between those who are trying to create new insight, generate new enthusiasm, and speak more affectively to the soul, and those who are guarding the castles of academia, orthodoxy, liturgy, and good taste. Academic theology is often in tension with devotional life, liturgists are often in tension with pastors, and popular spiritual writers are often in tension with critics. One or the other may irritate us, but each is ultimately a friend.

Fr Ron Rohleiser OMI



Vinnie's TTG Conference.

People's Choice Community Lottery as a fund raiser. Main Draw ticket sales close 24th February, 2022 and prizes drawn 3rd March 2022. All tickets go into the main draw. With the spread of ticket sales this means that you can buy a few tickets each week or fortnight or whatever suits your budget.

To purchase tickets online:

Go to **'People's Choice Community Lottery'**

Click **'Prizes'** to view the complete prize lists—click on **'Buy Tickets'** Scroll down and click on **'Church'**

Click on **'St Vincent de Paul—Tea Tree Gully Conference'**

Purchase your tickets.

"Vinnies wish parishioners of St David's and Our Lady of Hope, a happy and healthy New Year for 2022. We were very busy arranging hampers and packing toys up at Gleeson College for delivery to Tea Tree Gully companions a few days before Christmas Day. We are very grateful for the help and donations provided by parishioners.

The Tea Tree Gully conference stopped food deliveries over the Christmas period from 10th December, 2021 and will begin again on 8th February, 2022. However, a number of Tea Tree Gully conference members were able to assist over this period by telephoning people in urgent need of food across Adelaide to access Foodbank in their location. The Federal government provided emergency relief funding (ERF) to Vinnies over the Christmas period to enable people needing food to access Foodbank. Where people were suffering from COVID-19, Foodbank hampers were delivered to their doorstep.

Again, thank you for your help during 2021, and we look forward to assisting our companions during 2022."

Ruth Davey, President TTG Conference – contact via parish office

DIARY DATES - note: all meetings are held in St David's Church Foyer

Finance Meeting: Tuesday 25 January at 7pm in foyer.

Australia Day Mass: Wed 26 January at 9.15am

Liturgy Meeting: Monday 31st January at 7pm in foyer.

St Vincent de Paul Meeting: Wednesday 2nd February at 7pm in foyer.

PPC Meeting: Thursday 3rd Feb at 7.30pm in foyer.

R.E. Classes for State School Children: Commence Thursday 10th Feb in Gerard Room at 3.45pm

Welcome Ministry: Volunteers needed

The Parish Pastoral Council has approved the establishment of a new welcome ministry. Volunteers are needed to welcome the community, greet new parishioners/visitors, and provide them with information about parish activities before/after weekend masses. If you are able to assist in this ministry on a regular/occasional basis, please contact Margaret Atkinson (phone: 0425028203, email: ceili1@iprimus.com.au) or Wasim Saman (phone: 0478402191, email: wasim.saman@unisa.edu.au). OLOH have enough volunteers but St David's needs to have people come forward. These people DO NOT replace COVID Marshals.

Trestle Tables for Sale.

At OLOH there are quite a few very good quality trestle tables that are for sale. Extremely good condition will sell for \$35. Any damaged tables will sell for a donation. If you wish to purchase or look at these tables to decide if you would like one, please contact Wasyl 0421 697 422

**Car Parking on Slip road in front of St David's Church
– at weekday and weekend Masses.**



Both sides of this road are for Disabled Parking Only at all Masses.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION

In the event of an emergency please follow directions of the Parish Priest, reader or commentator who shall act as the Chief Warden and take control of the emergency response. The collectors shall assist as wardens.

When directed to evacuate the church/office/hall:

- Move quickly and orderly to the nearest safe exit, do not run;
- If required, provide assistance to disabled persons and the elderly;
- Alert the Chief Warden / Warden if someone is unable or unwilling to evacuate
- Proceed to the designated assembly area on lawn at front of St David's Church, and School Car Park at OLOH, and await further instructions from the Chief Warden or emergency services;
- Do not re-enter any buildings until advised by the Chief Warden or emergency services

TEA TREE GULLY PARISH

Parish Office Phone: 8264 4694 Email: secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au Web Page: <https://www.stdavidsttg.org.au>

Church Office & Presbytery: 2-4 Vizard Rd, Tea Tree Gully 5091 facebook.com/ttgparish
Our Lady of Hope Chapel: Cnr Golden Way & Golden Grove Rd, Greenwith. Contact via St David's Parish Office

STAFF

Priest: Fr James Jeyachandran OMI - PP (jamesjeya.omi@gmail.com)

Office Manager/Secretary & COVID Marshal - Denise Crawford - secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au

Church Sacristan & COVID Marshal - David Reynolds - contact via Parish Office

Child Safe Contacts: St David's Church - Amanda Bartels - contact 0414255458 or Parish Office
OLOH - Leah Tunks & COVID Marshal- contact 0431049947 or Parish Office

MASS TIMES

St David's Church	Weekday Mass times:	Monday - Saturday 9.15am	Rosary - 8.50am daily
	Weekend Mass times:	Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm	Sunday 7.00am & 10.30am
Our Lady of Hope Chapel:		Sunday 9.00am	

Reconciliation: Saturday morning after Morning Mass and Saturday evening from 5pm - 5.20pm.

Exposition: first Saturday of the month after morning Mass

Baptism: 12 noon Sundays at St David's Church - By appointment only - contact Parish Office

Marriages: by Appointment only - contact Parish Office 6 months prior to date.



We are a 'Child Safe'
Organisation

Mass Intentions for week commencing 22 January

Saturday 22: 9.15 am - Francis, Michael & family members -RIP

5.30pm - Angela Curley -RIP

Sunday 23: 7.00am - Janina Pawliszewski -RIP

9.00am - Holy Souls

10.30am - Holy Souls

Monday 24: 9.15am - Michael & family members -RIP

Tuesday 25: 9.15am - Stefan Pawliszewski -RIP

Wednesday 26: 9.15am - AUSTRALIA DAY

Thursday 27: 9.15am - Holy Souls

Friday 28: 9.15am - Holy Souls

Website News www.stdavidsttg.org.au

Mass now live-streamed

The Sunday 10:30am Mass at St. David's is now **live-streamed** on our own **YouTube Channel**.

If you are unable to attend Mass you can participate from home (or wherever you may be). All Masses are kept on our channel, so you can watch previous weeks too if you wish.

To access the stream, go to our website and then click on the YouTube menu option.

NOTE : The area covered by the stream is the whole Sanctuary and the first 5 rows centre of church.

Send suggestions for improvement to web page

timknight1952@bigpond.com

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

Malcolm & Trish Read, John King, Ros Rimmer, Rosemary Pennifold, Rowan Williams, John Williams, Brian Taylor, Eva Pawliszewski, Emma Richards, Mary Howie, Ron Foenander, Tony Callus, Emily Budd, Pauline Read, Pauline DiBrenni

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES

Mona Cotton, Walter Malloon, Fr Bernie O'Brien OMI, Andrew Goorty, Alexander McDonald, Maureen Konopka, Giuseppe Pellizzari, Susy Murray, Mary Ayres, Anton Smit, John Connors, James McGrail, Joan Puccetti, Margaret Green, Eleen Dunkley, Robert Rawlings, Phyllis McDonald, Dorothy Rich, Christopher Krol, Rhonda McHugh, Angela Curley, Norah Dockray, Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Sean O'Connor, Frank Riley, Margaret Moss, Rae Challen, Winifred Serella, William & Elizabeth Johnson Isabelle Smith, Jane Guinan

Cleaners Roster: 1-3 February - Group 2

please come to the Parish Office to collect keys before you commence.

Linen for February - Vonnie Moffat

Counting Roster: Next Weekend -30/1 - Group 3



Recycling Bin at side of church, Vizard Rd side.

Please place your bottles, cans, fruit box, and any tetra packs under one litre, into this bin. Proceeds help the needy of the

parish.

Thank you to all who used this bin during the holidays. Your donations we put to good use for the needy.