

# St Therese's Parish Essendon

28 and 29 August 2021

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B



**First Reading** Dt 4:1-2. 6-8 A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.*

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

**Gospel** Mk 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*You forget the commandments of God and hold on to human tradition.*

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

## **REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA**

The overarching theme of the readings for this Sunday is 'words spoken in truth'. On one level, the laws are the words of the covenant. They are part of the contract that was drawn up between God and the people. They are words of truth, because they are the reliable revelation of God and because they genuinely reflect righteous living. The biblical covenant laws are truly humane. Obedience to the words of the covenant leads to life and blessings, while disobedience results in the opposite.

Our religious customs always carry some profound religious meaning, but we may not know or care what it is – and yet we perform them. Do people know or care why we stand or sit or kneel during liturgy? Do people have a 'church' wedding because it is a religious event, or because 'that's the way we have always done it'? Religious practices do not always flow from a deep religious conviction. But once we realise our need for God, these practices become genuine expressions of religious sentiment.

When the word of God has taken root in us, everything becomes a religious practice. This word can come to us through the teachings of our faith, through the example of good people around us, through the wonder and mystery of creation. When it does take hold of us, our inner eye is opened, our hearts are softened, and we turn instinctively to God like a flower turns to the sun. When we are brought to birth in this way, covenant law becomes sacred, religious practices are cherished, and we are filled with the power that saves.



God loves us very much. We will now ask God to hear our prayers for those who need help, and to make us ready to help them in any way we can.

For the Pope: that he may be a faithful servant to lead us in giving ourselves to the Father. **Lord hear us.**

For all who hold authority: that they may act in love and for the common good of all people. **Lord hear us**

**We pray** for those whose marriages and family life are beset with problems and sorrow: may they know the love of Christ for them. **Lord hear us.**

**For those** suffering from long Covid: may effective treatment and rehabilitation be found sooner rather than later. **Lord hear us.**

**We pray** for the establishment of peaceful government in Afghanistan that leads to the prosperity of its men, women, and children. We pray for peace, comfort, and hope to restore the spirits of those caught up in the terror-driven chaos. For those who are fearful for their future, may they find hope, mercy, justice, and healing. **Lord, hear us.**

**We pray** for the people of Haiti, that they will experience an outpouring of relief efforts during this time of devastation and that nations around the world will respond with great generosity to the plight of the Haitian people at this time of enormous need, Lord hear us.

**We pray** for those who are ill. Callum O'Dwyer **Lord, hear us.**

**We pray** for our own special needs. **Lord, hear us.**

**We pray** for those who have died recently: Eileen Peterson, Margot Mulgrew,

And for those whom we remember at this time, especially: Sr Margaret Dwyer, Domenico Germano, Isabella Campo, Leigh Wallmeyer, Gerard Rebeiro, Lou Frilay, Christopher Lane, Annie O'Sullivan, Peter Dent, Boyd Keogh,

**Lord, hear us.**

God of justice and mercy, hear our prayers and help us so that our words will be matched by our loving deeds.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

**AMEN**



### A PRAYER FROM THE MAJELLAN MEDIA FAMILY

*"Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief" (Psalm 31:9). My heart is broken, my mind exhausted. I cry out to you and hardly know what to ask. All I can do is tell you how I feel and ask you to "keep track of all my sorrows ... collect all my tears in your bottle ... and record each one in your book" as I pour them out to you (Psalm 56:8). Amen.*

### RESOURCES FOR COPING WITH OUR LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

[10 Tips To Manage Lockdown Fatigue](#)

[Parenting In A Pandemic: Even Super Mums Do It Tough](#)

[Surviving Family Life In Lockdown – Focus Session With Derek Boylen](#)



**NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 5-11 SEPTEMBER 2021** To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy. The 2021 theme for National Child Protection Week is all about the importance of the 'bigger picture' in addressing child abuse and neglect. Children can thrive and be healthy when they have what they need to develop well. But not every family has these resources. This is why we need to support every child, family and community according to their needs. This will create a healthier, fairer Australia for all children. A lot of great research is helping us understand more and more about what children need to thrive. Child Protection Week 2021 will be an opportunity to translate this knowledge into action. All skillsets, all people, and all communities are assets in this important

endeavour. Let's make sure our neighbourhoods have strong foundations for families and children – jobs, safe places, libraries, parks, playgrounds, schools, child care, affordable housing, health services, social activities, clubs, friendly neighbours, businesses and more. Napcan are running a series of Webinars during NCPW visit their website <https://www.napcan.org.au/ncpw-webinars-2021/> for more information.



## OUR ANNUAL APPEAL FOR OUR REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER GROUP

These are difficult and painful times for many refugee families; some with small children whom we support in the community are still waiting in hope as they seek protection and the chance to find safety and security in this country. With your support our parish volunteers assist these refugee and asylum seeker families both pastorally and materially throughout the year. Donations can be made direct to the parish via EFT or by sending us a cheque with reference to RAASG on the back of the cheque. If you wish to donate via your credit card call the office on 9401 6330. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**EFT Donation details** Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, Account number: 67640 1701 using **ref RAASG-with your surname**.

## VICTORIA'S BISHOPS EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH AFGHAN COMMUNITY



People outside Kabul airport react to gunfire (CNS/Asvaka News via Reuters)

The bishops of Victoria have expressed their solidarity and support with the local Afghan community and their families back home in a joint statement released yesterday. Source: Melbourne Catholic.

Victoria is home to the largest number of Afghan-born people in Australia, and the bishops affirmed that "Afghans hold an important place in the hearts of Victorians, especially at this difficult time".

"We know there is deep concern from the Afghan community in Victoria for their family members and friends who remain in Afghanistan. We join with them in this concern," the bishops wrote.

"While we recognise the limitations of the role that Australia can play in the context of this international crisis, and the complexity of the situation, we affirm that a just and compassionate response should guide our Government's decision making. "Our country's involvement in the conflict should urge a just and compassionate response to the current situation now, and our policies should be person-focused, and adapt to the fundamentally changed situation. "Families being able to be together safely should be a priority at this time." Catholic organisations, hospitals, parishes, schools and communities across Victoria continue to support those in the Afghan community through this difficult time.

To [read the Bishops' Statement on Afghanistan click here](#)

Source: cathnews.com



## A CALL TO ACTION FOR AFGHANISTAN *From CAPSA*

Dear Friends,

It is clear that the Afghan people, especially ethnic and religious minorities as well as women and children are in great danger in their own country. In addition, there are more than 5,100 Afghans living in Australia, many with families in Afghanistan, and many without any certainty about their future in Australia.

While the Federal Government has undertaken to allocate at least 3,000 places for Afghans within the current humanitarian intake, the need is dire and immediate, and a special additional intake is required. We therefore wish to raise our voices as members of the Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) to urge the Federal Government to:

- provide a special allocation of at least 20,000 additional humanitarian places for people fleeing Afghanistan,
- guarantee permanent visas to those living here under temporary visas, and
- enable family reunions for Afghan people living in Australia.

We encourage you to be part of the voice of CAPSA, through one or both of the following ways:

1. Send a letter to your local Member of Parliament directly through the CAPSA website at [capsa.org.au/afghanistan](http://capsa.org.au/afghanistan). On this website you will find a form letter which you can easily edit or send as it is. By entering your postcode, you will be able to send it to your local MP.
2. At [www.actionforafghanistan.com.au](http://www.actionforafghanistan.com.au) you will be able to sign a petition along with thousands of other Australians.

We remain in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan who need our compassion and kindness now.

**Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA)**



## HUMANITARIAN CRISES UNFOLDING IN AFGHANISTAN, HAITI AND LEBANON

As the situations in Afghanistan and Lebanon deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises. In Afghanistan, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection. A tropical storm that hit Haiti three days after a 7.2 magnitude earthquake has complicated efforts to provide help to the Caribbean nation. In Lebanon, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights. Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world. **Donations:** visit [Caritas Haiti Appeal](#) or [Caritas Lebanon Appeal](#) or [Caritas Afghanistan Appeal](#) or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.



**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE 2021** This year we begin the task of collecting new names for our perpetual Book of Remembrance earlier than usual and open up the online submission page this weekend. We remain hopeful that we will be back at Masses long before 1 November when the Book will be published online and will also be placed in our church. To submit new names to the book, please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/gavGgXY4CtXPXcJ87> which will be active until 5pm on Friday 22 October. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you have submitted names in previous years there is no need to do it again as all names remain in the Book of Remembrance.



**PLANNING FOR OUR PARISH 100TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2022**

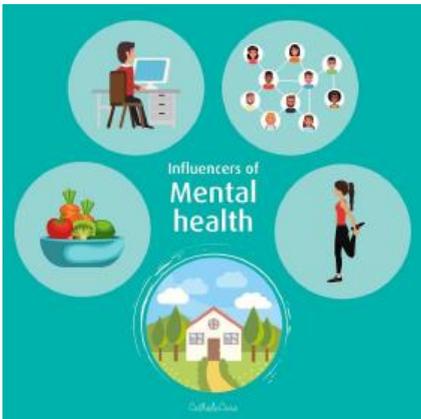
*A Message from our Parish Leadership Team*

Next year, in 2022, we celebrate the Centenary of our parish. Fr John and the Parish Leadership Team have commenced planning for the Centenary, recognising the significant time and effort put into the 90th anniversary celebrations in 2012, when Fr Bill wanted to capture the history and stories from many of the elderly parishioners at the time.

Amongst the highlights of the 2012 celebrations was the publication of the Commemorative Book, entitled 'With Confidence and Love', capturing the history, mood and spirit of the parish over the 90 years to 2012. As we approach 2022, especially given the impact of COVID19 over the last 18 months, we (as a leadership team) find ourselves challenged to identify appropriate opportunities to celebrate this significant milestone! To answer the question, 'how do we as parishioners want to mark and celebrate this special occasion?'

We think 2022 should be celebrated appropriately within the Parish, whatever we decide together, to recognise what we have and what it means! So, we ask you to please consider joining the Centenary Planning Team, and / or submitting any ideas you have regarding the Centenary.

If you are interested, you can contact the Parish Office, or the Parish Leadership Team, to register your interest by either telephone or email. Contact details are in the Parish Bulletin or Parish Website. Anyone is welcome, young or old, and we are sure you will find it a very rewarding experience.



**LOCKDOWN AND OUR MENTAL HEALTH**

Our mental health is influenced by things we do and experience in our day to day life. This includes our environment.

Being in lockdown again for an extended period means an awful lot of time spent at home, so take the time to make sure your home is the best it can be for your mental wellbeing.

Eat well, exercise, stay in touch with friends and family.

It's normal to have ups and downs, and it is important to talk about how you're feeling with family and friends who are likely experiencing similar feelings.

If you want to talk to someone else, there are lots of great support services available:

**Head to Health:** [click here for Head to Health](#)

**Lifeline:** [click here for Lifeline's COVID-19 Support](#) or phone 1300 651 251

**Beyond Blue:** [click here for Beyond Blue](#) or phone 1300 22 4636

**Kids Helpline:** [click here for Kids Helpline](#) or phone 1800 551 800

**Catholic Care:** Stay connected [www.ccam.org.au](http://www.ccam.org.au) Tel: 9287 5555

**PARISH OFFICE OPEN VIRTUALLY** The office remains contactable each weekday from 9am until 3pm via phone and email. The parish office will not be staffed as we follow the government directive to work from home. For those who need to visit speak with Fr John, appointments can be made over the phone or via email. We can also book online meetings via Zoom.

**PARISH GIVING DURING COVID19** If you usually support the parish with envelopes at Masses and would like to continue your payments, you can deposit your PSP donations directly to the parish accounts. Note there are separate accounts for church and clergy.

**Contributions to the church account:**

Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, Account number: 67640 1701

**Contributions towards supporting the clergy:**

Account Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, A/C number: 67616 4988

**Any deposit should be referenced with your FIRST INITIAL and SURNAME so that we know that the money is a PSP payment attributed to you.**



## SENSE OF THE FAITHFUL NEWSLETTER NO 8

A group of parishes from Melbourne and beyond are sponsoring the Sense of the Faithful website to facilitate discussions between parishes in Australia on the key issues facing the Church, and articulate and promote via a consultative process a shared view across parishes, to the extent to which such a shared view exists. Sense of the Faithful invites all involved in the life of the Church, in their parish or in other ways, to join in a conversation to contribute to effective change.

We have added to the website [here](#) the details of each of the members of our Sense of the Faithful editorial committee.

Our main addition to the Sense of the Faithful website, as a conversation opener, is [Fifth Plenary Council of Australia: A Call for Agenda Development](#). The document aims to respond to the PC Agenda's call for 'concrete proposals to create a more missionary, Christ-centred Church in Australia'. Our team effort uses only two questions from the list of six questions for each topic listed in the official PC Agenda. Our purpose is to illustrate what we think is needed to help the PC achieve real results. We hope others will take up the task of developing 'concrete proposals' for these and the remaining questions.

We are asking the PC Secretariat to circulate our paper to the PC Members.

We would welcome your response via the website to the document in terms of the suggestions we have made. We would also like to hear of other proposals that you want to highlight for consideration by the Plenary Council.

Other additions to the website are:

On the resources webpage, under the 'Plenary Council 2020' heading, we would like to add two items: ['My hope for the Plenary Council'](#) By Bishop Vincent Long and [Professor Gabrielle McMullen's response](#) to Bishop Vincent's 2021 Helder Camara Lecture.

On the 'Cry of the Earth' webpage we added the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) [Social Justice Statement 2021-22: Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor](#).

On the 'Key Issues' webpage we have added a link to the Flashes of Insight conversation on synodality and how it relates to the Plenary Council, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxrwOnYBk8g>

On the webpage 'Role of Women', we have added an [article by PC Member, Dr Nimmi Candappa](#).

Finally, included in this newsletter is a link to a five-page extract from the 2020 book of Pope Francis: ['Lets Us Dream: the Path to a Better Future'](#) (Simon & Schuster, London). In this discussion of synodality, Francis outlines how he sees the process of agreement can emerge from opposing positions held by synod participants. We hope to explain further soon how this process could and should apply to how the Plenary Council is conducted.

### PARISH CONTACTS

**Parish Priest:** John Hannon [john.hannon@cam.org.au](mailto:john.hannon@cam.org.au)

**Baptism – Pastoral Outreach:** Leanne Torr [leanne.torr@cam.org.au](mailto:leanne.torr@cam.org.au)

**Business Manager:** Kathy Gilmour [kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au](mailto:kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au)

**Function Manager:** Jac Radcliffe [jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au](mailto:jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au)

**Bookkeeper:** Irene Fritsche [irene.fritsche@cam.org.au](mailto:irene.fritsche@cam.org.au)

**Parish Leadership Team:** [essendon.plt@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon.plt@cam.org.au)

**Child Safety Officer:** Olivia Metcalf [essendon.safeguarding@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon.safeguarding@cam.org.au)

**Office opening hours - Monday to Friday** 9:00am – 3:00pm

**Office Telephone:** 9401 6330 – after hours Fr John: 0490 956 610

**Office email:** [essendon@cam.org.au](mailto:essendon@cam.org.au) Website: [www.stthereses.org.au](http://www.stthereses.org.au)

**School email:** [info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stessendon.catholic.edu.au)

**St Vincent de Paul helpline:** 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10:00am–3:00pm

**Tiny T's Playgroup:** [stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com](mailto:stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com)

**Weekday Mass** 10.00am Tuesday Liturgy of the Word and Mass Wednesday to Friday 10.00am

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm Sunday 9.00am and 10.30am

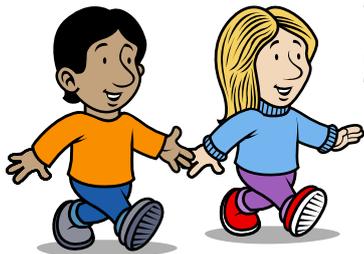
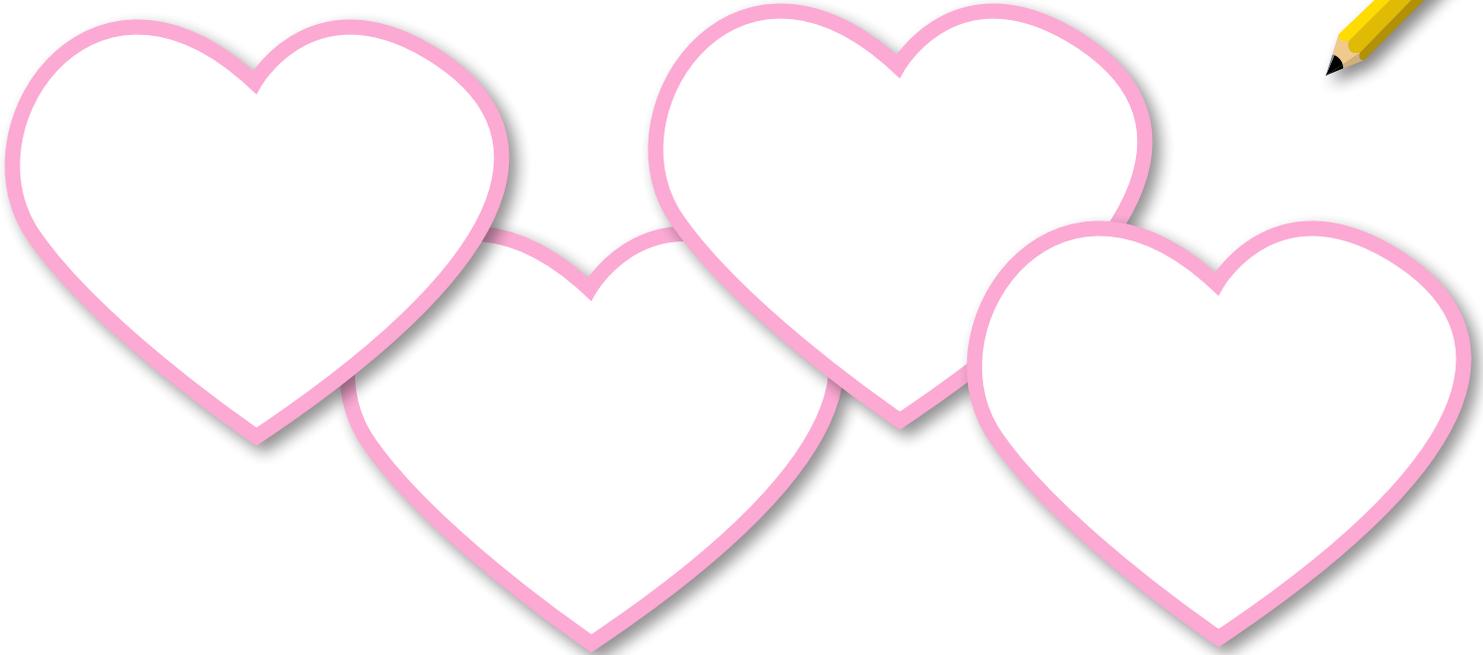
*St Therese's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country of the land on which our church stands and recognize their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and to Elders past, present and emerging.*

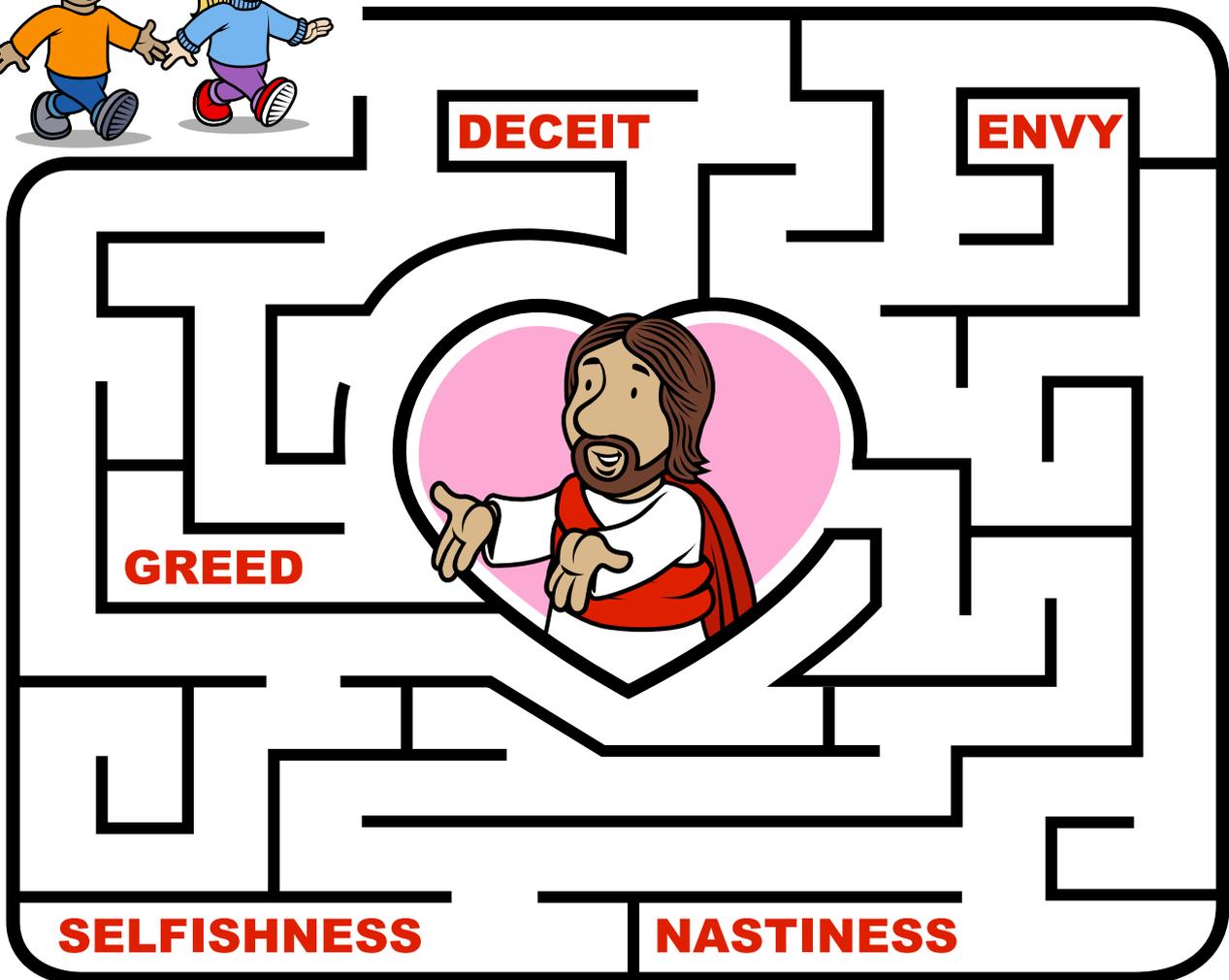
My name is

# Keep a clean heart

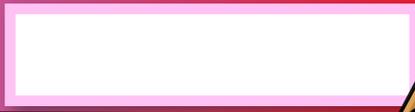
In each heart draw a picture of someone you know who has a good and clean heart.



The way to Jesus is by trying to be a good person and keep a clean heart. Help the children find their way past the obstacles to Jesus.

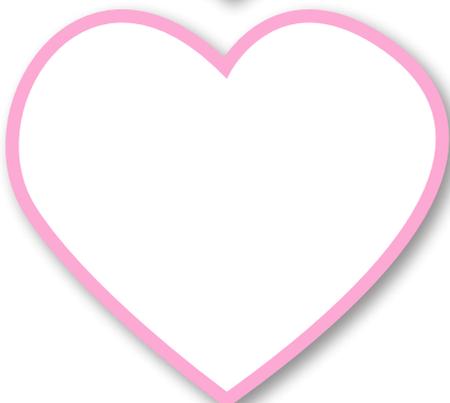
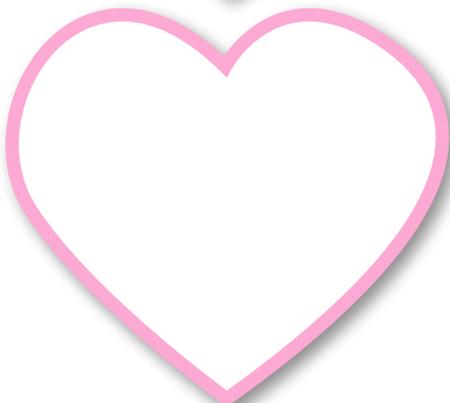
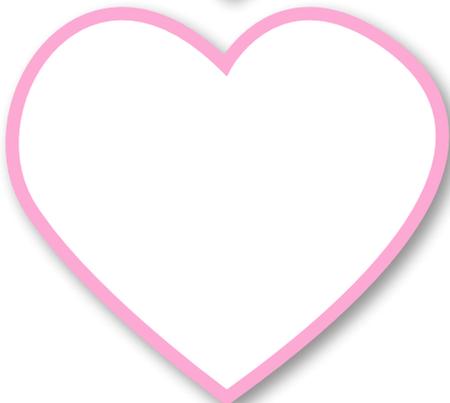
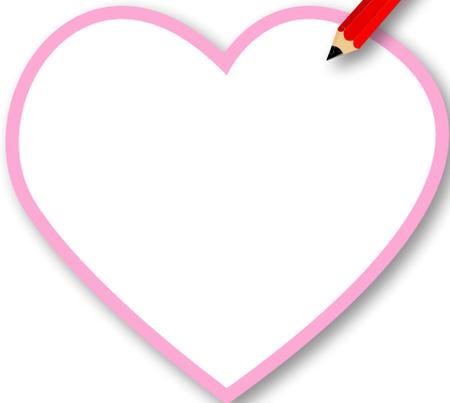


# Keep a clean heart so that you may worship God



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

In each heart draw a picture of someone you know who has a good and clean heart.



## Gospel Mk 7:1-5. 14-16. 21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

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