

Week 6 Term 3

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Parents as you are aware the Third Sunday of the month the children of St Joseph's are responsible for leading the parish community in worship (Liturgy) at 10-00am Mass. Yesterday (Third Sunday of August) not one child or family from St Joseph's was present in time for the celebration of The Eucharist to begin.

I addressed the children at assembly this morning and said that they and their families had brought the community to its lowest level ever in this regard. (This is the first time in my years as parish priest that this has happened) They have failed the parish community by their absence.

There are four more Children's Liturgy Sundays for the remainder of the year. I am asking your full attention in this matter and that you support your child when he/she take on a part in the Liturgy (if it be as a Reader, a part of the procession of the gifts of bread and wine, or altar server). I know one family who was not able to be at Mass in Culcairn because they had a cousin receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at North Albury and another family who did arrive at Mass but were not able to take part (except to assist with the overhead projector.) Also I know that there are children at St Joseph's who are not baptised Catholics and belong to other Faith Communities (Lutheran, HarvestLands etc). This is not specifically addressed to you as you have your own places of Worship, but your children are still most welcome to attend the Children's

Liturgy.

The Gospel of St Luke for yesterday had Our Lord Jesus Christ say "I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already" (Lk 12: 49-53) he went on to speak about the discord this would bring. In reality this is saying that when we are comfortable in our living we need to be aware of demands that will be made upon us.

Sometimes we can domesticate the Christian Community into a 'feel-good' society. Our religious words and actions, however, are always meant to have an edge; our faith should 'afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted'.

As a consequence of the St Joseph's community to cause so much disappointment to the Parish Community over yesterday's Liturgy and because there is no joy in what happened I feel that St Joseph's Community have to take ownership of this.

I have therefore issued instructions that all Book Week celebrations and activities be withdrawn.

And furthermore that any donations to the School towards new books be given to the poor and needy (eg St Mary Mackillop Missions in East Timor)

Again I ask for your full cooperation in this matter.

Fr Terence Mahedy (Parish Priest)