

## ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH – ST LUCIA

15<sup>th</sup> January 2023

### MASS TIMES:

Sunday	9 am, 6.00 pm
Monday	5.15pm
Friday	9.30am
Saturday	6.00 pm

For people who are able to help the Church by **contributions:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection BSB 064786 ACC 100007132

1<sup>st</sup> Collection BSB 064786 ACC 100007130

Musicians Fund BSB 064129 ACC 10509763

Reconciliation: Saturday 12-12.30pm in confessional Phone: 3371 5860

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:30am to 12:30 pm.

**Website:** [www.stluciacatholic.org.au](http://www.stluciacatholic.org.au) **Email:** [stlucia@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:stlucia@bne.catholic.net.au)

This first extract is from **Cardinal Pell's diary** the day he heard the Victorian court of appeal rejected his application:

O God come to my assistance.

O Lord make haste to help me.

I was astonished and badly upset. I could not believe judges could come to a decision upholding the jury after studying the evidence.

This court decision brings a number of consequences, first of which is three more years in jail, ...and then a life in disgrace. The Prime Minister has already announced that my Order of Australia should be removed.

This has close to destroyed my faith in justice in Victoria. The Australian Bishops Conference put out a bland statement accepting the decision, but the Roman statement was more helpful, recognizing my right to appeal.

Frank Rocca in Rome from the *Wall Street Journal* explained there was a lot of scepticism in Rome about the charges, and most thought I was not guilty.

The boss of the jail, Nick Selisky, came for a chat this afternoon and spoke about getting me out of solitary confinement. He was genuinely sympathetic about my appeal failure.

As with every suffering, even unwelcome and unexpected, all can be offered to the Lord for the good of the Church. This is a great consolation.

That a majority of judges found against me, as well as a jury, will increase the scandal and damage to the Church.

Today I pray simply, *Jesus mercy, Mary help.*

From the diary **the day after:**

My jail life is returning to its useful patterns. I have an intermittent banger next door, who has ceased for the moment, and at the other end of the unit two or three shouters swear at one another intermittently (It is 10.15pm).

Terry Tobin said yesterday that only Judges can be as silly as the majority Judges. More than fifty years ago, I remember Bertrand Russell, the atheist British philosopher, saying something like: you have to be very clever sometimes to be very silly.

From the diary **after the success of the High Court appeal:**

I had no surge of elation, but I punched the air a couple of times in relief and then prayed the *Te Deum*, the traditional prayer of thanks. Then a rosary in gratitude, as I did not want to be like the nine lepers.

Shakespeare's *Othello* provides a fitting conclusion to my day of liberation:

'Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing,

'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands,

But he that filches from me my good name

Robbs me of that which not enriches him, / And makes me poor indeed'.

*Refrain: Come to the water*, you who are thirsty, though you have nothing, I bid you come  
And be filled with the goodness I have to offer. Come! Listen! Live!

Why spend your money on what cannot fill the emptiness deep in your heart?  
Listen to my word and you will enjoy goodness and peace in your heart! *Refrain*

Just as the heavens are high above earth, my ways and thoughts beyond you!  
Call me your Father and know I am near! I will be Father to you! *Refrain*

**Open my eyes**, Lord. Help me to see your face. Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.  
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice. Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.  
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you. Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.  
I live within you, Deep in your heart, O Love. I live within you. Rest now in me.

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!** His the scepter, his the throne.  
Alleluia! His the triumph, his the victory alone;  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Sion thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of ev'ry nation hath redeem'd us by his blood.

Alleluia! King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own.  
Alleluia! Born of Mary, earth thy footstool, heav'n thy throne:  
Thou within the veil has entered robed in flesh our great High Priest;  
Thou on earth both priest and victim in the Eucharistic feast.