

SACRED HEART/ EMMAUS PARISH

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PARISH UPDATE 67

Hello everyone!

For us who haven't gone away over the school holiday break, there has been a much slower pace around this week, and some delightful sunshine through the days after some rather chilly mornings. For those who have gone away beyond Victoria, what a headache the virus has given you! Go-stay-postpone-quarantine-return- agghhhh!

A great holiday distraction at this time each year, if you're interested in sport, are two of the great international events: the Tour de France bike race, and the Wimbledon tennis from England. Somehow those two seem to capture great attention, Wimbledon more than two of the other (French and U.S.) tennis 'Opens'. I find the bike race intriguing - why am I interested in it when I know so little about the people, the strategies, ...? And what about the ways at AFL headquarters they're trying to find a way to keep the season ticking over through the maze of interstate travel and lockdowns that the virus has caused!!

Perhaps our interest in sport – even if you're not passionately involved – is that it has been read as 'a parable of life'. I've kept in my file the attachment with this letter titled 'Honour in pedalling for all you're worth' by Tony Wright, a regular writer with The Age newspaper. He's not firstly a sports writer. Nevertheless he sees so many insights and learning points in the bike race, the Tour de France. Have a look at the attachment. In it he notices, amongst other things, the 'domestiques':

If we are to survive with any measure of contentment, rely on domestiques every day. They are no mere servants: they are the members of our families, our friends and the occasional stranger who might offer a little assistance or a cheering word.

Without them, the finishing line is always very far away and every climb is tougher than it need be. Left without a team, we founder, whether we be a political leader or an everyday citizen trying to get by.

Each of us, in the end, is - or ought to be - a domestique, for it is they who make the wheels go round, even if they win no obvious glory.

Locally, some 'domestic' work has been done during the past week. The gutters of Sacred Heart church and the Parish Office/Presbytery buildings have been cleaned – hopefully this will now handle any winter storms that may come along. And we had an arborist in to check on the health of those large trees around Sacred Heart church.

We had two funerals, and are preparing for another funeral next week. Our participation limit is 100 – I think back to the distressing time a year ago when just ten people were allowed at a funeral!

Today's family chose this as the First Reading for the funeral Mass:

They will see the Lord face to face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. It will never be night again, and they will not need lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will be shining on them. They will reign for ever and ever. *(Book of Revelation 22:4-5)*

What great hope the Word of God gives to us. In the meanwhile, how about this as some sound advice from the world of sport: "Champions keep playing until they get it right" *(Billie Jean King)*. Good advice for the journey of life that we're on!

Best wishes and blessings. If you're in a situation where you can take it a bit more easily for another week, take the opportunity.

Maurie Cooney
(Parish Priest)