



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

24th September, 2023

Administrator Fr Denis Stanley
101 Riddell Rd, Sunbury Vic 3429
Ph: 9744 1060

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CHILD PROTECTION - is everyone's responsibility

Check the Parish Website for:
Child Safety & Code of Conduct Policy
Parish Privacy Act / Professional Standards

A parent must accompany any child leaving the church during Mass.

Parish Email gisborne@cam.org.au
Parish Website <http://pol.org.au/gisborne/Home.aspx>
Secretary Hours Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm

CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for those who are in ill health:

*Eileen S, Corrine V, Megan B, Michael W, Glenys O,
Anthony S, Ryan F, Jessica C, Cheryl L, Stephania C,
Kylie I, George T, Bill P, Jacqueline D, Beau S, Fran S,
Terry R, Sharon B & Helen K.*

We pray for the recently deceased and for those who have an anniversary at this time, especially Audrey Shaughnessy and Joseph Briffa.

May they rest in peace ☩

Please email Tam if you would like an Anniversary included in the prayers.

ALPHA EXPERIENCE at St. BRIGID'S

We are excited to announce the Alpha Experience continuing in our parish where you can explore the deeper questions of life and meaning in a casual setting whilst getting to know new people.

**Alpha will recommence at St Brigid's on
Monday, October 2 from 7pm to 9pm
in the Presbytery.**

Limited seats available so register early.

For enquiries please call Madalin on 0412 301 618.

Please bring a plate to share prior to the meeting.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

This is a story of the day labourers of Jesus' time. The 'early birds' contracted for the just wage of one denarius and did the hard work over the course of a long day. They were outraged when latecomers also received a denarius.

This little parable circulated in the Christian community of the first century because there was great antagonism between the Jews who became followers of Jesus and the non-Jews, the 'Gentiles'. Jewish Christians looked at their long history of hardship preparing for the coming of the Messiah. And, now, here were these Gentiles who had done nothing by comparison, and God appeared to be granting them whatever it took to enjoy the 'daily bread' of the Kingdom of God.

Jewish Christians had to be shocked out of their idea that God's grace could not be lavished on those outside the boundaries of the Chosen People.

We could pause to pray to be taken by happy surprise by those billions of people outside the Church who, by the grace of God, will share with us 'the Bread of Life', given for the salvation of all the world.

mtate@bigpond.com

WEEKDAY MASS – TUESDAY'S 5pm

Fr. Denis will celebrate Mass on Tuesday afternoons.

ALL WELCOME

A NOTE FROM FR. DENIS

Dear Parishioners

For those that have not seen the covering letter I read out at Mass and had distributed via email to accompany the Vicar General's letter to the parish, regarding the upholding of the complaint against Fr. Vinoth and his subsequent resignation, a copy can be obtained by contacting the secretary, Tam, either by phone or email. The Parish Pastoral Council found this letter very helpful.

I again encourage you to contact me if there are any concerns you may still have or if you simply just want to share your feelings.

As noted last week, a specific prayer for the parish, at this time in its journey will be included in the prayers of the faithful each Sunday for the next two months.

I am also delighted to announce that St. Brigid's has secured the services of a new Parish Priest who will be taking on the role in late November.

Kind regards,

Fr. Denis Stanley



Rosters & Events



Ministers for next weekend's Masses

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

30th Sept & 1st October, 2023

6:00pm Mass **St. Brigid's**
Reader: L. Scott & M. McCormack
Offertory: to be chosen on the day.
Eucharist: N. Spiers

8:00am Mass **St. Ambrose's**
Welcomer: J. White
Reader: P. Lacy
Offertory: to be chosen on the day.
Eucharist: -----

Counters:
Not currently needed.

Flowers:
M. Clifford & W. Kays

9:30am Mass **St. Patrick's**
Reader: E. Kilgariff
Offertory: to be chosen on the day.
Eucharist: M. Cooper

11:00am Mass **St. Brigid's**
Reader: T. Armstrong
Offertory: to be chosen on the day.
Eucharist: V. Firman



THANKSGIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Thanksgiving Program, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

St. Brigid's Church Account
NAB

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6742 95773

Please use your surname and TG number as the reference.

PRIEST & PRESBYTERY BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Priest & Presbytery expenses, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

St. Brigid's Presbytery Account
NAB

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6672 72303

Please use your surname as the reference.

WEEKDAY SERVICES & RECONCILIATION

Weekday Mass

Tues 5:00pm – 5:30pm

St. Brigid's with Fr. Denis

Reconciliation

By appointment only

Please phone Sunbury Parish Office 9744 1060 to book a time.

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Thursday 10am – Presbytery

Enquiries: Bernie 0414 890 377

THE COMBINED CATHOLIC PARISHES RAFFLE - 2023

Please buy tickets in the raffle to support your parish and to have a chance of winning one (or more) of 7 great prizes, 1st prize being a new *Kia Picanto* car.

Tickets are \$2 each or (preferred) \$20 for a book of 10 and can be bought from parishioners at each of our masses.

St. Brigid's Sat 6pm – Tony Wilson

St. Ambrose Sun 8am – Carolyn Peterson

St. Patrick's Sun 9:30am - Jayne O'Callaghan St. Brigid's Sun 11am - Kathy Page

Funds raised by the raffle will go into the Church account to either go towards expenses or as directed by the parish priest.

NATIONAL DAY for MIGRANTS and REFUGEES – 24/09/23

The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR) since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern for different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for them as they face many challenges; and to increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers.

The WDMR is the last Sunday of September; in 2023 it will be celebrated on **24th of September**. As the title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen

"Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay".

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/migration/documents/20230511-world-migrants-day-2023.html>

COLUMBAN PARTNERSHIP FUNDRAISER OCTOBER 8

"Sounds of Freedom" – Reading Theatre Sunbury

Well, it's been 4 years since our last movie fundraiser, but we are up and running again. You may recall Fr Robert McCullough's recent visit to our Parish asking for our support of St Elizabeth's Hospital in Hyderabad, Pakistan. We are hoping with this fundraiser to contribute towards the cost of the theatre lights in the new orthopaedic ward.

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, 8th October**, for a screening of the movie **"Sound of Freedom"** at Reading Cinemas in Sunbury. As has been the case in the past, we will provide pre-show nibbles and accompanying wine/soft-drink/tea/coffee, all included in the **price of \$25**. We have booked the function room for a **2.00pm start with the movie to be screened at 3.00pm**.

If interested in purchasing a ticket/s, please contact Marcia (0400 261 979) or Bill (0497 991 226). Alternatively, tickets will be available for purchase after our Parish masses, over the coming weeks. Feel free to promote this event with your family/friends. Thanks for considering and hope you can join us.

KARATE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Thursday evenings 6pm - *1st TWO lessons free then \$7 per class*

No term commitment required; pay as you come.

Enquiries: Kathryn Aprile—0404 340 892

Weekly Social Cards Night

St. Brigid's Hall – Tuesday 7:30pm start - Entry \$10 per player

Light supper served on completion of play

EVERYONE WELCOME

St Brigid's Parish Weekly Thanksgiving Sunday – 17 September, 2023

Total Amount received \$ **685** (*envelopes*)

Total Amount received \$ **200** (*credit cards*)

Total Amount received \$ **60** (*direct debit*)

Presbytery Collection \$ **434** (*cash, c/c & d/d combined*)

Thank you for your ongoing support through the Thanksgiving Program.

May the Lord bless you all.

Introduction: In the Gospels a common pattern is to emphasise how deliberate was Jesus as he set his face towards Jerusalem. This was the time when he focused his energies on forming his disciples. This will be the emphasis of our next few weeks: the cost of discipleship.

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

We hear the prophet Isaiah with a challenging reflection to seek the Lord while he is near. God's ways are not our ways, but we are called to listen to him.

2nd Reading: Philippians 1: 20-24, 27

We begin a four week selection from St. Paul's letter to the Christian community at Philippi. Paul is now in prison in Rome, yet he is delighted that this does not stop his preaching the Gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 20: 2-16

We hear a parable which is deliberately designed to shock. The listeners find the developing story most unfair – in human terms. The punch line is that God is not unjust in being generous to everybody.

Prayers of Intercession: Heeding the word of God in today's Isaiah reading, we "seek the Lord while he may be found." We "call him while he is near." We trust that God is generous in mercy, attentive to the cries of the poor, the defender of justice on earth.

1. We pray, conscious that God is near at hand, to listen to our hopes and even our fears. With Jesus we say "Father, into your hands we commend our spirit".

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

2. We pray for a true sense of justice amongst our world leaders that they may treat all equally and not give way to the demands of big business.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

3. We pray for those who work with families, particularly the staff of CatholicCare. May they be guided and strengthened by the Holy Spirit in their work. May their efforts bring peace and happiness to the families who seek their assistance.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

4. We pray for those in our parish who are sick and in need of healing, especially *Eileen S, Corrine V, Megan B, Michael W, Glenys O, Anthony S, Ryan F, Jessica C, Cheryl L, Stephania C, Kylie I, George T, Bill P, Jacqueline D, Beau S, Fran S, Terry R, Sharon B & Helen K*. We pray for all those who have recently died. We pray also for those whose anniversary occurs at this time, especially Audrey Shaughnessy and Joseph Briffa.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

5. For the people of our parish and our life together: that the Saviour of the world may be present alongside us in times of sadness and pain, bringing hope even in the darkest night; may he inspire us to continue the work of reconciliation, filling us with compassion, that we may be channels of Christ's healing love for those who have hurt or been hurt.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer

Celebrant: O Lord God, listen to our prayers this day. We ask that your holiness reveal itself in responding to these petitions. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Next weeks readings: Ezekiel 18: 25-28; Philippians 2: 1-11; Matthew 21: 28-32

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ,
Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world; receive our prayer;
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, *(all bow)*
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried; "he descended into hell";
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen

The Living Word

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

24 September 2023

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) *The Lord is near to all who call him.*

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or
by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then
death would bring me something more; but then again, if
living in this body means doing work which is having good
results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught
in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ,
which would be very much the better, but for me to stay
alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.
Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be
unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

See Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a
landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his
vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one
denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at
about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the
market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too
and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about
the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went
out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he
went out and found more men standing round, and he said
to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?”
“Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to
them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the
owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers
and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and
ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the
eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius
each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but
they too received one denarius each. They took it, but
grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they
said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them
the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in
all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My
friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on
one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay
the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do
what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am
generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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