

## Reflection on the Gospel

### 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Matthew 11:25-30)

Veronica Lawson RSM

Today's gospel begins with Jesus' prayer of thanksgiving to God. The verb "to thank" in this instance has connotations of blessing. In this prayer of blessing or thanksgiving, Jesus contrasts those who consider themselves wise and intelligent with the truly wise ones, the "little ones" who know the daily struggle to survive, those to whom the secrets of God's empire have been revealed. The prosperity gospel that affirms the acquisition of wealth is far removed from the gospel preached by Jesus of Nazareth and proclaimed in Matthew's gospel. God's ways turn human expectations upside down.

The final verses of today's gospel are among the best known and best loved in all of the gospel tradition. "Come to me...and I will give you rest" is a lovely invitation. It is issued to those who are weary and burdened, and that includes most of us at some time or another. We might hear it spoken to all who are working tirelessly to address the effects of Covid-19. We might equally hear it as addressed to African Americans and First Peoples of Australia who are weary and burdened by waiting for justice. The "rest" that Jesus offers is God's rest. It is not just relief from drudgery and hard work. In the biblical tradition, rest is shabbat. It is freedom from any sort of enslavement. It is freedom to remember God's goodness in creation. Rest time or shabbat is about making a space to contemplate the wonder of the galaxies, the wonder of life in all its forms and all its potentialities. God's rest restores life to our wearied spirits. It frees us to open ourselves to ever new possibilities and to be there for others. Spending a little time each day with a poem or a beautiful painting can be an experience of entering into God's rest.

"Take my yoke upon you..." is Jesus' further invitation. Later in this gospel, the same verb will be used when Jesus tells his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them ... take up their cross and follow me." The "yoke" of Jesus, the cross that he will take up, and the cross that his disciples are invited to bear are all of a piece. A yoke is a cross-beam or cross-bar. Jesus will carry his cross-beam to execution. Disciples, in their turn, will carry their cross-beams, figuratively if not literally. They will not be weighed down or burdened by this prospect for the "yoke" of which Jesus speaks is easy and the burden is light. How can this be? The answer lies in the final invitation: "Learn of me, for I am gentle and humble of heart..." In Matthew, the gentle are said to be blessed. There is nothing weak about the gentle ("meek" is not a helpful translation). The non-violent methods of the gentle are infinitely more effective in restoring creation than the violence of so many who present themselves as "wise and intelligent". God's "rest" is the source of their power-and of ours.



# School NEWS

Congratulations to the students of Mother of God school, who received their confirmation last month.





## Treasuring our later Years

Wednesdays 10am-12:30pm

**Dates**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> August **Accomplishment**
- 9<sup>th</sup> August **Relationships**
- 16<sup>th</sup> August **Spirituality**
- 23<sup>rd</sup> August **Limitations**
- 30<sup>th</sup> August **Legacy**



*Treasure every moment of your precious Life.*



Some photos of parishioner Inoka's daughter Amora. Four months old and growing more adorable each day!





*Congratulations!*



*A big congratulations to Katie and David on getting married last month! The wedding ceremony was held at St. Theresa's church.*

*We wish you both love and happiness.*



*welcome  
baby girl*

Sharing a beautiful photo of Mother of God parishioner Roslyn, her husband Joe, and daughter Leanne with adorable Amelia Rose.

Little Amelia Rose came into the world on the 7<sup>th</sup> March. We hope Roslyn and Joe are enjoying many special cuddles with their Granddaughter!

Parish Priest: Fr Barry Hughes  
Presbytery: 17 Drummartin St., Albion 3020  
Phone: 9311 3091  
Fax: 9311 5406 Mob: 0428 533 391  
Email: caalbion@netspace.net.au  
Polish Chaplain: Fr Marian Szeptak  
Residence: 185 William St., St Albans 3021  
Phone: 9310 9057



*"Do Small Things Well"*

St. Theresa's Primary School - 93119070  
16 Drummartin St., Albion 3020  
Principal: Rob Macklin

Mother of God Primary School - 93631734  
Blanche St., Ardeer 3022  
Principal: Assunta Lacovino

**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Year A 8 & 9 July 2023**

**MASSES THIS WEEK**

**ST THERESA'S**

9.00am Friday  
10.30am Sunday

**MOTHER OF GOD**

10.00am Wednesday  
(Pol)  
9.00am Thursday  
6.00pm Friday (Pol)  
5.30pm Saturday  
10.15am Sunday  
(Polish)

**QUEEN OF HEAVEN**

8.00am Wednesday  
9.00am Sunday

**RECONCILIATION**

(Individual  
Confession)  
Sat 15<sup>th</sup> July 10.00am at  
St Theresa's

**PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm at St Theresa's School

**NEW THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES**

New sets of envelopes are available at each Church this weekend they are dated from next weekend. Please pick up your set

**COLLECTIONS RECEIVED**

Thanksgiving \$902 Loose Money \$326 Presbytery \$588  
Peter's Pence we raised \$476.45 for the Holy Father, thank you to those who gave.

**COUNTERS 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Team 1: D Catania, E Catania, C Xuereb

**FEAST DAYS**

St Benedict, 11 July  
St Bonaventure, 15 July

**READINGS**

Today

*Zechariah 9.9-10*  
*Ps 145.1-2,8-9,10-11,13cd-14*  
*Romans 8.9,11-13*  
*Matthew 11.25-30*

Next Week

*Isaiah 55.10-11*  
*Ps 65.9abcd,9e-10,11-12,13*  
*Romans 8.18-23*  
*Matthew 13.1-23*

**STELLA MARIS OPEN DAY 600 Little Collins St, Melbourne (Spencer St end)**

We are having an **Open Day on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July from 2.00pm** Find out how this Missionary work of the Catholic Church cares and assists seafarers who visit our shores. They are often the forgotten workforce we depend on, as shipping accounts for over 99% of Australia's total merchandise. **Visitors will be offered a bus tour to the Melbourne docks!**

**PARISH MOVIE MORNING** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July, time: 10.15am, premiering 'Red, White, & Brass' meet at Sunshine Village Cinema, Tickets \$9.

**NEXT PARISH LUNCH** Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, at Sunshine City Club, Talmage St, Albion  
**RSVP Ann-Maree by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July PH: 0401 192 079.**

**ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA 16 Esplanade, Williamstown**

*Treasuring our later Years* 5 days of reflections over the month of August, Wednesdays 10am-12.30pm Cost \$20 per session

***"Treasuring our later years is a focus on how old age enlightens – we come with a wealth of experiences to treasure and to share with others. We are also opened to new opportunities, to come alive in new ways. RSVP 2 days before on 9397 6012 for all sessions***