

The last part of today's parable seems a gross contradiction. It seems so unjust. Having gone out to the highways and byways to bring in all and sundry without exception, how can one justify tossing out someone because he does not have a "wedding garment"? Where was he expected to get it at such short notice? However, it is not enough just to be present at the banquet. One was expected to come properly dressed and not in dirty and untidy clothes. This would show a total lack of respect for one's fellow-guests.

While many, in fact all, are called to the banquet, they are expected to behave as wedding guests. In practical terms, while the Church opens wide its arms to the sinner, it expects that he make some effort to repent and be converted. It is not tolerable that he simply continue unabated in his sinful ways. That would not make any sense.

We have seen previously that, while Jesus went out of his way, to be friendly with the tax collector and the prostitute, it was not a blanket acceptance of their ways but a means of calling them to conversion and change. "Your faith has made you whole; do not sin again; come, follow me."

The parable ends on a slightly pessimistic (or is it a realistic?) note. "For many (that is, all) are called, but few are chosen. "That is, it is a sad fact that although everyone is being called to experience the love of God in their lives, relatively few will take the plunge and really try to taste that experience. The majority take what they regard as the safer path of looking for happiness in making money, building a career, indulging in sexual pleasures, rising in the social scale, surrounding themselves with material abundance... This is what people continue to do even though that path is strewn with disappointment and pain.

Today's readings tell us that God has wonderful things in store for us. Everyone, no matter what kind of past they have had, receives the same invitation to sit down at God's table. However, having initially answered the invitation, we cannot take things for granted. There is no room for complacency. Almost more dangerous than being an obviously sinful person is being the "ordinary, run-of-the-mill Catholic", the "Sunday" Catholic, the "I'm a good enough Catholic", the "I'm a Catholic but not a fanatic about my religion". These are all cop-outs. And it is not God but ourselves who are the losers. So let us pray that we may keep our wedding garments pure and spotless, that we become disciples who really hear and do the teaching of Jesus. Let us pray for a deeper faith and love and a better spirit of service and sense of responsibility to our community.

Sacred Space

O L I V E R I A N

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

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LIVE STREAMED AND TELEVISED MASS FROM ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

SUNDAY 11AM: Live Streamed and C31 Televised (Channel 44 on Digital TV)
6AM: Channel 10 - "Mass for You at Home"

MONDAY - FRIDAY 1PM : Live Streamed. (*Link below*)

SATURDAY 8.00AM: Live Streamed. (*Link below*)

<http://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> and
<https://www.youtube.com/user/archmelb>

Fr Michael is offering the Mass for all community members each week. If you have any special Mass offerings of personal intentions including anniversaries please don't hesitate to send an email or contact the Parish Office on 93543015.

STAGE 4 RESTRICTIONS

All places of worship including churches, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services are closed with the exception of **FUNERALS**.

Funerals are limited to 10 mourners plus the minimum number required to conduct the funeral.

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 10/11 OCTOBER 2020

Entrance Antiphon: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness O God of Israel.

Response to the Psalm: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call. Alleluia, alleluia.

Communion Antiphon: The rich suffer want and go hungry but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. When the Lord appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: Margherita Gentile, Francesco Petrelli, Ted Gauci

Anniversaries: Pasquale Petrelli

Those who are ill: John Cannon, Monica Wickerson, Joe Grech,
Pasquale Buonomo, Sofia Ruggiero,
Karen Hardy, Eileen Squires

Act of Spiritual Communion

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.
(St Alphonsus Liguori)

At St Oliver's parish we aim to create a child-friendly environment. Privacy: In 2001 the Commonwealth and Victorian governments introduced legislation that deals with the manner in which public and private sector organisations may record, store and disclose information, including health information collected from individuals. This Parish is committed to upholding and implementing the Privacy Principles set out in the legislation.

FAMILY LIFE CAN BUILD VALUES integral to a strong vocation – whether to priesthood, religious life or marriage. Teaching your children to value commitment, service and prayer will help them make strong vocation decisions as adults and live out those vocations with success and fulfilment.

PRAYER IS A MOVING FORCE in vocations development. Prayer is effective; prayer is powerful; prayer is essential. Few are called to priesthood or religious life, but all are called to pray for vocations.

A VOCATION MUST BE NURTURED for a lifetime, not just until ordination or the taking of vows. You can help nurture the vocations of priests, sisters and brothers by praying, listening, and expressing appreciation. A life of service needs support from those served.

VINNIES NILS

Small loans up to \$1,500 for low income families and individuals.

No fees. No charges. No interest.

For more information please click on link below
or contact Jo Boyd NILS Coordinator: 5229 8829.

Vinnies NILS www.vinniesnils.org.au

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr Michael. The link:
<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registant/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&teamID=116609>

We are very grateful for your support at this challenging time.

ANXIOUS ABOUT COVID OR TIME AHEAD? We know that many people have experienced and will continue experiencing anxiety as a result of Covid, but its normal to feel anxious about the end of Covid restrictions too.

Change, and the unknown, can be scary. But you are not alone, Speak to a friendly counsellor today to learn how you can ease anxiety and improve your mental health.

Contact - CatholicCare on 9287 5555 or visit ccam.org.au

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonization of St Mary McKillop we invite you to order your free copy of Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world. To order your exclusive copy please go to:
www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book or call us on 02 8912 2777.