

THERE IS A HUGE CONTRAST between the First Reading and the Gospel in today's Mass. The Book of Job was written a very long time ago, between 500 and 700 years before Christ but today's passage could have appeared in an agony column in one of our tabloid newspapers.

It is the voice of someone who is terribly depressed and can find no meaning whatever in life. "Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery?" How often have we heard people speak like that? Perhaps we have felt like that ourselves sometimes. Fed up with life, bored with our work.

Such a person is "like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages". How many people do we know who get no enjoyment or satisfaction whatever out of their work? "I just do it for the money." How sad!

Let us now look at the Gospel where there is a very different picture altogether. It is a description of part of a typical day in the life of Jesus. The day had begun by Jesus going into the synagogue of Capernaum because it was a Sabbath day. There he made a tremendous impression by his teaching which had a unique air of authority missing from most teachers of the Law. While still in the synagogue, a possessed man burst in and made a great scene. Jesus overpowered the evil spirit and cured the man. Then Jesus left the synagogue and, because it was still the Sabbath, when work and travel were forbidden, Jesus and his disciples went to Simon Peter's house, where Peter's mother-in-law was confined to bed with a fever.

Jesus immediately healed her and lifted her to her feet. What did the good lady do? Did she slump into a chair and wait for sympathy to be poured out on her? No, she immediately began to serve the needs of those in the house with her. She did this not because that was the duty of a woman but because it is the duty of every Christian to serve. The restoration of her health meant that she could once more take care, according to her gifts, of the community.

Then, after sunset, when the Sabbath was over, the people brought along those who were sick and in the power of evil spirits (some y have been just psychologically ill) and he healed them all.

What a difference here from the Book of Job! No moaning or groaning here. No feeling sorry for oneself. Jesus is totally occupied in putting himself at the service of people and bring healing and wholeness back into their lives.

And this is what gives meaning, fulfilment, satisfaction and happiness into people's lives – when I am making my unique contribution to the well-being of those around me and of my society. I am not watching the clock for the next chance to escape. I am not just thinking of the pay packet.

The life of Jesus is telling us that life is for service, for giving, for sharing. And, if we all did that, how enriched we all would be! The more we all give, the more we all get.

Sacred Space

OLIVERIAN

ST OLIVER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PASCOE VALE

ADMINISTRATOR Fr Michael Kong
Pastoral Associate Marthese Temming
School Principal Delfina Pieri

Presbytery: 1 Landells Road, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 3015
email: pascoevale@cam.org.au
website: <https://stolivers.org.au/>

School: Landells Road, PO Box 667, Pascoe Vale 3044 Telephone: 9354 5411
Parish Office Hours: 9am – 3pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Sunday Mass

Saturday (vigil) 6pm
Sunday 8.45am & 10.30am.

Weekday Mass

Wednesday 9.15am
Thursday 6pm

You can register through the parish website <https://stolivers.org.au/>
& Click "Join Sunday Mass"

Reconciliation

Saturday 10.00am – 10.30am

Reconciliation is held outside at back of church between church and presbytery.

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>

5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - 6/7 FEBRUARY 2021

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low
before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

Response to the Psalm: Praise the Lord who heals the broken hearted.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
He bore our sickness, and endured our suffering
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty and the hungry
he fills with good things.

Please remember in your prayers the following:

Those who have died: Bob Smallman, Kath Cox, Mary Tutty

Anniversaries: Sotero Santiago, Giulia Ottobre, Vincent Ottobre

Those who are ill: Monica Wickerson, Joe Grech, Pasquale Buonomo,
Sofia Ruggiero, Karen Hardy, Eileen Squires,
Lamberto Cruz, Vicenta Santos

6/7 February		13/14 February
READERS:		
Sat 6 pm	N. Farrell [L], M. Lynch [R]	A. Breen [L], M Pascoe [R]
Sun 8.45 am	M. Temming	B. Messina
10.30 am	L. Verduci [L], B. Watts [R]	E. Monaco [L], S. Harrison [R]
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:		
Sat 6 pm	L. Teoh	P. Saliba
Sun 8.45 am	J. Mokbel,	M. Tamayo
10.30 am	N. Palmieri	T. Ryan

Please continue to support St Oliver's Parish and Fr Michael. The link:

<https://bit.ly/CDFpayPascoeVale>

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

The Church in Australia will celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God on the first Sunday in February each year, starting with February 7 in 2021.

Pope Francis last year instituted the celebration when issuing the apostolic letter *Aperuit Illis*. The letter encouraged the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God.

The date for marking the Sunday of the Word of God was set as the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. However, in light of the regular coincidence of the Australia Day holiday or associated long weekend with the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have decided to assign the first Sunday in February as Sunday of the Word of God in Australia.

'The bishops recognised the need to create a Sunday free from potential distraction when setting the date for the Sunday of the Word of God,' said Archbishop Patrick O'Regan, chair of the Bishops Commission for Liturgy.

'The date was chosen to retain close proximity to the international celebration, but to avoid the clash with the Australia Day observance. The choice of date also ensures it falls before the start of Lent.'

The National Centre for Evangelisation and the National Office have prepared a number of resources to help individuals, families, parishes, schools and other ministries commemorate the Sunday of the Word of God.

'The Church's love for Sacred Scripture is often misunderstood or underestimated, so this occasion offers us the opportunity to celebrate the Word of God in new and diverse ways,' Archbishop O'Regan said.

Among the ways that Catholics and Catholic communities are being encouraged to mark the day include a special display of Sacred Scripture or the Book of the Gospels, the establishment of Bible study groups or the adoption of *lectio divina*, a common practice of reflection on Scripture.

'The Second Vatican Council explained that the proclamation of the Word is one of the primary ways the faithful encounter Christ's sacramental presence during the liturgy,' Archbishop O'Regan said.

'May the first Sunday in February become a day when that presence is felt and celebrated in a particular way.'

COVID19 INSTRUCTIONS

All participants must wear a face covering in church at all times, unless under 12 years of age or have a lawful reason not to. Contact recording is required. Please come 10 to 15 minutes before Mass. Doors will close when Mass starts.

At St Oliver's parish we aim to create a child-safe and 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, use, 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.

Please visit our website for the newest update from the Archdiocese regarding liturgical guidelines: <https://stolivers.org.au/>