

Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 OCTOBER 2020

OBEDIENCE TO GOD

Having entered Jerusalem as its messianic King, Jesus is drawn into a power struggle with representatives of various groups who, under the overall control of the Romans, currently wield power. To remove the threat he poses, they need to portray him to the Romans as dangerous and, at the same time, to lessen his authority with the people.

The tax question is a perfect stratagem to achieve these ends. If Jesus supports the payment of the unpopular poll tax, he will lose standing with the people; if he forbids payment, he risks being identified with groups rebellious towards Rome and so of appearing as a threat to peace and public order.

Jesus' majestic response not only frees him from the dilemma, it actually goes onto the offensive. By requiring *them* to produce a coin with Caesar's image on it he shows them up as already collaborating with the Romans. They carry around the offensive coinage. He does not.

Then his dual 'Render ...' instruction throws the dilemma back upon them. They had set the issue simply in terms of obligation to Rome; they had not brought God into the equation at all. Jesus takes possession of the religious and moral high ground by setting responsibility to the civil power (which he does not deny) within the broader and higher framework of obedience to God.

We can find here the beginnings of the later Christian sense of the separation of Church and State. We also have a recognition that believers have responsibilities in both realms that oblige in conscience before God.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**



4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Parish Priest: Fr Prakash Cutinha
Secretary: Lorraine Nagle
Office hours: Tuesdays and Fridays 9-5
Email: kilmore@cam.org.au
Phone: 5782 1084
Address: 37 Sutherland St, Kilmore, VIC 3764
Website: <http://pol.org.au/kilmore/Home.aspx>

St Patrick's Parish Kilmore

Dear Friends,

A Group of Alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into a complaint about stress and work in life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups – porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking and some expensive. When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the Professor said, "If you noticed all the expensive and nice-looking cups were taken up leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. What all of you really wanted was coffee not the cup. But you consciously went for the best cups. Now consider this, life is like coffee, jobs, money, position in society are the cups. The cups are just tools to hold and contain life. Sometimes concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee".

In the Gospel today we have the first challenge to Jesus coming from the leaders among the Jews. The Pharisees looked for an answer from Jesus on the issue of Tax. They wanted an answer either - or, cup of coffee, political or religious loyalty.

The answer that Jesus gave to his opponents left them to ponder as it does even today. The individual must discern and see what belongs to God AND what is under the control of the State. The State has many obligations: public services, schooling, water supply, civil protection, social welfare. Religion has a duty to connect people with God, the ultimate answer to our questions and the basis of our life's decisions. But the dichotomy between the two is not absolute, because the motivation for public services, social welfare for the poor and elderly is often religious.

So, the question is, should there be a division between the two or should they act together so as to build the kingdom of God?

My dear friends, we all are in some way the citizens of two kingdoms: Citizen of a Country and citizens of God's Kingdom. As Jesus says both require loyalties from us.

Today is Mission Sunday. The Pope reminds us that "mission is a free and conscious response to God's call". A call to mission is to have a personal relationship with God and that translates into caring for our Brothers and Sisters. Both vertical relationship with God and horizontal relationship with our less fortunate friends.

Let me conclude. My call to you is enjoy your coffee in whatever cup that is provided. The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything. So then live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly and leave the rest to God.

Amen

Fr Prakash

Cemetery clean-up

As many of you will be aware, we have been running two working bees a year (before Easter and late October) to clean up the cemetery. Because of COVID the Easter one was called off and things don't look promising for an October working bee. Nevertheless, that shouldn't deter any of you visiting the cemetery at your own time over the next few weeks to do a bit of weeding, whippersnipping, mowing etc.

Brian Clancy (Cemetery Committee)

Masses for 10 people to take place outside the Presbytery

Tuesday 20th October: 10 am
Wednesday 21st October: 10 am and 11.30 am
Please phone Fr Prakash on 5782 1084 to book for these Masses

All Parishioners are invited to Zoom meetings

Topic: Introductory meeting to meet and welcome Fr Prakash Cutinha
Time: Oct 20, 2020 08:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/8921325502?pwd=VldVTVF2NWlvTUICaDRnK3dPa0x4dz09>
Meeting ID: 892 132 5502
Passcode: W7y5vF

Topic: Introductory Meeting to meet and welcome Fr Prakash Cutinha
Time: Oct 23, 2020 11:00 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/8921325502?pwd=VldVTVF2NWlvTUICaDRnK3dPa0x4dz09>
Meeting ID: 892 132 5502
Passcode: W7y5vF

MASS ONLINE:

Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne: <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/>

Available for viewing from 6 pm Saturday 15th October onwards. Click the link below to view Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians, Broadford.

<https://youtu.be/QQt6ynbngFQ>

'Closed captions' (sub-titles) are available on this Mass for the hard-of-hearing. To view these please go to the bottom right of your screen and click on the box containing the letters CC.

Thanks to:

Reader: Brian O'Dwyer
Flowers: Cath O'Dwyer
Recorders: Janette & Mick Hinchcliffe

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, 1 Conway Street Kilmore VIC 3764

Phone: (03) 5782 1579

Website: <https://www.spkilmore.catholic.edu.au>

Principal: Mr Michael Bourne

Email: mbourne@spkilmore.catholic.edu.au

OUR LADY OF THE WAY, 30 Alcantara Blvd, Wallan East VIC 3756 (P.O. Box 284, Wallan, VIC 3756)

Phone: (03) 8609 1784

Website: <http://ourladywallan.catholic.edu.au>

Principal: Mr Terry Cooney

Email: admin@ourladywallan.catholic.edu.au

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, Sutherland St, Kilmore, VIC 3764 (P.O. Box 111, Kilmore VIC 3764)

Phone: (03) 5783 5000

Website: <http://assumption.vic.edu.au>

Principal: Ms Kate Fogarty

Email: principal@assumption.vic.edu.au

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Sick List:

Kerri Murphy (seriously ill); Kate Austin, Mick Ahearn, Shae Newey, Steven Campbell, Rene Campbell, Wendy Davie, Michael Skehan, Claudia Tabernaberi, Mary Fogarty, Eva Aschberger, Richard Lloyd, Kevin and Phyllis Skehan, Scott Birrell, Joe Annetts, Christine Children, Sue Kanidiadis, Natalie Ruiz, Juan Lagarde, Jamile Cadavid, Heliou & Helia Munoz, Olivia Jennings, Juan Savolokin, Joshua Boran, Thomas Redmond, Christine Hogan, David Martini, Eva Marti, Joseph and Michael Murphy, Susan Foster, Maryleen Allen, Charlie Hudson, Denis Jones, David Kiddy, Barry Gibo, Charlie Watson, Alicia Stevenson, Brian Harding, Taylor Doherty, Mary Rose Barrotta, Claudia Allenson, Dr Emma Vieira and all the sick of the parish;

The recently deceased:

Remembrance:

The Anniversaries:

Pauline Tigh; Catherine (Rena) Hanna; George Mario Oudin; Joyce Kennedy; Elias Kanidiadis; Robert Coustley; Janet Heywood and the anniversaries of all which occur at this time as well as all people who are in need of our prayers.