



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus tells a little story about two brothers. One said 'Yes', but never did anything. The other said 'No', but then had a change of heart and did what was required. Jesus loved the brother who came around. He was very hard on the one who said 'Yes' but did not 'walk the talk'.

That is why he loved those tax collectors who gathered the revenue for the Roman authorities, and the prostitutes who serviced the Roman occupying army, but who switched allegiance from the Empire of Caesar to the Kingdom of God. This signalled a profound change of heart.

We may have said 'No' to God at various times with various intensity in our lives. But God is wonderfully patient and prepared to hear 'No' many times in the hope of hearing 'Yes'. God's patience never runs out. But our time to say 'Yes' does run out. We only have a relatively short life span!

At the end of Mass, I will say 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.' As St Francis of Assisi put it, 'Preach the Gospel, and occasionally use words.' Walk the talk.

mtate@bigpond.com

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*My sheep listen to my voice,  
says the Lord;*

*I know them, and they follow me.*

*Alleluia!*

## Gospel Mt 21:28-32

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1983 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

© 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd  
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.

# The Living Word

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1 October 2023

## First Reading Ez 18:25-28

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

## Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6**

**(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

## Second Reading Phil 2:1-11

**or shorter form Phil 2:1-5**

*In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,  
yet he did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the  
underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of  
Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

**OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH  
90 - 92 MONASH STREET, SUNSHINE 3020**

Tel: 94 01 63 44 Email: [sunshine@cam.org.au](mailto:sunshine@cam.org.au)

Website: [www.pol.org.au/sunshine/Home.aspx](http://www.pol.org.au/sunshine/Home.aspx)

Parish Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Wed 10am-4.00pm; Fri 10am-3.00pm.

**Sunday Masses:** English - Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Mass in other languages: Chin - Burmese Sunday 2.30pm; Tongan 1st & 22nd October, 2023

Vietnamese Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7pm

Mass Times: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am; Friday 11am; Tuesday 7.30pm

Confessions: Saturdays 9.30am (English or Vietnamese) Novena: Tuesday 8.00pm



**MASS INTENTIONS 1 - 7 October**

Sat 5.30pm Parish Intention  
Sun 9.00am Angela & John Spiteri RIP  
10.30am Parish Intention  
5.30pm Pro Populo  
Mon 9.00am Carmela Carnovale RIP  
Tues 7.30pm Mary Catherine Lee RIP  
Wed & Thur 9.00am Parish Intention  
Fri 11.00am Parish Intention  
Sat 9.00am Parish Intention

**Theology at the Pub** - Young Adults 18-35yrs. 2nd Oct  
Excellent night. <https://www.facebook.com/tapmelb/>

**CDF 5.55% - 12 month term investment** with CDF  
Community Fund - a greater reward than money  
alone. Help build classrooms for students, churches in  
growing communities, hospital wings for the sick, aged  
care homes for the elderly, and social service facilities.  
<https://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/>

**DONATIONS via CDF-QR**  
Please support our parish  
**Thank you!**



**“Will you not watch one hour with me?”** *Matt 26:40*

**You are invited to come and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament: Each Friday 12pm -3.00pm Come for just a short visit or stay as long you wish.**



**Our Lady's Shrine  
THANKYOU  
to the very kind hard working volunteers for transforming the area outdoors around the Statue of Our Lady.  
Landscaping & Lighting are yet to be finished.  
\*\*\*PARKING RESERVED\*\*\*  
for drop off: infirm / disability**

Week 2: Oct 8-14	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Mary Rapa	Althea D'Souza	Tongan Choir	Melizza Boongaling
Extraordinary Ministers	Simplex & Blezza Borges	Sr. Shirani Britto	Jennifer Godfrey	Celine Rivera
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Tongan Choir	Eleazar Boongaling

**The Humble Path: Scott Hahn Reflects on the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Readings: *Ezekiel 18:25-28; Psalm 25:4-9; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32*

Echoing the complaint heard in last week's readings, today's First Reading again presents protests that God isn't fair. Why does He punish with death one who begins in virtue but falls into iniquity, while granting life to the wicked one who turns from sin?

This is the question that Jesus takes up in the parable in today's Gospel.

The first son represents the most heinous sinners of Jesus' day—tax collectors and prostitutes—who by their sin at first refused to serve in the Lord's vineyard, the kingdom. At the preaching of John the Baptist, they repented and did what was right and just. The second son represents Israel's leaders—who said they would serve God in the vineyard but refused to believe John when he told them they must produce good fruits as evidence of their repentance.

Once again, this week's readings invite us to ponder the unfathomable ways of God's justice and mercy. He teaches His ways only to the humble, as we sing in today's Psalm. And in the Second Reading today, Paul presents Jesus as the model of that humility by which we come to know life's true path.

Paul sings a beautiful hymn to the Incarnation. Unlike Adam, the first man, who in his pride grasped at being God, the New Adam, Jesus, humbled himself to become a slave, obedient even unto death on the Cross. In this He has shown sinners—each one of us—the way back to the Father. We can only come to God to serve in His vineyard, the Church, by having that same attitude as Christ.

This is what Israel's leaders lacked. In their vainglory, they presumed their superiority—that they had no further need to hear God's Word or listen to God's servants. But this is the way to death, as God tells Ezekiel today.

We are always to be emptying ourselves, seeking forgiveness for our sins and frailties, confessing on bended knee that He is Lord, to the glory of the Father.

**Parish Census** Over the next three weeks, we invite each member of our Parish to participate in our census process. By completing the census form, which will be made available during Mass from next week, we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also enable the parish to strategically plan for important events, ministries, and other future endeavours. Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality.

**Happy Feast Day** for those who bear the name and our Choir of **St Therese of Lisieux**

**Child Safety Reminders & Important notice for Parents**

- Please accompany your child if they need to leave the building.
- Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.

**Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and vulnerable**

