



Gospel Mt 18:15-20

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

Reflection by Nick Brodie

This Gospel is clearly about becoming part of team Jesus. There's the bit about gathering in twos and threes to find agreement about what we – including Jesus – want or need. Then we (the Greek 'you' is plural) are told we can jointly bind and loose, literally from the ground up.

This is, therefore, a profoundly synodal passage. It's an instruction manual for dealing with the messy realities in which the Church sometimes finds itself, and a reminder of the importance of community. There is even a plan for dealing with the odd recalcitrant brother who just won't listen! Jesus' key takeaway is about persistence and working together.

In our own times, where there is lots of scope for collective action on important issues, Jesus' frequent mention of 'earth' resonates. We are called to be the salt of the earth, a grounded people whose decisions can have heavenly effects.

The Living Word

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A **10 September 2023**

First Reading Ez 33:7-9

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

*(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.*

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw
my work.' (R.)

Second Reading Rom 13:8-10

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;

and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

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**OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
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Website: 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 9 -16 September

Sat 5.30pm Maria RIP
& Souls in Purgatory
Sun 9.00am Valentas RIP
 10.30am Sam & Josephine Borg RIP
 5.30pm Pro Populo
Mon 9.00am Aaron Andres - *Support in Exams*
 Francis Cefai RIP
Tues 7.30pm Aaron & Jonathan Andres -
Thanksgiving
Wed 9.00am Lawrence Galea RIP
Thur 9.00am Erik Boman RIP
Fri 11.00am Susan Haboc - *Pray for Healing*
Sat 9.00am Parish Intention

* **OUR LADY's outdoor Statue** Restoration has started and will be several weeks to complete.

* **Queen Elizabeth II +08-09-2022** "God sent his only son 'to serve, not to be served'. He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ"

DONATIONS to support our parish SCAN this QR
Thank you!



THANKYOU

*Mrs Vickie Blampied
 Parish Secretary.*

*May God's countenance
 & Blessings be with you
 as you retire after 26 yrs
 of faithful service.*

*"Will you not watch one
 hour with me?" Matthew 26:40*

You are invited to come and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament:
Fridays 12noon - 3.00pm.



To Win Them Back: Scott Hahn Reflects on the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: *Ezekiel 33: 7-9; Psalm 95: 1-2, 6-9; Romans 13: 8-10; Matthew 18: 15-20*

As Ezekiel is appointed watchman over the house of Israel in today's first Reading, so Jesus in the Gospel today establishes His disciples as guardians of the new Israel of God, the Church.

He also puts in place procedures for dealing with sin and breaches of the faith, building on rules of discipline prescribed by Moses for Israel.

The heads of the new Israel, however, receive extraordinary powers—similar to those given to Peter. They have the power to bind and loose, to forgive sins and to reconcile sinners in His name.

But the powers He gives the Apostles and their successors depend on their communion with Him.

As Ezekiel is only to teach what he hears God saying, so the disciples are to gather in His name and to pray and seek the will of our heavenly Father.

But today's readings are more than a lesson in Church order. They also suggest how we're to deal with those who trespass against us, a theme that we'll hear in next week's readings...

Notice that both the Gospel and the First Reading presume that believers have a duty to correct sinners in our midst. Ezekiel is even told that he will be held accountable for their souls if he fails to speak out and try to correct them.

This is the love that Paul in today's Second Reading says we owe to our neighbours. To love our neighbours as ourselves is to be vitally concerned for their salvation.

We must make every effort, as Jesus says, to win our brothers and sisters back, to turn them from the false paths. We should never correct out of anger or a desire to punish. Instead, our message must be that of today's Psalm—urging the sinner to hear God's voice, not to harden their hearts, and to remember that He is the one who made us, the rock of our salvation.



LODGING Student 23yrs, practising Catholic, good family - he needs lodging / rent a room during Uni Engineering studies from late September. Reference available from Fr Peter



NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
 Started 1957. Many graces have been received through the powerful intercession of Mary.

Tuesdays: Mass 7.30pm Novena 8.00pm

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

Week 3: <i>Sept 16/17</i>	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Michael Payne	Mary Rapa	Jannelli Campana	Celine Rivera
Extraordinary Ministers	Vickie Blampied	Vicki Sheridan	Anita Mastroianni	Filipino Choir
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Robert Turczyniak	Angie Ramat / Choir