



St Finbar's Catholic Parish

Parish Priest:

86 Centre Rd, Brighton East, VIC, 3187

Year A

Fr Ian W Ranson

Telephone: +61 3 9593 2122 Website: <http://pol.org.au/brightoneast>

Parish Secretary:

Mrs Carmel Cristiano

Office hours:

PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED

DUE TO STAGE 4

RESTRICTIONS

Please feel free to email or call Fr Ian or Carmel if you have any special intentions.

Please refer to the links on parish website for further information regarding COVID regulations.

Telephone:

+61 3 9593 2122

Email:

BrightonEast@cam.org.au

St Vincent de Paul

1800 305 330

School Principal:

Mr Patrick Berlinger

School Telephone:

+61 3 9592 4479

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

As incredible as it may seem, some people turn down the invitation to the eschatological banquet. This is the case, both in the parable and in our world today. This invitation seems much less interesting than a sports event, the latest movie, or some social affair. So much of our time and energy is spent either climbing the economic ladder or just trying to keep our heads above water. Even if we are interested in the banquet, we do not seem able to afford the time and energy that it might require. And so we send our regrets: I cannot come. What a shame! We seem to have forgotten that everything is tending toward the end; all of our plans, inter-

ests and distractions will cease. Only the banquet will remain. All God asks of us is that we receive the blessings that have been prepared for us. We need not work for them. In fact, we cannot work for them on our own. All we can do is enjoy them. Enjoyment of the eschatological time of fulfilment is open to all, but guaranteed to none.

One theme seems to connect all of the readings for this Sunday, our total dependence on God. God spreads the banquet table and invites the guests; God punishes those who are indifferent to or antagonistic toward the eschatological banquet; God supplies whatever we need in

whatever circumstances we find ourselves. We do not have to bargain with God, or make reservations. All we have to do is accept what God has to offer.

© Dianne Bergant

Eschatology: part of theology relating to the final events of history, commonly referred to as the "end of the world".



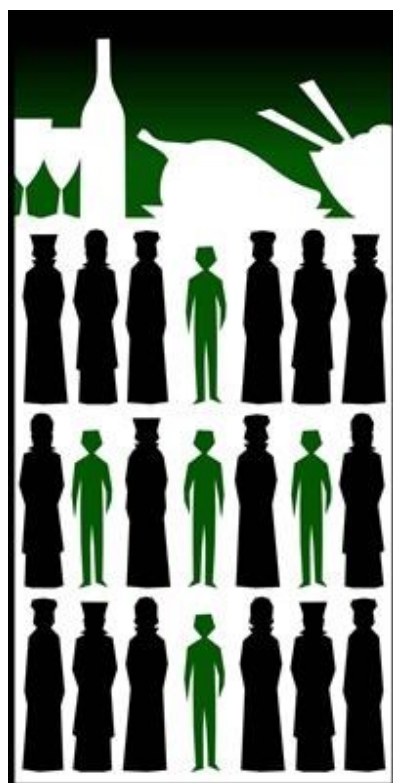

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Pray for the Sick

Rita Maguire

Anniversaries

Albina Tauro, Michele D'Amore, Roy Stock, Kevin Holland, Francis Holland, Mark Pirola, Salvatore Manna, Peter Mulvany, Melville D'Rozario, Rosario Calia, Robert Phyland, Ninneta Fiumara

**Have you thought?
Inclusivity**

This gospel parable reflects the inclusive way in which Jesus lived his life. In many ways, Jesus was a scandal in his society because he didn't obey the social boundaries. He was very clear in being inclusive and attentive to those who were normally shunned. Today, those boundaries are just as clear and easily identified but the methods of excluding people have perhaps become a bit more subtle. Who are the 'shunned' and 'left out' in our society today? Where do the boundaries lie? Who would Jesus be reaching out to and seeking to include in today's society?

Equality for Faith Petition

Dear Parishioners of St Finbar's,

Places of worship are being treated in an inequitable way by the Victorian government's current restrictions in the 'Roadmap for Reopening'. A small group of people of faith have started an online petition to immediately correct this inequality. We need your help! We ask you to read, consider signing and distribute the petition to people you know.

The petition can be found at www.equalityforfaith.com.au or on the last page of this bulletin.

Your support will be critical in enabling the petition to influence change! #equalityforfaith

Sincerely, Fr Ian Ranson



Dear Fathers and parish staff,

I write to seek your support in circulating and promoting a petition that I have helped two lay women establish. Titled "Equality for Victoria's People of Faith" and addressed to Victoria's Premier, Daniel Andrews, the petition seeks equitable treatment for Victoria's people of faith and places of worship under the government's 'Roadmap for Reopening'. Once the target of 10,000 signatures is achieved, we aim to have the petition tabled in the Victorian Parliament. You can find the petition at www.equalityforfaith.com.au.

As pastors, each of us would be deeply concerned about the inequitable treatment of people of faith and places of worship. Throughout the extent of the pandemic, people of faith have made great sacrifices to mitigate risk and act as responsible citizens. We know that these sacrifices are coming at a significant personal cost to our people, for whom faith is an essential aspect of their wellbeing. Given that we demonstrated we can operate safely under the same conditions as hospitality venues as we emerged from the first lockdown, there is no logical or scientific reason to treat us differently as we emerge from the second lock-down.

The petition is receiving wide support, notably from the Victorian Council of Churches, and we are hopeful of imminent support from various multi-faith peak bodies through the Faith Communities Council of Victoria. We are also receiving support from Sydney's *The Catholic Weekly*, the Knights of the Southern Cross, The Australian Confraternity of Catholic Clergy, the Catholic Women's League and the Australian Catholic Medical Association. These great faith-based organisations are doing their part to advocate for fair treatment of people of faith.

What can you do? To help you support us, we have developed a number of resources that you can find attached to this email. We ask you to support this petition by:

Signing the petition!

Distributing the petition link (www.equalityforfaith.com.au) amongst your parishioners and personal contacts (see attachment 1 and 2);

Add a notice of support to any parish weekly bulletins and/or social media communications (see attachment 3);

Alert your people to the petition by announcing it at any live-streamed or in-person services you conduct this week (see attachment 4).

This petition is a key way for our people to have their voices heard by our government leaders. It compliments the hard work being done by our faith-leaders in their discussions with government officials. Your endorsement and circulation of the petition is essential.

I am available to answer questions or provide support and resources relating to the petition whenever required.

In Christ,

Fr Marcus W Goulding
Assistant Priest
0468 367 893

marcus.goulding@cam.org.au

Easy online *thanksgiving* payments can be made via this link:

<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registrant/donate.aspx?>



Live telecast of 11am Sunday

Mass,

Ch 44 or online

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>



OCTOBER—MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

11th St John XXIII, Pope

14th St Callistus, Pope

15th St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church

16th St Hedwig, religious, St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

17th St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr

Petition to the Premier of Victoria

EQUALITY FOR VICTORIA'S PEOPLE OF FAITH

Dear Premier Daniel Andrews,

We, people of Victoria's faith community, request that the 'Roadmap for Reopening' be amended so that people of faith and places of worship are treated equitably and fairly.

The 2016 national census indicates that approximately 60% of Victorians identify as religious. For people of faith, the ability to practise our beliefs – including through public worship – is essential to our wellbeing. As it stands, the 'Roadmap' suggests that our wellbeing has not been given due consideration.

We are particularly concerned about the inequitable treatment of people of faith under 'Step 3' of your 'Roadmap'. For example, 'Step 3' permits cafes and restaurants to seat up to 20 people indoors and 50 people outdoors yet restricts religious communities to outdoor gatherings of only 10 people and indoor private worship to household bubbles.

There is no logical reason for this discrepancy. People of faith are able to attend a service in a place of worship whilst wearing a face mask; physical distancing is not a challenge in what are often very large venues; services are time-limited and rigorous infection-control measures are able to be implemented. A place of worship can and should be accessible in a COVID-safe way.

Religious organisations should be afforded the same opportunity to open for indoor worship with density quotients equivalent to those seen in other parts of the community such as hospitality. We were afforded the opportunity as we emerged from the first lockdown; we deserve to be afforded the same opportunity again as we emerge from the second lockdown.

Premier Andrews, we, people of Victoria's faith community, request that you adjust the 'Roadmap for Reopening' in a way that secures the equitable treatment of religious communities and grants us the opportunity to practise our faith in a COVID-safe manner.

Signed,

People of all faiths, Victoria

Sign at

www.equalityforfaith.com.au