

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good
will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father, have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be
found, call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way, the
evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back
to the Lord who will take pity on him, to
our God who is rich in forgiving; for my
thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways
not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways, my
thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be
praised, his greatness cannot be
measured.

R.

- The Lord is kind and full of
compassion, slow to anger,
abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. R
- The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. R

SECOND READING *Phil 1:20-24, 27*

For me to live is Christ

Christ will be glorified in my body,
whether by my life or by my death. Life
to me, of course, is Christ, but then death
would bring me something more; but
then again, if living in this body means
doing work which is having good results
– I do not know what I should choose. I
am caught in this dilemma: I want to be
gone and be with Christ, which would be
very much the better, but for me to stay
alive in this body is a more urgent need
for your sake. Avoid anything in your
everyday lives that would be unworthy of
the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 20:1-16

*Why are you jealous because I am
generous?*

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom
of heaven is like a landowner going out
at daybreak to hire workers for his
vineyard. He made an agreement with the
workers for one denarius a day, and sent
them to his vineyard. Going out at about
the third hour he saw others standing idle
in the market place and said to them,
“You go to my vineyard too and I will
give you a fair wage.” So they went. At
about the sixth hour and again at about
the ninth hour, he went out and did the
same. Then at about the eleventh hour he
went out and found more men standing

round, and he said to them, “Why have
you been standing here idle all day?”
“Because no one has hired us” they
answered. He said to them, “You go into
my vineyard too.” In the evening, the
owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff,
“Call the workers and pay them their
wages, starting with the last arrivals and
ending with the first.” So those who were
hired at about the eleventh hour came
forward and received one denarius each.
When the first came, they expected to get
more, but they too received one denarius
each. They took it, but grumbled at the
landowner. “The men who came last”
they said “have done only one hour, and
you have treated them the same as us,
though we have done a heavy day’s work
in all the heat.” He answered one of them
and said, “My friend, I am not being
unjust to you; did we not agree on one
denarius? Take your earnings and go. I
choose to pay the last comer as much as I
pay you. Have I no right to do what I like
with my own? Why be envious because I
am generous?” Thus the last will be first,
and the first, last.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord,
(All bow during these two lines)
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again
from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Generosity condemned as injustice. In today's parable, why should such generosity be condemned as injustice? This idea finds its roots and deepest meaning in the Old Testament understanding of God the Creator who is good and generous to all who turn to him. This is the God in whom Jesus believed and lived, but in the person of Jesus, the divine compassion, the divine mercy, the divine goodness surpassed the divine justice. Therefore all who follow Jesus as his disciples and friends much imitate this extraordinary compassion and lavish generosity and never question, deny it or begrudge it.

The God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ reveals his identity to us in today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The eleventh-hour workers. Perhaps many of us feel strongly with the disgruntled workers of Verse 12. How often have we known whimsical employers who have compensated lazy or problematic workers far too generously, rather than acknowledging the faithful, dedicated day-in day-out workers? We may ask ourselves: How can God be so unfair? How can God overlook his most faithful workers? Underneath this parable is the issue of bargaining with God. From the very beginnings of religion it has been assumed that we mortals can bargain with the gods to obtain from them what we want. How many times have we experienced this in our Church belonging and service? Some may grumble and claim that their long, dedicated, tireless service qualifies them instantly for higher pay, higher rank, and greater privilege and prestige. It is precisely at moments like this that we must humbly acknowledge that we are like those eleventh-hour workers.

Not one of us deserves the blessings that God has prepared for us. Our grumbling and lateral gazing often lead to serious resentments that are hard to shake off. All our good works give us no claim upon God. How much less do we have the right to demand, even if we have done everything we ought to do, that we should be honored and rewarded by God in a special manner as if we were such meritorious indispensable persons in His service? The word "entitlement" does not exist in the vocabulary of the Kingdom of God.

The only remedy to such sentiments is to look upon the merciful face of Jesus and thus recognize God's lavish generosity in the flesh. Human logic is limited but the mercy and grace of God know no limits or boundaries. God doesn't act by our standards. This means that we must see God and accept Him, in our brother and sister just as God has wished them to be. When God chooses a person, granting him particular graces, blessings or gifts, God does not reject the other person nor deprives him of His grace.

God's graces and blessings are boundless, and each person receives his or her own share. God's choice of a person or people should not be a cause of pride in those chosen, or rejection of those not chosen. It is only when the two parties live in humility and simplicity, and recognize together a God of love and mercy at work in their lives, that they will they will begin to learn the real meaning of love and justice, and finally come to reconciliation and deep, mutual understanding.

For your reflection. In the New Testament, Jesus teaches us that we must overcome jealousy and envy. This is brought out in today's parable of the laborers who come to work at different times of the day, and receive the same salary at the end. Those who came at the first hour grumbled against the landowner. "He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you... Are you envious because I am generous?'" (Matthew 20:13-15).

Consider these two sections from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (Nos. 2552-2553): "The tenth commandment forbids avarice arising from a passion for riches and their attendant power (No. 2552)"; "Envy is sadness at the sight of another's goods and the immoderate desire to have them for oneself. It is a capital sin" (No. 2553).

Envy is that fault in the human character that cannot recognize the beauty and uniqueness of the other, and denies them honor. In order to approach God, who is total goodness, beauty and generosity, this attitude must be broken from within. Envy can no longer see. Our eyes remain nailed shut. Envy and avarice are sins against the tenth commandment. What can we do to move beyond the blindness and hardness of heart?

Father Thomas Rosica, CSB

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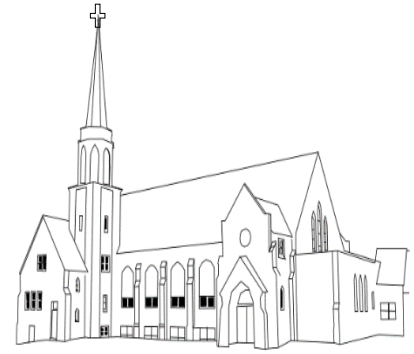
Parish Priest: Fr. Raymond Bugeja

Parish Secretary: Mrs Loretta Meilak

St Paul's School Principal: Mrs Maria Mercuri

School Tel: 9354-8970

St Paul's Parish strives to create an environment where children are safe, respected and cared for.



PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon - Friday: 10.30am to 3.30 pm.

MASSES:

Weekends: Saturday: 6:00 pm (vigil),
8.00pm (Neo Catechumenate)

Sunday: 9:00am, 10.30am (Italian),

Weekdays: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 10.00 am.

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays - 11am and 6.45pm

JOKE OF THE WEEK



THANKSGIVING – DIRECT DEPOSIT BANK DETAILS

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 67541 0884

Account Name: St Paul's Catholic Church.

AUGUST THANKSGIVING OFFERING: \$1990.50

Presbytery: \$ 259.12

Works done recently: Presbytery roof: \$40,000

Painting of presbytery inside: \$12,400

Thanks for your support in these challenging times.

LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP:

Child Protection Week: Putting children first

Dear Friends

In Child Protection Week, our whole nation is invited to 'put children first'. In fact, that is the theme in 2020, which marks thirty years of Child Protection Week in Australia.

Although the Pandemic has changed the way we are all living and working, it doesn't change what is most important. For Christians, the Lord Jesus shows us that at all times, the most vulnerable among us are those requiring our greatest care. In particular, the safety and the protection of children is one of our most important priorities.

The Professional Standards Office of our Archdiocese along with our Mission Team have developed some resources to be of help for all in our communities. These are designed to support children and young people's right to be safe and feel safe.

My heart breaks for those who were not cared for and protected in the past. When a child is neglected or abused, the pain and suffering endures throughout their whole life. I am sad and angered that the Church has not always been a place that has put children first. We continue to address the horror of abuse, to walk with those in need, and to build a culture of safety and protection for our most vulnerable.

Personally, I will continue to meet with survivors of abuse; listening to them, hearing them and trusting them, and helping our Church be continually converted.

Please pray with me that we would put children first always, and protect their safety.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Archbishop of Melbourne

WE PRAY FOR

We pray for those in our local community who are **sick** and vulnerable: may they see in us the followers of a God who heals and serves.

Let us pray for those who have died recently, Antonietta Condello, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, that they may enter the peace of God.

STEWARDSHIP:

“So the last will be first and the first last” - MATTHEW 20:16

You’ve heard the saying “it’s not where you start, but how you finish.” This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our gratitude and generosity helps us live “God-centered” lives and not “self-centered” lives.

REFLECTION: Extending Generosity

“Are you envious because I am generous?” Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last. Matthew 20:15-16

The landowner seems to act unfairly toward those he hired early in the day. They agreed to a daily wage, though they expected a bonus when he hired other workers later and paid them the same amount. Instead, he says, “Take what is yours and go” (verse 14).

What separates the last from the first in this parable? It is not the quality of their work nor the amount of time they put in. It is the attitude of superiority that the first workers had. They reject equality with those who came later.

Christ’s economy is radically different from the economy of man. In the economy of man, we earn every penny by the sweat of our brows. In so doing, we earn the respect of our fellow citizens. In the economy of salvation, we can earn very little by our own efforts. Rather, God’s generosity extends wherever he wills, even to those of us who have only turned our eyes to heaven and said, “Help me, Lord!”

Elizabeth Duffy

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we realize we are not only responsible for our lives, but for the lives of others.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Risks

Necessity is the mother of taking chances. Mark Twain

VOCATION VIEW

We can never be called “generous”. All that we possess we have received from God. It is our vocation to return to God all the talents God has entrusted to us.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

At this time, we cannot receive you Lord Jesus sacramentally in the Eucharist. Help us to welcome you spiritually as we wait for the day when your saving Sacrifice will be offered and the divine Banquet will be spread in our churches once more. You are the Lamb of God who take away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. But only say the word and my soul shall be healed. My Jesus, come to me. I long for you; let me always be at one with you.

St Alphonsus Ligouri

NEWS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

Social Services Sunday, 20th September – a time to reflect and give thanks.

On 20th September 2020, we mark [Social Services Sunday](#) within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria’s 45 [member organisations](#), the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the 2020/21 Social Justice Statement brought out recently by the Australian Catholic bishops, [To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today](#), and so draw your attention to a recent event hosted by CSSV, [Counselling and Therapeutic Support in a Time of COVID](#), which provided an opportunity to become more familiar with mental health services, and how to practically reach out for or point to assistance. Parishioners will find the resources in this article helpful.

Prayer for Courage and Compassion

Compassionate God,

Your unconditional love for all inspires our hearts and empowers our actions for those who are most vulnerable. May we boldly and humbly serve one another and be steadfast in our work for justice for all people.

Keep our hearts open to the joys and the hopes of our world, and our ears ready to hear your call to truth, justice and reconciliation.

Let us continue to draw inspiration and strength from those, like St Mary MacKillop, on whose shoulders we stand.

We gather in Jesus’ name to be nourished and to move forward together in hope and joy. Amen.

