

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 *Ezekiel 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.’

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 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 2:1-5*

*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.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 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 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 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.

Are We Faithful and Generous Workers in His Vineyard?

Biblical Reflection for 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Today's story begins by introducing us to the familiar scenario of a father who asks each of his sons to go out and work in the vineyard (Matthew 21:28-32). To a Jewish listener, familiar with Hebrew Scripture, this would already have been an important clue that there would be problems in the story! We need only recall the stories of Biblical brothers, which are almost always stories of conflict, alienation, misunderstanding, competition and tension. We need only recall Jacob and Esau, Isaac and Ishmael, or Joseph and his brothers. Jesus is truly a gifted storyteller who draws his listeners in to the teaching moment. I can only imagine what the listeners were thinking as Jesus began his story: "What do you think? A man had two sons."

After giving the command, the father expects an answer from them. Not satisfied with mere words, the father desires a real commitment. Initially the first son responds negatively, but then repents, or has a complete change of heart, and goes out to work. The second son acknowledges with lip service his father's request and gives in, but does not follow through on his promise.

Blindness to God's work. The two sons represent the religious leaders and the religious outcasts who followed John's call to repentance. By the answer they give to Jesus' question (Matthew 21:31), the leaders effectively condemn themselves. As religious leaders, they claim to be faithfully obedient to God, but they are blind to the fact that authentic obedience includes responding in faith to the new things God is doing. In the end, the sinners in Israel, exemplified by the tax collectors and prostitutes who had carelessly ignored the demands of their religion, will take their place in the kingdom, while Jesus' adversaries will be shut out. Those who would otherwise be judged as outside the reach of salvation because of their rejection of the outward form of religion, may in fact be those who are most sensitive to their need for God's grace, and thus repent and serve the Master most meaningfully. This same strange and surprising way of God is found in today's Old Testament reading in which the ways of God and the ways of God's people stand in stark contrast (Ezekiel 18:25-28).

Insight into the kingdom. Today's parable gives us a glimpse into the radical nature of the Kingdom of God. Although this parable may contain a judgment on Jewish religious leaders, Matthew intended a much wider application of its message, even to us. In this parable each one of us can recognize his or her own personal experience. We ourselves can become blind to what God is doing in the world around us. Could the parable be speaking about those who seem to be very religious and subservient at the start, but in reality may never sufficiently probe the depths of God's mercy to truly know the heart and mind of God? The parable is a lesson for those who claim to be Christian, but do not worship as Christians or live the Christian life; compared to those who come to Christ later but never claimed to be righteous.

Today many claim to know Christ but do not live the Christian life. It doesn't matter so much what you say on the outside if it is not matched by your heart on the inside, or your actions. Lip service to Christ that is merely an outward mouthing of polite promises and pious platitudes is empty by comparison with the inward acceptance of the message that prompts people to repentance and action. What God looks for is the final outcome in people's lives. God is infinitely patient with us and can certainly tolerate our initial "no" on the way to our final, definitive "yes."

Evangelization, renewal, enthusiasm. How easily our "church efforts" end up being little more than simply maintaining the institution, with no excitement concerning what God's active grace is doing and consequently no enthusiasm for true evangelization and renewal. We say that we are going to work in the vineyard but instead of harvesting the grapes we spend our time complaining, moaning, ridiculing, despairing collecting the stones along the path and not rejoicing in the abundant growth that is taking place around us.

Humiliation and exultation. Today's second reading from St. Paul to the Philippians (2:1-11) contains one of the most beautiful Christological hymns of the New Testament. The short rhythmic lines fall into two parts, verses 6-8 Christ is the subject of every verb, and verses 9-11 where God is the subject. The general pattern is thus of Christ's humiliation and then exaltation.

Although Paul is in prison and no longer can visit and preach to his beloved community at Philippi, they are not without his intercession and assistance. From his prison cell, Paul begs them to make his joy complete by being of "the same mind" and "having "the same love." Rather than being caught up in the upward mobility and passing things of the world, of society, of all of our broken and sinful ways of life, we are invited to enter into the downward mobility of Jesus Christ who empties himself in order to find fullness and life.

Father Thomas Rosica, CSB

[Readings: Ezekiel 18:25-28; Philippians 2:1-11; Matthew 21:28-32]

ST PAUL'S PARISH

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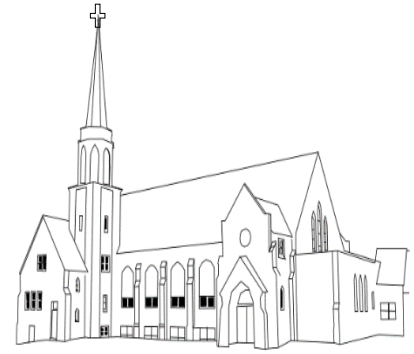
Parish Priest: Fr. Raymond Bugeja

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)

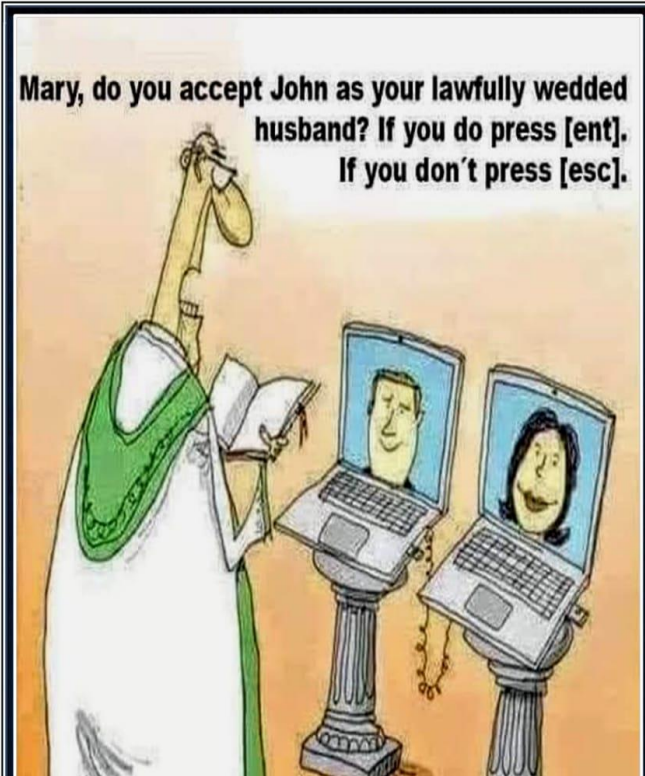
Sunday: 9:00am, 10.30am (Italian),

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

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays - 11am and 6.45pm

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Mary, do you accept John as your lawfully wedded husband? If you do press [ent]. If you don't press [esc].



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:

Melburnians suffering from 'deprivation in sacramental life'

"Throughout the pandemic, I have been advocating directly with the Government, reminding authorities continually of our respectful compliance with each stage of restrictions, and seeking a fair consideration in what is permitted," Archbishop Comensoli said.

He said it was essential that the Government "does not treat faith communities as an afterthought to the opening up of other sectors. Our churches are locations for communities of care and essential service, and must be treated fairly and reasonably".

In the letter, Archbishop Comensoli acknowledged the "profound loss" the Melbourne faithful are suffering from the "deprivation in sacramental life" since churches were first closed in March.

He said the "sense of estrangement from the Eucharist has been a particular struggle for Catholics. He gave particular acknowledgement to "countless Catholic families" who are "awaiting Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation for their children. Adults, too, have longed to be received into the life of the Church".

"We shall be exploring possibilities such as outdoor liturgies in parish and school settings to facilitate these crucial events of grace and welcome," Archbishop Comensoli said.

Earlier in the week, the Archbishop recorded a video message in which he explained some of the work being done in the background to help the Melbourne Catholic community move towards a re-opening of its sacramental life.

COVID delays ordination of Bishop of Sale

Sale Catholics will have to wait a little longer for their new bishop, with the postponement of the episcopal ordination and installation of Bishop-Elect Greg Bennet due to Victoria's COVID-19 restrictions. Source: Sale Diocese.

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, Edith Conti, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, that they may enter the peace of God.

STEWARDSHIP:

“Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves...” - PHIL 2:3

Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self- image. But, if we truly believe everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life.

REFLECTION: Recognising Others

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves... Philippians 2:3

No matter what some may say, we writers like to see our name in print. It's rewarding to know that we've written something worthy of being published. We're happy when someone compliments us on our work. It can be intoxicating. Because Living Faith is such a well-known and popular devotional, even working in this mission-driven, Spirit-guided, divinely inspired format, the author's ego and pride can still come into play. I'm not immune to this. But, when I write with the reader as my focus, my chances of creating something worthwhile are far greater. I gain a deep satisfaction from this work because I am sharing God's words with so many others. Whether we are in the public eye or not, our question for today could be, "Are our efforts being made with the best interests of others in mind?" We will be doing God's will if we can honestly answer in the affirmative.

Terence Hegarty

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we recognize all the people in our lives as gifts that God has given us.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Acceptance

The most popular persons are those who take the world as it is, who find the least fault. Charles Dudley Warner

VOCATION VIEW

We cannot act overly proud just because we have responded to God's call. Responding is our duty and source of happiness; serving God with perseverance and happiness fulfils 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

Christian Identity in a Globalized and Pluralist World Today there are many who question the role of the Church: for some it belongs to the past and can only hinder the development of civilization; according to others its influence drives the moral forces that ensure the orientation of progress; still others uphold it as the key to justice and peace in a world dominated by globalization.

Such a position actually concerns all religious forces and cultural traditions because each one has woven links with the conceptions that are at the origin of civilization. Moreover, international institutions have been created to overcome differences and oppositions. The aim assigned to them is to allow peoples who come from different horizons and follow opposing philosophical beliefs or theories to gradually build the foundations of their unity, leading to the discovery of what they have in common.

The ethics of the future universal society require that we give these values a common meaning that cannot belong to just one civilization or a single religion present in that society.

The reconciliation to be made between loyalty to tradition and the universalization of values is a challenge to all societies today. It is a particularly strong challenge for the Church who proclaims herself universal despite appearing to be linked to Western culture.

'Walking with Wisdom' Contemplative Sessions (via Zoom) – Thursdays, 10am-12.30pm (AEST) on 8, 15, 22 & 29 October 2020. We invite you to join us for a series of contemplative sessions with Carole Carmody rsm and Marlene McGrath, providing opportunities for Deep Listening: to oneself at this unique time in our lives; to Divine Wisdom in the Heart, and in the Hearts of Others; and to engage in a gentle, creative response. Join for one or all sessions. \$85 for the Series or \$25 per session. Bookings at www.trybooking.com/BLILH. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, tel 03 9890 1101, www.heartoflife.melbourne

World Mission Sunday, October 18th, 2020. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, for people to make a donation to Catholic Mission they can use their mobile phone. The process is simple: one only needs to send the word **"GIVE"** to the number: **0488 854 436**. This prompts an immediate reply which provides a link to a platform to make a donation.

Let's be generous.

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.