

### 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 25:6-10*

*The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.*

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 22. R. v. 6*

*R. I shall live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life.*

1. The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit. R.
2. He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of  
darkness no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and  
your staff; with these you give me  
comfort. R.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing. R.
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall  
follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I  
dwell for ever and ever. R.

#### SECOND READING

*Phil 4:12-14, 19-20*

*I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.*

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Cf Ephesians 1:17,18*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart,  
that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.  
Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL

*Mt 22:1:10*

*Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: 'The kingdom of

heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

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.

## **Dressing Properly for the Feast**

Biblical Reflection for 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**The king's feast.** In today's story, the king has gone to great trouble preparing a wedding feast for his son, slaughtering enough oxen and fatted calves to feed several hundred people. It was not uncommon in Jesus' day that invitations would be sent out in two installments: first, a general invitation to a future event; then, on the day itself or just before, a "reminder" to come since everything was prepared for the celebration. Not only do the guests refuse, but some of them seize the king's messengers and kill them. In response, the king sends his troops to burn their city. Then he sends out another invitation requesting that all persons -- the "good" and the "bad" -- be brought to the celebration.

The succession of invitations corresponds to God's declaration of truth concerning his Kingdom and his Son -- first to Israel and then to the Gentile nations. Matthew presents the kingdom in its double aspect, already present and something that can be entered here and now (1-10) and something that will be possessed only by those present members who can stand the scrutiny of the final judgment (11-14).

**Proper attire for the feast.** Matthew's addition of the guest without the wedding garment can certainly leave the reader perplexed. I remember my first reaction to reading about this poor man without the proper garment. Who is this king who dared to ask the poor man: "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?" Was it not the king who commanded his slaves to go out to the highways and byways and bring in anyone they could find? How then could the king be so cold and harsh to someone who has been "rounded up" for the royal feast, without even having the time to procure clean and proper clothing?

It is important to recall that this story is an allegory and things don't necessarily follow normal ways of thinking and acting. Some scholars believe that the king provided the proper attire for his guests. It is not surprising then that the king becomes furious upon seeing a man improperly attired. This shows that this man deliberately refuses to receive the generous gesture of the king on providing proper attire.

**The garment of righteousness and holiness.** The parable of the wedding feast is not only a statement of God's judgment on Israel but a warning to Matthew's church. As early as the second century, Irenaeus wrote that the wedding garment signified works of righteousness. The wedding garment signified repentance and a change of heart and mind. This is the condition for entrance into the kingdom and must be continued in a life of good deeds.

The saying: "For many are called, but few are chosen," should not be taken as a forecast of the proportion of the saved to the damned. Rather the saying is meant to encourage vigorous efforts to live the Christian life. The wedding feast is not the church but the age to come. Matthew's parable confronts us with the paradox of God's free invitation to the banquet with no strings attached and God's requirement of "putting on" something appropriate to that calling. Who are the many and the few concerning the wedding garment? Are there some people God doesn't choose? How is being chosen different from being called?

**The wedding garment of love.** Let us consider the moving words of St. Augustine of Hippo in his sermon (No. 90) on today's Gospel passage: "What is the wedding garment that the Gospel talks about? Very certainly, that garment is something that only the good have, those who are to participate in the feast. ... Could it be the sacraments? Baptism? Without baptism, no one comes to God, but some people receive baptism and do not come to God. ... Perhaps it is the altar or what a person receives at the altar? But in receiving the Lord's body, some people eat and drink to their own condemnation (1 Corinthians 11:29). So what is it? Fasting? The wicked also fast. Going to church often? The wicked go to church just like others.

"So what is this wedding garment? The Apostle Paul tells us: 'What we are aiming at ... is the love that springs from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith' (1 Tim 1:5). That is the wedding garment. Paul is not talking about just any kind of love, for one can often see dishonest people loving others ... but one does not see among them this love 'that springs from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith.' Now that is the love that is the wedding garment.

**Father Thomas Rosica, CSB**

# ST PAUL'S PARISH

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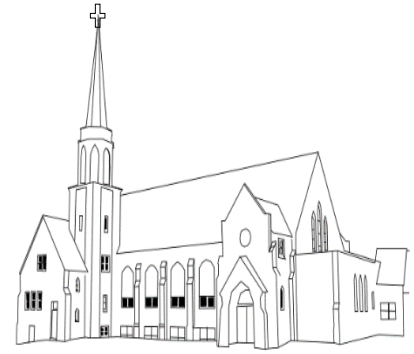
Parish Priest: Fr. Raymond Bugeja

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

**ME WALKING BACK  
TO THE CAR**



**CAUSE I FORGOT  
MY FREAKING MASK**

## THANKSGIVING – DIRECT DEPOSIT BANK DETAILS

BSB: 083-347

Account Number: 67541 0884

Account Name: St Paul's Catholic Church.

**SEPT THANKSGIVING OFFERING: \$2606.43**

**Presbytery: \$539.00**

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

**Painting of presbytery inside: \$12,400**

*Thanks for your support in these challenging times.*

## Celebrating World Mission, Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020

October is recognised in the Catholic Church as World Mission Month, a time when Catholics all over the world join to support and celebrate global missionary work. Catholic Mission, as the Australian arm of the Pontifical Mission Societies, plays a vital role.

'What Catholic Mission and the international network of Pontifical Mission Societies can do, is to help some of the most vulnerable people in the world', says Catholic Mission Victorian Director, Kevin Meese. 'This year we focus on the essential work of priests, religious and lay missionaries in Cambodia, supporting people with disability and their families.'

'World Mission Month in October provides an impetus for the work of mission, for our supporters, parishioners, teachers, students and parents. It promotes the awareness of the rights of people with a disability and empowering those in need.'

One of the most important things to do when we look to support people in need around the world is to first learn their reality.

**You can help Catholic Mission support people with disability and their families.**

Visit [www.catholicmission.org.au/cambodia](http://www.catholicmission.org.au/cambodia) for more information.

### Where the money goes?

According to the 2019-2020 Annual Report:

#### Catholic Mission's Work with Communities:

4.1M distributed to community programs

97 projects in 9 countries

5,656 catechists supported through Catholic mission programs.

#### Catholic Mission's Work with Children:

1.3M distributed to children's programs

67 projects supported in 9 countries

57,167 children supported through Catholic Mission programs.

#### Catholic Mission's Work with Church Leaders:

483K distributed to programs for Church leaders

79,380 seminarians supported globally by St Peter the Apostle

19 projects supported through Catholic Mission programs in 8 countries.

***Please, give generously.***

## 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**, Biagia Emmanuele, Rosa Franco, Vittorio Tomarchio, Charlie Vella, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, that

## STEWARDSHIP:

*"My God will supply whatever you need..."*

- **PHILIPPIANS 4:19**

God really does provide for those who are grateful and generous. This is very difficult for people that don't live a stewardship lifestyle to believe. People are skeptical and say it's just coincidence. If you are skeptical, try living a stewardship lifestyle for just one month – be generous with your gifts of time, talent and treasure and see how God provides for your needs.

## REFLECTION: Real Strength

*I can do all things in him who strengthens me.*

**Philippians 4:13**

In the prime of life, we rely on the strength that we have to either overcome or live with the obstacles that come our way. But there comes a time when the strength that was once natural to us gives way to the weakening effects of age. We grow old, missing the strength of our younger years. While we can be helped through our days by the kind strength offered by others, the weakening of our bodies can awaken in us a need for the strength that is God's presence in our lives. It is not at all uncommon to see the elderly embrace the strength that comes from prayer, from being still and from having the need to hold fast to God. Our physical strength will never be what it used to be in our younger years. But in our weakened state, we will find it easier to find our real and lasting strength in God.

**Fr. James Stephen Behrens, O.C.S.O.**

## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we learn to depend on God to supply for our all needs.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Today the Present

So often we rob tomorrow's memories by today's economies.

**John Mason Brown**

## VOCATION VIEW

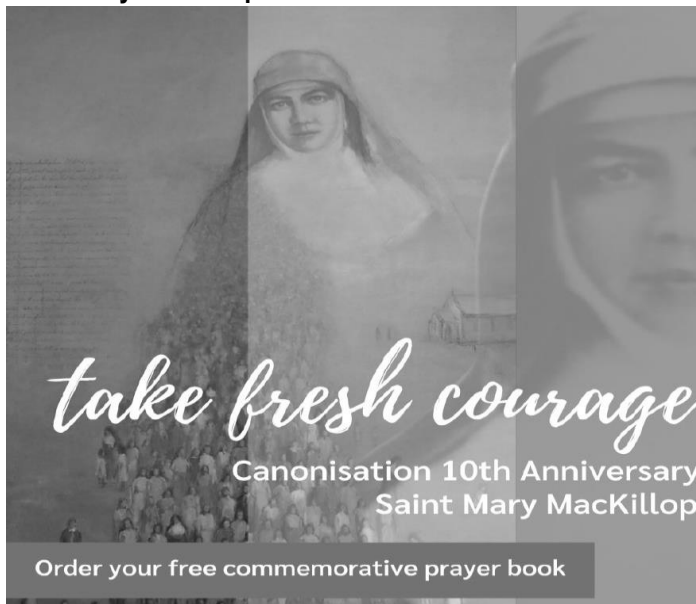
Once we have been captured by the beauty of God's promised reward, we want to go out into our world and invite others into the heavenly banquet. Who will tell the Good News? Now is a good time to begin.



## NEWS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

**'Pondering Grief - Reflection event via Zoom'**, Saturday 17 Oct 2020, 10am-1pm (AEST). Facilitated by Counsellor/Supervisor/Educator Linda Espie, this event provides the opportunity to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creative, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop will offer a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration. Limited to 10 participants. Cost \$30. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BLUEA> For more information, contact [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or tel 9890

## To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop



## We invite you to order your free copy of

### ***Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer***

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "**take fresh courage...**" as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to:

[www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book](http://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book) or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2777

The Church's universality was on display on Tuesday when new **Port Pirie Bishop Karol Kulczycki SDS** was ordained in Poland by Philippines prelate and Apostolic Nuncio to Australia, Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana.

A map showing the vast Port Pirie Diocese and the Australian flag were displayed prominently in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Trzebinia, where ribbons were draped from the ceiling for the special occasion.

The COVID-19 pandemic prevented Bishop Kulczycki from returning to Australia for his episcopal ordination.

Live-streamed on Polish Catholic television, the three-hour service was conducted in English but with translated addresses and Polish commentary throughout.