

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 45:1,4-6*

*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to
subdue nations before his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to
Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right
hand to subdue nations before him and
strip the loins of kings, to force
gateways before him that their gates be
closed no more: 'It is for the sake of my
servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not
know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to
the setting of the sun that, apart from
me, all is nothing.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

- O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the
peoples. R.
- The Lord is great and worthy of
praise, to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are
naught. It was the Lord who made
the heavens. R
- Give the Lord, you families of
peoples, give the Lord glory and
power, give the Lord the glory of
his name. Bring an offering and
enter his courts. R.
- Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is
king.' He will judge the peoples
in fairness. R.

SECOND READING *1 Thess 1:1-5*

*We are mindful of your faith, hope and
love.*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to
the Church in Thessalonika which is in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ; wishing you grace and peace
from God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ. We always mention you in our
prayers and thank God for you all, and
constantly remember before God our
Father how you have shown your faith
in action, worked for love and
persevered through hope, in our Lord
Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that
God loves you and that you have been
chosen, because when we brought the
Good News to you, it came to you not
only as words, but as power and as the
Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Philippians 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

*Give to Caesar the things that belong
to Caesar and to God the things that
are God's.*

The Pharisees went away to work out
between them how to trap Jesus in what
he said. And they sent their disciples to
him, together with the Herodians, to
say, 'Master, we know that you are an
honest man and teach the way of God
in an honest way, and that you are not
afraid of anyone, because a man's rank
means nothing to you. Tell us your
opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay
taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was
aware of their malice and replied, 'You
hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for
me? Let me see the money you pay the
tax with.' They handed him a denarius,
and he said, 'Whose head is this?
Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied.
He then said to them, 'Very well, give
back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
– and to God what belongs to God.'

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.

In today's Gospel (Matthew 22:15), the Pharisees try once again to entrap Jesus in his speech. They realize that they are being portrayed by Jesus as having refused an invitation to conversion of heart (last Sunday's banquet story 22:1-14). Therefore, they begin to plot against Jesus by launching an attack. They begin their questioning by flattering Jesus, attempting to take him off guard. A Pharisee compliments Jesus for being honest, teaching the way of God authentically, and taking no account of any person's status or opinion.

In asking Jesus the question "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" they acknowledged that Jesus is qualified to explain the Torah. Jesus was certainly aware of the hidden agenda behind this question, and he understood the challenge before him. The Pharisees intended to force him to take either a position contrary to that held by the majority of the people or one that would bring him into conflict with the Roman authorities.

The significance of the poll tax. The specific tax described in today's Gospel is a head or poll tax required of every man, woman and slave between the ages of 12 and 65. It amounted to a denarius, that is, a day's wages. This hated poll tax, instituted in 6 A.D. when Judea had become a Roman province, was fuel on the flames of nationalist opposition to the occupying power. From such sentiments emerged the Zealot movement, which fomented the disastrous Jewish War of 66-70. The Pharisees resisted the poll tax, while the Herodians openly supported the Romans and favoured payment of the tax.

If Jesus supported paying tribute to Caesar, he would be discredited as a prophet. If however, he argued against paying this tax, it could be used later to portray him to the Romans as a dangerous revolutionary. Jesus saw through their trap and asked for the coin used to pay the tax. The Pharisees handed Jesus the Roman coin (19). The mere fact of producing this currency indicated their use of it and their acceptance of the financial advantages of the Roman occupation in Palestine.

Jesus inquired about the image and inscription found on the coin. Most Jews considered the coin blasphemous because it had a human representation and violated the commandment against graven images. Its inscription "Tiberius Caesar, august son of the Divine Augustus, high priest" made a claim that rivalled God's exclusive sovereignty over Israel. The coin was therefore rightly despised by the Jews.

Give to Caesar ... Jesus' response, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's," implies that neither the Pharisees nor the Herodians are doing that. This is a serious charge. Those who willingly use the coin that is Caesar's should repay him in kind. Jesus' answer avoids taking sides in the question of the lawfulness of the tax.

Jesus is fully aware of the hypocrisy of his opponents, and he does get the better of them, but he does so with the simple truth.

Jesus raises the debate to a new level and he does not compromise his integrity and honesty. Those who have hypocritically asked about tax in respect to its relation to the law of God should be concerned, rather, with repaying God with the good deeds that are his due.

Service to God and to Caesar. Two images are before us: that of Caesar and that of God. To the first image, Jesus asks a simple question: "Whose picture is on the coin?" And the answer is simple, "Caesar." Therefore, give to Caesar what belongs to him, i.e. the part of your possession that belongs to him. But Jesus also has a second, penetrating question: Whose image and blessing is on every human being? And the answer is simple, "God's." Therefore, give to God what belongs to him, i.e. your entire being, whole and undivided.

From whom do we receive the blessings of life and to whom do we owe thanksgiving and allegiance? Is it God? Is service to God and to Caesar compatible? Or are they competing loyalties that carry with them divergent senses of blessing? The Lord commands not only to give to God what is God's (that is, everything), but also to give to Caesar what is Caesar's, that is to say, to live completely the requirements of justice and peace in social relationships, and to work for the common good.

ST PAUL'S PARISH

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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

**Wow, I think you
went too far with
the plastic surgery!**



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, this Sunday, 18th Oct '20

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

STEWARDSHIP:

“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” - MATTHEW 22:21

Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. We aren’t “owners” of anything; we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given each of us. All God is asking is that we give back a portion of what He gave us. This is the essence of Stewardship. God should be our first priority in everything. All else comes second.

REFLECTION: Beloved

I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not. **ISAIAH 45:4**

I have to admit, I get a little excited on the rare occasion when someone I have never met recognizes my name based on something I have done or written. “Are you the guy who writes for Living Faith?” gives me a little charge of joy. It’s nice to be noticed and known, isn’t it? But far beyond this minute and fleeting moment of “fame” is the deep and lasting joy that comes from knowing that we are all known by name by the Creator of the great diversity of the earth. Camouflaged and unseen as we think we are by the beauty and complexity of everything around us, God, nevertheless, reaches out and finds us, taps us on our shoulders and whispers, “I know you. You are mine. And you have a title forever: Beloved.”

Lord, let me hear your voice and sense your touch today.

Steve Givens

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

That we realize we aren’t “owners” of anything but merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given us.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK – Friendship

Laugh, and the world laughs with you; weep and you weep alone.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

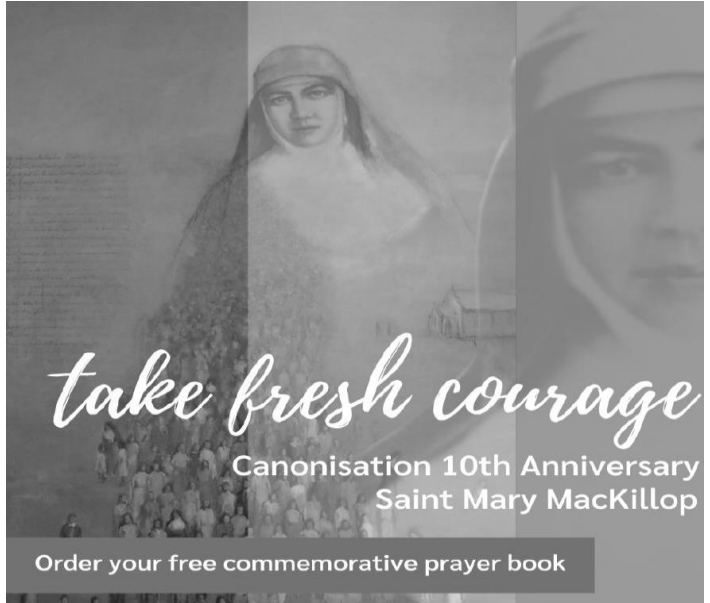
VOCATION VIEW

We do not choose a vocation completely on our own. We must prayerfully reflect on how we can best give to God what is God’s, and then live as though everything depends on God.

Churches ‘safer than restaurants.’ More than 10,000 people have signed a petition calling for the Victorian Government to amend its Roadmap for Reopening so that places of worship are treated equitably and be placed on an equal footing with restaurants. The Equality for Faith petition has gained traction since it was launched two weeks ago and has been supported by religious groups. As of last night, more than 10,000 people had signed the petition. It was sent to Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews last night, the Equality for Faith website confirms.

NEWS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE

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 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.

