



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A - 20 September 2026



Isaiah 55:6-9, Psalm 144(145):2-3,8-9,17-18, Philippians 1:20-24,27

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20:1-16

*"For the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."*



**Meditation:** What can work and wages, welfare and the unemployed tell us about the kingdom of God? In the parable of the laborers in the vineyard we see the extraordinary generosity and compassion of God. There is great tragedy in unemployment, the loss of work, and the inability to earn enough to live and support oneself or one's family. In Jesus' times laborers had to wait each day in the marketplace until someone hired them for a day's job. No work that day usually meant no food on the family table. The laborers who worked all day and received their payment complain that the master pays the late afternoon laborers the same wage. The master, undoubtedly, hired them in the late afternoon so they wouldn't go home payless and hungry.

**God is generous and gives us work for his kingdom:** God is generous in opening the doors of his kingdom to all who will enter, both those who have labored a life-time for him and those who come at the last hour. While the reward is the same, the motive for one's labor can make all the difference. Some work only for reward. They will only put in as much effort as they think they will get back. Others labor out of love and joy for the opportunity to work and to serve others. The Lord Jesus calls each one of us to serve God and his kingdom with joy and zeal and to serve our neighbor with a generous spirit as well.

**Empowered to serve with a joyful and generous spirit:** The Lord Jesus wants to fill each one of us with the power and strength of the Holy Spirit so we can bear great fruit for God's kingdom (the fruit of peace, joy, righteousness, and love) and also bring the fruit of his kingdom to our neighbor as well. We labor for the Lord to bring him praise, honor, and glory. And we labor for our neighbor for their welfare with the same spirit of loving-kindness and compassion which the Lord has shown to us. Paul the Apostle reminds us, "Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not others, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward - you are serving the Lord Christ" (Colossians 3:23-24). Do you perform your daily tasks and responsibilities with cheerfulness and diligence for the Lord's sake? And do you give generously to others, especially to those in need of your care and support?

Christ our householder, author unknown, from the 5th century A.D.

"The householder is Christ, to whom the heavens and the earth are like a single house; the family is as it were the multitude of creatures both angelic and earthly. It is as if he built a three-storied house: hell, heaven and earth, so that those struggling may live upon the earth, those conquered below the earth, those conquering in heaven. We too, set in the middle, should strive not to descend to those who are in hell but ascend to those who are in heaven. And in case perhaps you do not know which one you ought to shun or which one you ought to aspire to, he has given you as it were a little taste of both while you live between light and darkness: night as a taste of hell, daylight as a taste of heaven." (excerpt from an incomplete Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew, HOMILY 34)

Photo taken by Fr Alex Chow, , 10 Feb 2026, Shearers, Churchchill Island, Heritage Farm, Victoria, Australia.  
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St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: [foresthill@cam.org.au](mailto:foresthill@cam.org.au) | Email: [blackburnsouth@cam.org.au](mailto:blackburnsouth@cam.org.au) | Web: [luktim.church](http://luktim.church)

**Parish Priest***Fr Alex Chow***Parish Secretary***Sonya O'Farrell**Wednesdays,**Thursdays & Fridays**10am – 2pm*

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**SUNDAY MASS****Saturday Vigil:** 5pm (SL)**Sunday:** 8:30am (SL)

10:30am (ST)

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**WEEKDAY MASSES****Tues.** 6:30pm (SL)**Wed.** 9:15am (ST)*1st Wed. Mass of**Anointing @ 11am***Thurs.** 9:15am (ST)**Fri.** 9:15am (SL\*)

6.30pm (ST)

**Sat.** 9.15am (SL\*)*\*Rosary after Mass*

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**RECONCILIATION***SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:10pm**Sat 9.45 - 10.15am**ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm*

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**HOLY HOUR***SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm**ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm*

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**HOSPITALITY AT ST. LUKE'S****2nd weekend of each month - BYO (optional)****YOUNG ADULT GROUP***Saturday 19 Sept @ 2pm,  
St Luke Church - Work  
Sacristy***SALT YOUTH GATHERING***24 Sept @ 7pm, Library, St  
Luke Primary School.***LEGION OF MARY -***Tuesday 22nd Sept @ 9am  
at St Luke's Parish Hall  
Kitchen. Enquiries to  
Lucy 0419 591 423***Next Week's Daily Readings****21 Sept - 27 Sept Ordinary Time****MONDAY Sept 21** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13

Ps 18:2-5 Mt 9:9-13

**St Matthew, apostle, evangelist****TUESDAY Sept 22** Prov 21:1-6, 10-13

Ps 118:1, 27, 30, 34-35, 44 Lk 8:19-21

**WEDNESDAY Sept 23** Prov 30:5-9

Ps 118:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 Lk 9:1-6

**St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest****THURSDAY Sept 24** Eccl 1:2-11

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17 Lk 9:7-9

**FRIDAY Sept 25** Eccl 3:1-11

Ps 143:1-4 Lk 9:18-22

**SATURDAY Sept 26** Eccl 11:9 - 12:8

Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17 Lk 9:43-45

**SUNDAY Sept 27** Ezek 18:25-28

Ps 24:4-9 Phil 2:1-11 Mt 21:28-32

**26th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME****CHILDREN'S LITURGY / FAMILY MASS****ST TIMOTHY'S:** Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept  
@10.30am Mass**ST LUKE'S:** Next Family Mass will be on  
Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> and on the second Saturday of  
each month**FUNERAL FOR MARIA DEAYTON**The funeral for Maria Deayton, a longtime  
parishioner of St Timothy's, will be held on  
Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept.at St Thomas the Apostle Church,  
57 Central Road, Blackburn at 12.30pm  
with rosary from 12 noon.**ROSTERS AT ST LUKE'S**Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer at  
St Luke's this weekend for Ministers of the  
Word, Eucharistic Ministers, Slide Projector  
Operators and volunteers for bringing the gifts  
to the altar at each weekend Mass. New  
volunteers for these roles are always welcome.  
Training can be provided if needed.**FETE REQUEST - CAN YOU DONATE  
SOME CHOCOLATE & LOLLIES?**Donations of chocolate blocks (180g) and  
lollies (any kind) would be gratefully received  
by the fete committee. These will be used on  
the day of the fete at the  
Choc Toss and Lolly Stall. Donations can be  
left in the foyer of both churches.

Thank you!

**SORTING SESSION**Pre-loved clothing will be sorted on  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. from 6.30pm to  
8.30pm at St Luke's Parish Hall. All are  
welcome to assist.**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**Saturday 5pm SL  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST**19 and 20 SEPT**Mia Perang  
Darren McLean  
Trevis Yee**26 and 27 SEPT**Olive Hammill  
Margaret Gearon  
Jane D'Souza**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**Saturday 5pm SL  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am STGodfrey Thong  
Megan McLean  
Pat KawalevskiKevin Rogers  
Melina Barcellona  
Susan Chen**SLIDE OPERATORS**Saturday 5pm SL  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am STChoir  
Paul Tierney  
Lee Min YeeChoir  
Rosemary Donaldson  
Manny Gonzalez**SL WELCOMERS 19-20 Sept**5pm John Ryan  
8.30am Janette Clark  
10.30am Volunteer**SL CHURCH CLEANING**  
26th Sept - Megan's Team  
Megan McLean, Janette Clark,  
Maureen Davis, Rita Gibb,  
Anton & Taniya Harny**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**19 Sept - Fr Alex  
26 Sept - TBC  
**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**  
Parishioners**SL WELCOMERS 26-27 Sept**5:00pm Libby Theodore  
8.30am Sarah Santilli  
10.30am Volunteer**ST CHURCH CLEANING**25th Sept  
Susan Chen & family**ST COUNTERS**This week Team 1  
Raj Fonn & Harin Perera  
Next week Team 2  
Kelvin Chen & Patrick Rajaratnam

## **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**All who are sick**, especially Seng Chan, Fran Davidson, Filomena Italiano, Derek Koh, Ann Jones, Shirley Prabha, Helen MacKay, Kevin Ryan, Suzy Bookluck, Emilio Moreno Garcia, Agatha Wink, Chris Leach, Dora Leung, Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Stewart Davis, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft, Marilene Japour, Paciencia Cabral and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

**All who have died**, especially Anthony Cruz Remigius who died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time including Romeo Malicse, Gelindo & Artidoro Liberatore, Michael Downie, Beverley McLean, Carmel Curmi, Angelito Pelayo, Catherine (Kit) Cribbin, Margaret Cook, Eileen Blanchfield, Patti Costello, Patricia O'Connor, Roly Jones, Enio Gori, Annie Calleja, Erlinda Abadilla, Charles Grealy, Paul Ditchburn, Mrs. Rose, Maurice Rodrigues, Esme Hickman & Douglas Martin. May they rest in peace.

## **POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER:**

For the care of water. Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

**PARISH & SCHOOL FETE:** Four weeks to go until our fete on **Sunday October 18th**. You can now bring your pre-loved books and pre-loved clothes donations to the church foyers. The next fete committee meeting is on Thurs. 24th Sept. at 7pm in St Luke's parish hall kitchen. To volunteer to help on the day please use this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/BPDAA> Contact Sonya in the parish office or email [stlukesfete@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesfete@gmail.com) for more information. **More volunteers are very welcome to join us, as many hands make light work!**

**SILVER CIRCLE CONTINUES THIS WEEKEND:** Our Silver Circle raffle tickets are on sale after all Masses this weekend. Tickets are \$25 each and one lucky person will win the \$500 prize at the fete. Card & cash payments accepted.

**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC:** Hear and believe

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** Peace in Our Time



### **iSTAND Camp: An opportunity for Year 8-12 students (Ages 14-18)**

You are invited to Youth Mission Team's iSTAND Camp, STEADFAST; a two-day retreat



for high school students. This is a great opportunity for young people to dive deeper into their faith, meet new friends and take some time out during the school holidays. You can expect: Games, team-building and fun, inspiring talks and testimonies, particularly reflecting on the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians,

Time for prayer and reflection, Live music and great food. Contact us with the information below, take a flyer from the church foyer or Scan the QR Code.

**DATE: Wednesday 23rd & Thursday 24th September** (10.30am - 8.30pm each day)

**LOCATION:** St Timothy's Parish Hall, 17 Stevens Rd, Forest Hill, Vic 3133

**CONTACT:** Anthony Bolling, YMT Manager – 0419 103 511 or [melbourne@ymt.com.au](mailto:melbourne@ymt.com.au)

## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER:**

*The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.*

*The Second collection is for parish expenses.*

Please note that collection totals will no longer be published each week in the newsletter. Presbytery and Church donations will be reported on a monthly basis at all weekend Masses. To donate regularly via envelope, credit card or bank account, please contact the parish office.

## **Parish Groups & Contacts**

### **Volunteers and Rosters:**

*Kelvin & Susan Chen (ST),  
Margaret Gearon (SL)*

**Baptism Preparation:** *Fr Alex*

### **Parish Collection Preparers**

*ST: Barry Silvester &  
Michael Kawalevski*

### **Parish Safeguarding Committee**

*Fr Alex, Sonya O'Farrell,  
Darren McLean & Janette Clark*

### **Parish History**

*SL: Margaret Gearon*

### **Parish Accountant**

*Bernard Negline*

### **SL & ST: Hall Hire**

*Sonya O'Farrell @ 9877 2292*

### **Church Sacristan**

*ST: Roster of Parishioners  
SL: Greg Grant*

### **Church Cleaning & Flowers**

*SL: Megan McLean  
ST: Susan Chen*

**Church Linen:** *SL: Beryl Chelliah*

### **Parish Garden Maintenance**

*ST: Des Connors  
SL: Darren McLean*

### **Parish Choirs**

*ST: Miguel Ilagan  
SL: Fr Alex*

**Bible Timeline:** *Chris Lim*

**ALPHA:** *Lynda Kilroe-Smith*

### **Young Adult Ministry:**

*Sarah Santilli & Jersy Soesanto*

**RCIA:** *David West*

### **St Vincent de Paul Conference**

*For Assistance: 1800 305 330  
(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)  
ST: John McCoy  
SL: Margaret Gearon &  
Steve Kilroe-Smith*

**Entrance Antiphon:** I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord is near to all who call him.

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

**Eucharistic Acclamation:** We proclaim your death O Lord and profess your resurrection until you come again.

**Communion Antiphon:** You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

**AMALGAMATION – One Mission, Two Churches:**  
**A Journey Towards One Parish**

The first forum will be held at **St Timothy's Church on Sunday, 11th October from 11:45am till 1:15pm.**

***All parishioners are invited to attend this Forum***

**Q. Why are our parishes proposing to amalgamate?**

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is undertaking parish amalgamations in response to changing pastoral needs, participation and the growth of our Archdiocese. This ensures priests and resources are available where they are most needed while strengthening parish communities. For St Luke's and St Timothy's, amalgamation means formally becoming one parish with shared identity, leadership and governance, while continuing to worship across both churches. It does not mean closing either church or changing Mass times. Building on our partnership since 2021, amalgamation will bring together our resources, ministries and gifts, strengthening the vitality and long-term viability of parish life and renewing our shared mission of making disciples.

**Q. Aren't the St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South and St Timothy Forest Hill parishes already amalgamated?**

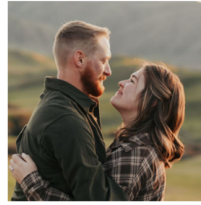
Not formally. For the past three years, St Luke the Evangelist and St Timothy's have worked closely in partnership, sharing a priest, staff, leadership structures, ministries and activities. However, each parish remains a separate legal entity with its own financial, administrative and governance requirements. Amalgamation will formally bring the two parishes together as one, with unified governance, administration and financial management. This will:

- Simplify administration by reducing duplication.
- Make better use of resources including staff, finances, facilities and ministries.
- Strengthen coordination and planning
- Support shared ministries and new initiatives by bringing together our gifts and talents.
- Reduce the administrative burden on parish leadership, allowing greater focus on pastoral care, evangelisation and mission.



In many ways, amalgamation formally recognises the partnership we have already been living and allows us to work more effectively as one parish for the sake of our shared mission.

Share your feedback, comments or questions: Scan the QR code to respond online, or place a written note in the suggestion box in the entrance foyer. Thank you for helping shape our parish's future!



**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT**

**Loving Smarter:**  
**Keys to Relationship Success**

Anchored Webinar with  
Francine and Byron Pirola

NEW

**Tuesday 27 October 2026, 7.30-8.30pm**, Online, Zoom.

Join Drs Byron and Francine Pirola, founders of SmartLoving, as they share practical insights into what makes relationships flourish. During this online webinar, you will discover how understanding your spouse's unique needs can strengthen communication, deepen emotional connection and help you avoid common relationship pitfalls. To register, go to weblink or register, go to weblink

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events/anchored-loving-smarter>

**RCIA is starting soon!**

Are you interested in becoming Catholic or know someone who is? Want to learn more about the faith in a friendly environment? We will be meeting at St Luke's on Tuesday nights at 7pm, starting from the **20th of October**.

To join us or for more information, contact Fr Alex ([alexander.chow@cam.org.au](mailto:alexander.chow@cam.org.au)) or simply scan the QR Code.

NEW



**SALT Youth Ministry (Yr 7 - 12)**

**Date: 24th Sept 26: 7pm to 8:30pm**

NEW



**Where:** Discovery Centre, St Luke's Primary School, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South.

Please join us for our second gathering. With our name decided - SALT Youth - we'll now be continue with exploring the sacrament of BAPTISM. The session will include fun games, snacks, and a dive into what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches about sacraments, and their place in the spiritual life.

**ST LUKE'S FETE in partnership with ST TIMOTHY'S - 18<sup>th</sup> October '26**

We have started to promote the fete on our social media. Please like and share our posts to encourage everyone to attend the fete and support our generous sponsors.

<https://www.facebook.com/stlukesfete2026/>

<https://www.instagram.com/stlukesfete/>



# God is generous



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Jesus teaches that in the kingdom of God, those who are treated as least in this world will be come first. What kind of people are the 'last' in our world today?

Jesus also says that in the kingdom of God, those who put themselves first in this world will be the last. Circle the words that describe someone who always puts themselves first.



**SELFISH      CARING**

**VAIN      GREEDY      KIND**

**GENEROUS**

**SHARING      CARELESS**

**JEALOUS**



How many words can you make from the letters in the word "generous"?

# GENEROUS

START

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | V | E | G | S | O | I | L | H | E |
| H | P | R | U | T | Y | T | K | X | J |
| T | S | Y | O | N | E | J | R | G | V |
| E | R | T | N | F | D | A | U | C | E |
| L | H | W | E | U | F | P | O | H | Y |
| Z | O | I | G | A | T | W | I | A | R |
| S | J | S | O | R | S | D | L | L | B |
| T | H | N | U | I | P | Y | R | L | E |
| I | Y | O | W | F | B | N | G | A | D |
| K | A | E | T | I | R | L | E | S | T |

FINISH



**COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE**

"Everyone who is now first will be last!"

# 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 20 SEPTEMBER 2026



## COLLECT

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

*'Fair go' is an expression we hear a lot in Australia. Activists use it to demand social justice, companies use it to promise customers a good deal, and politicians invoke it to persuade us that they understand the plight of ordinary people. Most political commentators and academics who write about the 'fair go' associate the phrase with Australia's famed egalitarian traditions, including equality of economic opportunity, universal political rights and the provision of a safety net via minimum wages and welfare programs.*

Academics from Griffith University who made these comments in 2024 point out that the term 'fair go' has evolved in Australian culture – originally it derived from competitive sports. But, in its broader sense, it remains a most admirable aspect of an Australian outlook on life.

## A reading from the prophet Isaiah

55:6-9

## First Reading

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.

Almost 75 years ago, JB Phillips published a little book entitled *Your God is Too Small*. He suggests that sometimes our models for understanding God's actions are based on limited human stereotypes. Today Isaiah points out that God is transcendent, utterly beyond our understanding. *My thoughts are not your thoughts; my ways are not your ways!* These few lines are meant to stir up in us a sense of awe and wonder.

Yet, as we seek the Lord, we do not have to go far. God is great but not remote. *Call to the Lord while he is still near.* God is also immanent, close to us, taking pity on us and forgiving us.

The reader has the special opportunity of opening up the mystery of God's generous love for the people. Check the NRSV translation and try to incorporate its inclusive language strategies.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 114:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

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

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.**

## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144/145 picks up several ideas we have encountered in the first reading from Isaiah. In fact, the first line we heard in the reading is a quotation from the third stanza, a line which is also used as the psalm response.

The transcendent God is praised in the first stanza (*The Lord's greatness cannot be measured*). God's immanent closeness is featured in the second stanza on compassion and love.

The cantor/reader will find this psalm easy to proclaim with warmth and assurance.

## A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

1:20-24, 27

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.

## Second Reading

For four weeks, we now read from Paul's letter to the Church at Philippi. Paul writes from prison perhaps two decades after Jesus' death to encourage them to be united and to stay strong.

Paul offers his experience as a lesson. By his baptism, he is united to the risen Christ: Life to me is Christ, he says. He then outlines his dilemma. If he dies, he would be with Christ in glory; if he lives, he is able to continue his

apostolic mission. He opts for the second as a more urgent need.

Paul thinks his way through these questions with the Philippians. It could be read quietly and reflectively.

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

**20:1-16**

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.'

### **Gospel**

It is alarming how readily we identify with the workers who have done a full day's work; we too cry out: That's not fair! It doesn't sit right in our present economic climate with our elaborate conditions of employment. We shake our head when someone else scores and we miss out for no good reason. Does it offend us to witness irrational generosity? Are we perhaps more comfortable with what is predictably and sensibly selfish? The first thing to recognise is that there is no injustice happening here. The day's wage was negotiated and freely accepted. The fair go actually kicks in with the workers who were standing there all day because no one noticed them or hired them. This is a parable of the kingdom of heaven. It tells us that God is extravagantly generous towards us, and especially to those who are disadvantaged or marginalised. We too can be inspired to adopt a preferential option for the poor. The parable is dramatic, challenging and controversial. This makes the final affirmation of generosity all the stronger.

# CONCLUDING PRAYER

## Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time IV)

May the God of all consolation order your days in his peace  
and grant you the gifts of his blessing.

**Amen.**

May he free you always from every distress  
and confirm your hearts in his love.

**Amen.**

So that on this life's journey  
you may be effective in good works,  
rich in the gifts of hope, faith and charity,  
and may come happily to eternal life.

**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son,<sup>+</sup> and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**Amen.**

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time IV, Roman Missal p. 716)

WE HAVE  
SAVED A  
PLACE FOR  
YOU



# St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

**We are Taking Enrolments for All Year Levels**

Book in for an Open Morning or a Personal Tour

SCAN TO  
BOOK A  
TOUR



# We are Companions on The Journey

2026

