



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A - 27 September 2026



Ezekiel 18:25-28, Psalm 24(25):4-9, Philippians 2:1-11,
GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:28-32

"What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterward he repented and went. And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him."



Meditation: What kind of future are you preparing for? Jesus encourages us to think - to think about the consequences of our choices, especially the choices and decisions that will count not just for now but for eternity as well. The choices we make now will affect and shape our future, both our future on earth as well as in the life of the age to come.

Parable of the Two Sons: Jesus tells the Parable of the Two Sons to the religious leaders. A father tells his first son, "Son, go out and work in the vineyard today." The son refuses: "I will not." Yet afterward, he changes his mind and goes. The father gives the same command to his second son. He responds, "Yes, sir," but never goes. Jesus then asks the question that lies at the heart of today's Gospel: "Which of the two did his father's will?" The answer seems obvious: the first. The vineyard is an Old Testament image for Israel (Isaiah 5:1-7). The two sons therefore represent two different responses to God. The first son represents those who initially rejected God's will but subsequently repented. Jesus identifies them with the tax collectors and prostitutes whom the religious leaders regarded as notorious sinners. The second son represents those who professed obedience to God but refused to respond when God actually called them to repentance. Jesus' words would have been shocking: "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." But when John the Baptist proclaimed "the way of righteousness," they believed his message and repented. The chief priests and elders, by contrast, had God's Law and occupied positions of religious authority, yet they refused to believe God's prophetic messenger. The parable therefore reveals something important about obedience to God. Our relationship with God cannot be reduced to what we say we believe. Neither a profession of faith nor a position of religious authority substitutes for doing the Father's will. The first son's refusal was wrong. But his refusal did not have the final word. He "changed his mind" and went. His repentance became obedience. This is good news for sinners. Our past does not have to determine our future. We may have said no to God through sin, selfishness, indifference, or neglect. But through repentance, God's grace enables us to say yes again – and to make that yes concrete through the way we live. The second son's problem is more subtle and perhaps more dangerous. His words sound obedient: "Yes, sir." But his obedience never becomes reality. His yes remains only a word. Jesus therefore invites each of us to ask a difficult question: Am I actually doing the Father's will, or am I merely telling myself that I intend to do it?

Converting both heart and will to do what is good and pleasing to God: The "rebellious" son told his father to his face that he would not work for him. But afterwards he changed his mind and did what his father commanded him. The "good" son said he would work for his father, but didn't follow through. He sought his own pleasure, contrary to his father's will. Now who was really the good son? Both sons disobeyed their father - but one repented and then did what the father told him. Jesus makes his point clear - Good intentions are not enough. And promises don't count unless they are performed.

A transformed heart filled with gratitude and respect: God wants to change our hearts so that we will show by our speech and by our actions that we respect his will and do it. God offers each one of us the greatest treasure possible - indestructible peace, joy, and friendship with him in his everlasting kingdom. We can lose that treasure if we refuse the grace - the free gift of God's blessing and strength - which the Lord Jesus has won for us through his victory on the cross. The Lord Jesus fills us with the gift of the Holy Spirit who works in and through us for the glory of God. Do you seek to please God and respect his will and loving plan for your life? Allow the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with the peace, joy, and righteousness of God's kingdom (Romans 14:17).

From the Early Church Fathers (5th Century AD): The Father and his two sons
"Who is this if not the God who created all people and loves them with a fatherly affection, the God who preferred to be loved as a father rather than feared as a lord, even though he was Lord by nature? On this account, at the beginning of the commandments of the law, he did not say, 'You shall fear the Lord with all your heart' but 'you shall love the Lord with all your heart' (Deut 6:5). To elicit love is not characteristic of a lord but of a father. Of the two sons in this parable, the older one represents the Gentiles, since they come from their father Noah. The younger son represents the Jews, who come from Abraham. 'And approaching the first, he said, "Son, go and work today in my vineyard." 'Today' refers to this present age. How did he speak to his sons? He spoke to the heart, like God. Man only utters words to the ear, but God supplies understanding to the mind."

Photo by Fr Alex Chow, 18 Dec 2020, Benedictine Abbey vineyard, Montecassino, Aquino FR, Italy
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Office (for both Churches): 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133 (St Timothy's)

Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: 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**

To be confirmed

SALT YOUTH GATHERINGThu. 8 Oct @7pm, Library
St Luke's Primary School.**LEGION OF MARY -**Tuesday 29th Sept @ 9am
at St Luke's Parish Hall
Kitchen. Enquiries to
Lucy 0419 591 423**Next Week's Daily Readings**
28 Sept - 4 Oct Ordinary Time**MONDAY Sept 28** Job 1:6-22

Ps 16:1-3, 6-7 Lk 9:46-50

TUESDAY Sept 29 Dan 7:9-10, 13-14

Ps 137:1-5 Jn 1:47-51

Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael,
archangels**WEDNESDAY Sept 30** Job 9:1-12, 14-16

Ps 87:10-15 Lk 9:57-62

St Jerome, priest, doctor**THURSDAY Oct 1** Job 19:21-27

Ps 26:7-9, 13-14 Lk 10:1-12

St Therese of the Child Jesus, virgin,
doctor**FRIDAY Oct 2** Ex 23:20-23

Ps 90:1-6, 10-11 Mt 18:1-5, 10

The Holy Guardian Angels**SATURDAY Oct 3** Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17

Ps 118:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130

Lk 10:17-24

SUNDAY Oct 4 Is 5:1-7

Ps 79:9, 12-16, 19-20 Phil 4:6-9

Mt 21:33-43

27th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**CHILDREN'S LITURGY / FAMILY MASS****ST TIMOTHY'S:** Sunday 11th & 25th
October @ 10.30am Mass**ST LUKE'S:** Next Family Mass will be on
Oct. 10th and on the second Saturday of
each month**PILGRIM STATUE
OF OUR LADY**This beautiful statue of our
Lady is available for
parishioners to have in
their homes for a week at a
time. You are encouraged
to pray a daily rosary with
family and friends. You
have the option of a rosary
with members of the
Legion of Mary on delivery.
Contact Lucy Ferris to book
in for your preferred week
on 0419 591 423.**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 SESSIONPre-loved clothing & books will be sorted on
Tuesday 29th 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**26 and 27 SEPT**Olive Hammill
Margaret Gearon
Jane D'Souza**3 and 4 OCT**Lucy Ferris
May McKeown
Michelle Chen**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am STKevin Rogers
Melina Barcellona
Susan ChenGodfrey Thong
Margaret Gearon
Daphne Hickman**SLIDE OPERATORS**Saturday 5pm SL
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am STChoir
Rosemary Donaldson
Manny GonzalezChoir
Megan McLean
Lee Min Yee**SL WELCOMERS 26-27 Sept**5pm Libby Theodore
8.30am Sarah Santilli
10.30am Volunteer**SL CHURCH CLEANING**10th Oct - Maree's Team
Maree Moss, Allen Leung,
Serena Ng & Lynda Kilroe-Smith**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**26 Sept - Kate Skowronska
3 Oct - Kate Skowronska**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

Parishioners

SL WELCOMERS 3-4 Oct5:00pm Val Gardiner
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer**ST CHURCH CLEANING**2nd Oct
Laura Cigana
& Betty Digby**ST COUNTERS**This week Team 2
Kelvin Chen & Patrick Rajaratnam
Next week Team 3
Mary Choy & Eileen Chang

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Sarah, Peter & Maria Lazzari, Seng Chan, Fran Davidson, Filomena Italiano, Derek Koh, Ann Jones, Shirley Prabha, Helen MacKay, Kevin Ryan, 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 Suzy Bookluck who died recently and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time including Alex Pekish, Shannon O'Mara, Barry Bolton, Paolo Isola, Joseph Biviano, Elwyn Kelly, Frederick Dew, Paolo De Franceschi and Leonard Edwin Taylor.
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.

LEGION OF MARY THANK YOU: Thank you to all the parishioners who prayed the rosary in the recent 48 hour perpetual rosary. Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated.

WELCOME: A very warm welcome to Michelle & Simon Chen who are presenting their sons Maxwell and Marcus for baptism this Saturday at St Luke's.

NEW ROSTERS: New rosters for ministries at St Luke's are now ready for collection. Thank you to Margaret Gearon for her efforts in preparing these and to everyone who has volunteered their time and talents.

PARISH & SCHOOL FETE: Three weeks to go until our fete on **Sunday October 18th**. You can now bring your pre-loved books and clothes donations to the church foyers. The next fete committee meeting is on Thurs. 8th Oct. 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 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: [Making room](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [The Best Team Wins](#)

MESSAGE FROM SONYA O'FARRELL, PARISH SECRETARY

Dear Parishioners,

I want to inform you that I will be finishing my part-time role as Parish Secretary on Friday 23rd October after eight years working for St Luke the Evangelist parish and four years for St Timothy's parish. I will be taking on a full-time role and while this is the right decision for me, I will miss my daily interactions with you all. Please be assured that I will remain a member of the parish and treasure greatly the friendships I have made in my role.
Thank you for all your support over the years.

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: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Response to the Psalm: Remember your mercies, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

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

Communion Antiphon: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope.

This is my comfort when I am brought low.

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 until 1:15pm.**

All parishioners are invited to attend this Forum

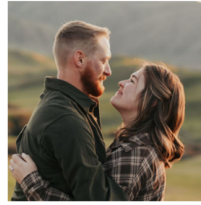
Which parishes are involved and why has it taken so long? St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South and St Timothy Forest Hill parishes. The partnership of these two parishes started began in 2021. Fr Alex was appointed as administrator in July 2024 and in April 2025 appointed as Parish Priest – over the last 2 years Fr Alex has invested more intentionally in building shared structures, developing shared programs and celebrating together to prepare our communities for the journey to amalgamation.

Who will lead the new parish? Fr Alex Chow will continue as Parish Priest and, following the formal amalgamation, will be appointed by the Archbishop as Parish Priest of the new Parish. The Parish Priest will be supported by established advisory and consultative structures, including the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee, in accordance with Canon Law and Archdiocesan norms as well as the Parish Leadership Team. These structures will continue to provide opportunities for parishioners to contribute their wisdom, gifts and experience to the leadership and pastoral life of the new Parish.

What is the proposed timeline?

- Kick off meeting with Archdiocese Change Management Lead with Amalgamation team:
- Launch of the amalgamation 29/30 Aug
- Consultation period: Sept to Dec
- Forum 1: 11 October, St Timothy's Forest Hill
- Forum 2: Looking to the future and discussion on the name for the new parish, 12 Nov. 7.00– 8.30pm at St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South
- Submission to Archbishop Comensoli: 20th Dec 26
- Issue of Decree: Feb/March 2027

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 o 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) or simply scan the QR Code.

NEW



Pray with Pope Leo XIV: One Million Children Praying the Rosary

From 1-7 October, Aid to the Church in Need invites you to join with Pope Leo XIV and Catholics worldwide for the One Million Children Praying the Rosary prayer campaign, for peace and unity in the world.

Families, parishioners, prayer groups, and schools are all encouraged to register to take part! For free Rosary resources and to register, please scan the QR code or visit:

www.acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying



ST LUKE'S FETE in partnership with ST TIMOTHY'S - 18th 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/>



Do the right thing

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



Make Good Choices

Jesus asks us to make good choices. Circle the good choices and cross out the poor choices.

When my bedroom needs tidying, I should...



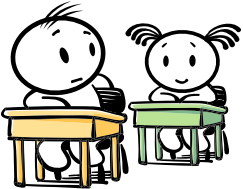
- ... go outside and play
- ... put some of my things away
- ... play with my computer
- ... sort out my rubbish

When I accidentally bump into someone, I should...



- ... tell them it was their fault
- ... say "I'm sorry"
- ... ask them if they are okay
- ... run away quickly

When someone new joins our class, I should...



- ... invite them to come and play
- ... look at them, but not talk to them
- ... ignore them completely
- ... welcome them to our class



Jesus says it is better to have a change of heart than pretend to do what is right. Draw a picture of yourself doing something that you know is the right thing to do.



Find out what Jesus said to the pharisees using the words to fill in the blanks.

I tell you, _____ will _____
the _____ of God before you!
For when _____ the _____
showed you how to do _____,
you did not _____ him.

right **kingdom**
Baptist **believe**
sinners **John** **enter**

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 27 SEPTEMBER 2026



COLLECT

O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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

In a referendum, we vote YES or NO. It is black or white. A stark but ultimately unrealistic choice. In a referendum, there will be a variety of issues we might want to discuss but these must be set aside when we tick the box. The debate happens beforehand, and then we have to make a decision, take action. *'Actions speak louder than words.'* To say that someone is *'all talk'* is not a compliment. A *'well done'* is better than a *'well said'*.

The example that Jesus gives in the gospel is deliberately simplistic. We do not have the opportunity to enter into the relationship between the father and the two sons. What were their circumstances? Perhaps the first had an appointment that was suddenly cancelled leaving him free; perhaps the second had a sudden emergency which impeded his intention. These considerations however are irrelevant – it is a black-and-white example Jesus is using for teaching purposes.

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

18:25-28

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 lawabiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

First Reading

This reading, short and direct, contrasts sin and repentance; it affirms the responsibility of the individual for the consequences of our actions – no less than life or death! Ezekiel focusses on the choice we have either to do actions that are unjust or to renounce these evil actions and live honestly.

We do not hear it in these few lines, but Ezekiel places our personal choices into the context of God's desire that all should live.

The reading ends on a positive note which can be emphasised: *they shall certainly live, they shall not die*. In proclaiming this text, the reader can simply omit the word 'man' and put the pronouns into the plural (see the model of the NRSV).

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

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.**

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.**

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.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24/25 is a beautiful prayer for God's mercy and help. God is presented as a gentle teacher and a patient guide, most clearly in the phrases of the first and third stanzas: *guide us on the right the path, show us the way, teach us to walk in the truth!*

Then in the second stanza and the response, we ask God not to remember the sins of our youth, but instead to remember only the love and mercy we have always known.

The cantor/reader can present these verses with heartfelt warmth and gratitude. Take note of the extra line in the middle stanza.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

2:1-11

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:

Second Reading

Paul's passionate encouragement for the community at Philippi to be united has a very contemporary ring to it. In the Church today, we often encounter polarisation and even division on some issues. Paul's emotional opening sentence – appealing to our life in Christ, the Holy Spirit and tender Christian love – should move our hearts. There is a whole world out there waiting to hear of the gospel – and, whatever our differences, we are all on the same side, with a common purpose and a common mind.

[His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.]

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

In order to achieve deep reconciliation, we need to be humble and self-effacing; we need to listen to and respect the other person.

The shorter version of the reading allows us to omit the ancient hymn to Christ. Given that Christ sets the example of self-emptying for us to follow, it is highly desirable to use the full version. It demonstrates that our unity in the Church is grounded in the self-sacrifice of Christ which ultimately God's power alone can bring to fulfillment.

The NRSV version of the hymn is more inclusive in expression.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the 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.'

Gospel

This is a simple story of saying Yes or No, followed by inaction or action. It presumes that actions speak louder than words. It is the son who said No but actually did go to work who is commended.

This is the first of three parables with which Jesus challenges the religious leaders. The lesson of the parable is shocking. The leaders will find themselves on the outer while the despised but faithful outcasts – tax collectors and prostitutes – will lead the way into God's kingdom. This is because the leaders give lip-service to God's call, but do not act on it. The evidence Jesus gives is the preaching of John the Baptist – who in fact responded to his call to a baptism of repentance?

At this point in the gospel, Jesus has entered Jerusalem on a donkey to the 'hosannahs' of the crowd. Now we see the tension mounting between Jesus and the religious leaders, conflict that ultimately leads to the cross.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Solemn Blessing (Ordinary Time V)

May almighty God always keep every adversity far from you
and in his kindness pour out upon you the gifts of his blessing.

Amen.

May God keep your hearts attentive to his words,
that they may be filled with everlasting gladness.

Amen.

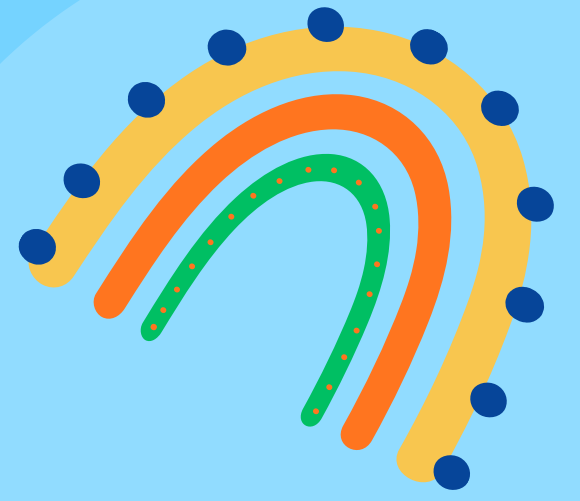
And so, may you always understand what is good and right,
and be found ever hastening along
in the path of God's commands,
made coheirs with the citizens of heaven.

Amen.

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

Amen.

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



JOIN US FOR OUR **ST LUKE'S** **FETE**



SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2026 11AM-4PM

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!



**Fairground Rides | Food Trucks | Market Stalls
Face Painting | Silent Disco | Petting Zoo
Pre-loved Clothing & Books | Silent Auction
Butterfly House | Beer Garden/Wine & Cheese
Devonshire Tea & BBQ | Homemade Cakes
St Luke's Art Show | Plants | Hampers
School Performances and More!**



**SCAN
ME!**

**for more
details**



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ST TIMOTHY'S FOREST HILL
St Luke the Evangelist School - 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South



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

