



# ONE MISSION, TWO PARISHES

Saint Timothy's & Saint Luke the Evangelist  
Catholic Parishes, Forest Hill & Blackburn South

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**WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A**

**BEING THE GOOD NEWS ... BY PROMOTING GOD'S HOSPITALITY**



**Readings this week: Is 55:6 – 9; Ps 144; Phil 1:20 – 24, 27; Mt 20:1 - 16.**

## **Gospel Reflection ~ Greg Sunter**

On a first reading of this gospel story, the reader is probably struck by the unfairness of the situation. The landowner has employed day labourers at different times throughout the day to work in his vineyard. However, come the end of the day, the landowner pays all the day labourers the same amount. Not surprisingly, the labourers employed at daybreak to work the whole day are upset that those who have only worked the last hour of the day are paid the same amount. The landowner reminds them that he is paying them what they agreed at the start of the day, and yet the reader is left uncomfortable about the whole arrangement.

Of course, this is the purpose of Jesus' story! The key to the story is in the introduction. Most of the kingdom parables told by Jesus begin with a formulaic statement, 'The kingdom is like ...' and this one is no different. What follows is almost always a description of an everyday event that is turned on its head. In all of the kingdom parables recorded in the gospels, Jesus describes a world order in which people respond in unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. His message is that the kingdom, or reign, of God turns expectations upside down. In the kingdom, people who are treated badly in this world are held in great esteem; the balance of power is turned upside down; and the usual order of things is challenged. The landowner's final comment in the parable, 'the last will be first, and the first, last', is a perfect example of the challenging nature of Jesus' kingdom parables. In the kingdom, those who hold themselves to be first in this world will be brought down, and those who are treated as least in this world will be exalted.

**Historical Context – Labourers for hire:** Jesus' parable describes a situation that would have been very familiar to his audience. At the time, there were many quite wealthy landowners who controlled large vineyards, orchards and crop fields. They would have employed a certain number of permanent workers but come harvest time there was a need for more workers and, much like today, they sought to employ part time workers for a short period of time until the rush was over. Men looking for work would gather in the marketplace of a village and landowners would select workers and send them to their property to work.

**Scriptural context – Kingdom parables:** A feature of the kingdom parables that Jesus used is a challenging 'shift' to the unexpected. Jesus only ever uses parables to describe what the kingdom is like, and never says exactly what it is or isn't. In each parable he compares the kingdom of God to something that would be familiar to a 1st century audience but then he twists the familiar and makes the challenging shift by making the familiar, unfamiliar. (This 'shift' is sometimes called a 'discombobulating shift'.) Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God disrupts our normal way of thinking, it turns our expectations upside down and it completely challenges our 'normal' relationships.

**Have you thought? Equality or Equity?** How would you feel if you had done a full day's work and were paid the same as someone who had only worked for one hour? Is the landowner in the parable being unjust? He pays the workers exactly what he promised them – but he promised everyone the same amount, regardless of when they started work. The workers who started at 6.00 am complain. How do you think the workers who started later in the day felt? The landowner claims the right to be generous – is generosity unfair? There is a difference between treating people equally and equitably. What has the landowner done here?

## BEING THE GOOD NEWS

Whitehorse Deanery  
Eastern Region  
Archdiocese of Melbourne

Rev Father Gerard

Parish Priest

Sonya O'Farrell

Part-time Parish Secretary

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10.00am – 2.00pm

SUNDAY MASS

ST: & SL: Saturday Vigil @ 6.00pm

Sunday ST: @ 9.00am Australian

Vietnamese – 5.00pm

& SL: @ 8.30am & 10.30am

WEEKDAY MASS & SL: ROSARY

ST: Weds. & Thurs. @ 9.15am

Fri. @ 10.00am

1st Wednesday of the month  
@ 10.00am Mass of Anointing.

SL: Tues. @ 5.00pm

Weds. & Fri. @ 9.30am

Thurs @ 11.00am Funeral

Sat. @ 9.00am

RECONCILIATION

SL: Saturday 9.30am – 10.00am &  
5.30pm – 5.50pm

SL: EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed  
for Adoration Wednesday

Start: 7.00pm | End: 8.00pm

MACS Catholic Primary School

21 Stevens Road, Vermont, 3133 Vic

Tel: (03) 9878 4188

Ms. Anne Maree Jones **Principal**

Email: [principal@sttims.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sttims.catholic.edu.au)

Website: <https://sttims.catholic.edu.au/>

MACS Catholic Primary School

46 Orchard Grove,

Blackburn South Vic 3130

Tel: (03) 9877 4023

Mrs. Clare Ryan: **Principal**

Email: [principal@slblackburnstc.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@slblackburnstc.catholic.edu.au)

Website: [slblackburnstc.catholic.edu.au](http://slblackburnstc.catholic.edu.au)

**Prayer to Saint Timothy**

O God, who adorned Saint Timothy  
with apostolic virtues, grant,  
through his intercession that, living  
justly and devoutly in this present  
age, we may merit to reach our  
heavenly homeland. 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.

*Patron Saint of stomach and  
intestinal disorders.*

**Prayer to Saint Luke the Evangelist**

O St. Luke, you were chosen to  
reveal in preaching and writing  
God's love for the poor. Moved by  
the heavenly Spirit of Love, you  
detailed the life of Jesus, showing  
His divinity and His genuine  
compassion for all human beings.  
Help those who already glory in  
God's name to persevere in one  
heart and one mind and inspire all  
people that they may hear the Good  
News of Salvation. Amen

*Patron Saint of artists, physicians,  
surgeons, students and butchers.*

**WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER** this weekend all who are sick, Bryan Jones, Caratha McKerrow, Tony Keaney, Kathryn Holmes, Therese O'Donoghue, Stewart Davis, Trevor Stowe, Jerry Donoghue, Veronica and all those Parishioners unable to be among us this weekend. For all who have died recently especially Romeo Malicse, for the casualties of war in Ukraine, the floods victims in Libya, the deaths caused by the earthquake in Morocco and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Paolo Isola, Joseph Biviano, Elwyn Kelly, Frederick Dew and Paolo De Franceschi. May they rest in peace.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK:** **Ordinary Time ~ Tuesday:** Sts Cosmas and Damian, martyrs; **Wednesday:** St Vincent de Paul, priest; **Thursday:** St Wenceslaus, martyr or St Lawrence Ruiz and companions, martyrs; **Friday:** Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels; **Saturday:** St Jerome, priest, doctor. **Masses this weekend:** Preface V of The Sundays in Ordinary Time, Eucharistic Prayer II, Eucharistic Acclamation III.

**ST PARISHIONERS** please be advised that this weekend is the Annual Orchid Show on our property **ALL WEEKEND** and will cause disruption for People wanting to park onsite and attend Mass, especially Sunday morning next week.

**WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES** this **Sunday** and the theme is, '[Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay](#)'. It's an opportunity to honour those who have come to Australia seeking a new life and to tell their stories.

**SL PARISH MORNING MASS THIS THURSDAY** will be at 11.00am for the Funeral of Romeo Malicse. All welcome.

**2023 – 2024 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS** begins next Sunday morning, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023; it will be time to put our clocks forward by an hour, when we go to bed Saturday evening or very early (by 2.00am) Sunday morning.

**AUSSIE BREAD TAGS FOR WHEELCHAIRS:** A Parishioner has suggested we collect plastic bread tags. The tags are recycled locally, raising funds to buy [wheelchairs](#) for disadvantaged people, mainly in South Africa. Your contribution can be left in the Recycle Box in our Church foyer/narthex please.

**PROCLAIM OFFICE:** An exciting [announcement](#) 📣 A three-day event to inspire, engage and equip ourselves to go out and proclaim the Gospel into our local communities. Inspiring speakers. Formation. Music. Prayer. Further details to come. *Proclaim* is an initiative of *Proclaim: the Office for Mission Renewal*, on behalf of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, and inspired by *Take the Way of the Gospel*.

**SL'S P & F AND THE NEXT PARISH FUNDRAISER:** St Luke's Parish Hall is an official voting centre for the upcoming Referendum on Saturday 14th October. The Parish and School have decided to take advantage of this opportunity to do some fundraising and community building by holding a BBQ and Cake Stall for the many visitors we will have that day. Of course, '*many hands make light work*' and we would love as many helpers as possible to make it a successful day. If you could mark it on your calendars to be able to help out - be it setting up, cooking, serving or helping with pack up - whatever you can fit in your day - it would be greatly appreciated! And don't forget, get prepared to bake your very best for our very reputable and popular cake stall! Bags/plates etc are available this weekend in our Church Foyer/Narthex. For more details, please contact the Parish Office.

**MELBOURNE CATHOLICS: Celebrating Migrant and Refugee Sunday**

**A VOCATION VIEW:** "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Make a stand for mercy, empathy, forgiveness, and selflessness!

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** "Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last". - Matthew 20:16 You've heard the saying "it's not where you start, but how you finish." This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live "God-centered" lives and not "self-centered" lives. (ST: Weekly First Collection Presbytery Envelopes: \$46.20; Thanksgiving Stewardship Envelopes this week: \$115; Vietnamese Donation: \$267.80; SL: Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$303; Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$488).

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS** who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

## WEEKEND PARISH MINISTRY ROSTER

### MINISTERS OF THE WORD

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>6:00 PM SL</b>	Bernie Brennan
	<b>6:00 PM ST</b>	Peggy D'Cruz
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>8:30 AM SL</b>	Beryl Chelliah
	<b>9:00 AM ST</b>	V. Vinsonclero & A. Johnny
	<b>10:30 AM SL</b>	Mike Yore
	<b>5.00PM ST</b>	Van Truong & Dung Luong

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>6:00 PM SL</b>	Olive Hammill
	<b>6:00 PM ST</b>	Rachel Grealy
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>8:30 AM SL</b>	Kana Chelliah
	<b>9:00 AM ST</b>	Anico Yee
	<b>10:30 AM SL</b>	Marg Yore
	<b>5.00PM ST</b>	Hoang Nguyen

### SLIDE OPERATORS

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>6:00 PM SL</b>	Nigel Tauro
	<b>6:00 PM ST</b>	Michelle Chen
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>8:30 AM SL</b>	Anthony Fernandez
	<b>9:00 AM ST</b>	Lee Min Yee
	<b>10:30 AM SL</b>	Manny Gonzalez
	<b>5.00PM ST</b>	Toan Tran

### SL WELCOMERS 23/24 SEPT

**6:00 PM** Genevieve Hemsley  
**8:30 AM** Marie Pekish  
**10:30 AM** Volunteer

*HOSPITALITY  
 THE BASIC LITURGICAL MINISTRY*

### SL WELCOMERS 30 SEP/1 OCT

**6:00 PM** John Ryan  
**9:30 AM** Joe Brogno  
**10:30 AM** Margaret Gearon

### 23 AND 24 SEPTEMBER

Bernie Brennan  
 Peggy D'Cruz  
 Beryl Chelliah  
 V. Vinsonclero & A. Johnny  
 Mike Yore  
 Van Truong & Dung Luong

### 23 AND 24 SEPTEMBER

Olive Hammill  
 Rachel Grealy  
 Kana Chelliah  
 Anico Yee  
 Marg Yore  
 Hoang Nguyen

### 23 AND 24 SEPTEMBER

Nigel Tauro  
 Michelle Chen  
 Anthony Fernandez  
 Lee Min Yee  
 Manny Gonzalez  
 Toan Tran

### SL CHURCH CLEANING

7<sup>th</sup> Oct. – Sonya's Team  
 Sonya O'Farrell, Rose Knight,  
 Joe Brogno & Netty Solomon

### ST CHURCH CLEANING

7<sup>th</sup> Oct @ 2pm  
 Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,  
 Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

### 30 SEPT AND 1 OCT

Melina Barcellona  
 Patrick Kelly  
 Kana Chelliah  
 Ryan Yee & Stefanie Chin  
 Margaret Gearon  
 Mai Le & Hoa Doan

### 30 SEPT AND 1 OCT

Godfrey Thong  
 Mary Italiano  
 Beryl Chelliah  
 Daphne Hickman  
 Ian Holmes  
 Hoang Nguyen

### 30 SEPT AND 1 OCT

David Prabha  
 Michelle Chen  
 Megan McLean  
 Lee Min Yee  
 Manny Gonzalez  
 Toan Tran

### SL CHURCH FLOWERS

23<sup>rd</sup> Sept – Kate Skowronska  
 30<sup>th</sup> Sept – Nikhita Paul

### ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Parishioners  
**ST COUNTERS**  
 This week Team 5:  
 Anico Yee & Pabs Gonzalez  
 Next week Team 6:  
 Peggy & Ngery D'Cruz

*by Promoting God's Hospitality*

### Parish Groups & Contacts

Lectors, Registrars, Collectors,  
 Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist,  
 Slide Projector Operator & Rosters

**ST:** Corrie Quimbo 9412 8499  
**SL:** Margaret Gearon 0409 807 135

### Baptism Preparation

**ST:** Mary Italiano 9412 8499

### Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen 0422 400 116  
 Andy Tran 0422 382 109

### Vietnamese Youth

John Dinh 0448 977 037

### Parish Collection Preparers

**ST:** Barry Silvester &  
 Michael Kawalevski

### Stewardship Counters

**SL:** Dale Dixon - 0433 885 087  
 Steve Kilroe-Smith - 0404 864 232

### Parish Pastoral Council

**ST:** T.B.A.

**SL:** T.B.A.

### Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,  
 Darren McLean - 0417 774 504  
 Janette Clark - 9877 2292  
 Fr Gerard - 9877 2292

### Parish History

**SL:** Margaret Gearon - 0409 807 135

**Whitehorse Deanery** - Fr Gerard

### Finance Committee

Bernard Negline  
 Parish Accountant

### SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the  
 Parish Office - 9877 2292

### Church Sacristan

**ST:** Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

**SL:** Greg Grant - 0401 644 474

### Church Housekeeping

**ST:** Margaret King 9412 8499

### Church Cleaning & Flowers

**SL:** Megan McLean - 0419 347 693

### Church Linen

**SL:** Beryl Kanagalinggam

### Parish Garden Maintenance

**ST:** Des Connors, Leo Watson,  
 Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community  
**SL:** Darren McLean - 0417 774 504

**Holy Communion to the  
 housebound** - Fr Gerard

### Emmaus College School Advisory

**Council Parish Rep.:**

**SL:** Bernard O'Malley

### Parish Choirs

**ST:** Mary Italiano & Theresa Nguyen

**SL:** Lina & Maria Mafi

0411 136 043

### Parish & School Fete Committee

**SL:** Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

### School Advisory Council

**ST:** Ms. Anne Maree Jones 9878 4188

**SL:** Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

### School Parents' Association

**ST:** Ms. Anne Maree Jones 9878 4188

**SL:** Mrs. Clare Ryan - 9877 4023

### St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

*(Freecall: Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)*

### Parish Contacts:

**ST:** John McCoy

**SL:** Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

**THE NEXT SERIES OF STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES** are now available in the Church Foyer/Narthex of our respective SL & ST Churches. Receipts too are available as well for Parishioners who use EFT, CC and/or DD. Please be advised that both Parishes have moved to a new platform for CC and DD transactions so you will observe *DIFFERENCES* in your forthcoming Bank Statements.

**ON THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK:** Fr Mike Delaney says this gospel challenges us to give thanks that God is bigger than we are, and is just to all of us, no matter when or how we hear the word of God. Mother Hilda says for God there is no late in the day, it is always sunrise on our life. Fr Tony Percy says the key to this week's Gospel is that God says I'm not so much concerned with what people earn, I'm concerned with what people need, their basic needs and their basic desires. Byron and Francine Pirola say that in marriage the grand gesture is a lovely idea, but it's not as good as frequent daily attention in small doses. Fr Dave Callaghan says that when we meditate on the love that has been shown through Jesus' saving action, we lose the desire to sin. Plus, more great music!

**MAJELLAN FAMILY MEDIA:** Have You Thought [About Al's Impact on Faith?](#)

**CTC IS PLEASED TO MAKE AVAILABLE AGAIN** in October 2023 their popular online lecture series, **Engaging Your Faith**. Fourteen stand-alone sessions on a range of themes will be presented by members of our lecturing staff. For full details please click [here](#). Cost: \$25 per session or \$40 if seeking teacher accreditation. Book and pay directly through our [website](#).

**MARCH FOR THE BABIES:** Come and show your support for the unborn Join the March for the Babies on 7th October, 2023 at 12.30pm in the Treasury Gardens, Cnr Spring & Wellington Pde. Wear blue or pink.

**THE MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER** will hold their Annual Mission Fair on Saturday 14 October 9.00 am – 2.30 pm at 154 Cotham Road, Kew. This year the proceeds will be for the renovation and extension of a school in Zambia run by Franciscan Sisters of the Presentation for marginalised children.' Enquiries Phone: 9817 3715.

**SAFETY STATEMENT:** We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children and vulnerable persons in our Church. Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish Blackburn South holds the care, safety, wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons as central and fundamental responsibilities of the Church. This commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

**Raise your voices ... 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:** Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S EMERGENCY APPEALS – MOROCCO / LIBYA:** Caritas Australia needs your support to respond to the devastating earthquake in Morocco and floods in Libya. Thousands of people have died and others have been injured. Communities need shelter, food, water and medical assistance. Please support **Caritas Australia's** emergency appeals. Donate at [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)

**SL: 60TH ANNIVERSARY WINES FOR OUR PARISH:** Please contact the Parish Office at your convenience. Bottle \$15, 2 Bottles \$25, 6 Bottles \$75, 12 Bottles \$140; (Will mix, red/white).

**SL: MARGARET GEARON'S HISTORY OF THE PARISH & SCHOOL PART II** is now available for @ \$15 each.



**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**



**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	<b>T</b>

**FINISH**

**COMPLETE THE TEXT MAZE**

"Everyone who is now first will be last!"



# 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!"



# SUNDAY READINGS

## READ AT HOME

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

24 September 2023



### 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, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

### Readings and Commentaries

All of the letters written in Paul's name, whether certainly by him or by an author invoking his name, begin with a greeting. Sometimes the lectionary includes this greeting, sometimes it doesn't. We don't, for example, get to hear how the letter to the Philippians begins. Here's the opening verse: "From Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus, together with their presiding elders and deacons". A few things about this are worthy of note.

First of all, Paul, who often enough insists on his unique apostolic authority, presents himself in partnership with Timothy. He describes them both as servants or slaves – of Christ Jesus. Using the same word, Paul will write of Jesus as assuming "the condition of a slave" (2:7). The members of the community are called "saints," not, of course, because they have been through a canonisation process, but because they have received the Spirit of holiness. The community has an emerging leadership structure; there are "presiding elders and deacons". These terms don't have the meaning they acquired later when Church offices became more systematised. Only time will tell how successfully the Spirit is guiding today's Church towards a new era of servant leadership.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah****55:6–9**

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.

**First Reading**

This excerpt from the book of the prophet Isaiah is part of a longer passage read during the solemn liturgy of the word at the Paschal Vigil. As was noted there, chapter 55 of the book of the prophet Isaiah brings the second section of the work to a splendid close and threads together many of its themes. Generally called the Book of Consolation, chapters 40–55 are addressed to the exiles returning home from exile in Babylon.

Today's text is a call to conversion. The wicked and evil are exhorted: "Seek the Lord while he is still to be found". This is not at all a threat, but a positive invitation to sinners to put their trust in "our God who is rich in forgiving". They are reminded of the mystery and majesty of God who transcends the limitations of the human mind. If a feature of sinfulness is to be held mentally captive by narrow categories of reward and punishment, then the discovery of divine forgiveness will bring about a true liberation of mind, heart and spirit.

This is a short but appealing reading. It begins with the earthy reality of the human condition, but swiftly moves into the infinite realm of God's mercy and compassion. Readers will surely enjoy delivering this good news with sympathy and strength. The NRSV lectionary employs inclusive language.

**Responsorial Psalm****Ps 144:2–3, 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 is one of a number of psalms structured on the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet. From start to finish it is a joyful hymn, blending the summons to praise with grounds for such praise. Various verses from Psalm 144/145 constitute the responsorial psalm on Sundays 14 and 19 in Year A, as well as today. The three chosen for today come from the beginning, middle and end of the psalm. Each of these three Sundays features a different response; today's comes from late in the psalm.

The first stanza is a personal declaration of praise ("I will bless you day after day"). The other two are affirmations of faith in Israel's God who is kind, full of compassion, faithful, loving, just and close by. The second stanza echoes the core creedal statement found in Exodus and elsewhere in the Hebrew scriptures: "Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness" (Ex 34:6).

Otherwise, the language and format of the responsorial psalm are quite straightforward. It should be a joy for readers to lead the assembly in this faith-filled prayer.

**A reading from the first 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.

**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.'

**Second Reading**

After our long journey through the weighty theological treatise that is Paul's letter to the Romans, a short sprint through a letter radiating joy and friendship may come as a welcome relief. The generally sunny spirit of the letter to the Philippians is clear, but where, when and why it was written are questions that remain without definitive answers.

It's a pity that today's first extract gives no clue to Paul's affection for the Philippians. It plunges us straightaway into a rhetorical debate that Paul is having with himself while imprisoned. What would be the better thing for him – to die and be with Christ, or to live on and continue his mission? Unfortunately, the compilers of the lectionary chose not to include any of the preceding material in which Paul greets the community, prays thankfully for them and explains the situation which has given rise to his dilemma.

Deprived of this context, the reading is more puzzling and less appealing than it might otherwise have been. It asks us, without warning, to enter sympathetically into the argument Paul is having in his own mind and to follow the restless toing and froing of his thought. Readers will need to study this text very carefully to ensure they themselves have grasped its fluid logic. Only then will they have any hope of illuminating it for the assembly. The rapidity of Paul's thinking calls for a relatively slow and deliberate delivery. Above all, Paul's classic saying – "Life to me, of course, is Christ" – should be given memorable emphasis.

**Gospel**

Matthew alone includes the parable of the workers in the vineyard in his gospel. He places it immediately after Jesus' saying, "Many who are first who will be last, and the last, first," and concludes it with the same words. In spite of being bookmarked by this axiom, the parable isn't a simple illustration of it. The real point of the story seems to be that God is equally generous to all.

Given a contemporary mindset that evaluates everything in economic terms, the parable has become more provocative rather than less. It offends our ingrained habit of calculating just desserts. This can distort our hearing of the story. The owner of the vineyard has not exploited any of his workers; all are paid the going rate for a day's labour. He has simply chosen to pay those who have worked least the same amount as those who have worked most. He has been remarkably generous.

The parable is open to interpretations that may or may not have been in Jesus' or Matthew's mind. The early workers can be seen as the Jews, the later ones as either "tax collectors and sinners" or as the Gentiles. The risk in this kind of allegorising is that it may divert attention away from the primary focus: God's generosity. Perhaps the payment of one denarius to each worker implies that the kingdom of God is a gift that cannot be given in part; it is an indivisible blessing, given as a whole.

Precisely because the parable is disturbing, it is likely to be well-remembered. Ministers of the word have the challenge of proclaiming it afresh, complete with all its repetitions.

## Concluding Blessing

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

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

And so, may we 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 us and remain with us for ever.

**Amen.**

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



# *St. Luke's Fete* *& 60th Anniversary*

**60TH ANNIVERSARY ST LUKE'S WINE:**

**1 BOTTLE \$15**

**2 BOTTLES \$25**

**6 BOTTLES \$75**

**12 BOTTLES \$140**

**(WILL MIX, RED / WHITE)**

# **FREE TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO MIGRATE OR TO STAY**

## **109TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

**SUNDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2023**

A publication of the Australian Catholic Migrant and  
Refugee Office





**ST PETER CLAVER'S**

***MISSION FAIR***

**SATURDAY 14 October**

**9.00 am – 2.30 pm**

**MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST PETER CLAVER**

**154 COTHAM ROAD, KEW VIC. 3101**

***COME AND ENJOY THE DAY  
WHILE SUPPORTING THE MISSIONS***

**For further information please telephone: 9817 3715**

# A PRAYER IN TIMES OF DISASTER



God with us in light and darkest days –

We pray for all impacted by earthquake, flood or other disaster:  
survivors, displaced people, loved ones, lost ones.

Where there's life, let there be rescue.

Where there's need, let there be care.

Where there's loss, let there be consolation.

We pray for all on the ground, responding with urgency:  
emergency workers, medics, people donating food and blood.

Where there's fear, let there be hope.

Where there's confusion, let there be clarity.

Where there's weariness, let there be rest.

As we pray for people directly affected, we pray also for ourselves:  
aware, far-off, watching on.

Where there's compassion, let there be action.

Where there's love, let there be solidarity.

Where there's concern, let there be generosity.

God with us in light and darkest days –  
hear our prayer.

Amen.

by Dr Rebekah Pryor/Caritas Australia, September 2023



# **EMERGENCY APPEALS**

**Morocco Earthquake and Libya Floods**

**[www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)**



# MARCH FOR THE BABIES 2023

Come join thousands in our peaceful walk through Melbourne's CBD, to protest against the horrors of full-term abortion in Victoria. Help us speak out against this law and celebrate all life!

## OCTOBER 7TH, 1PM START

Meeting at Treasury Gardens,  
corner of Spring Street and  
Wellington Parade



# Engaging Your Faith Online Series



Choose from 14 sessions in October and November 2023

Engaging Your Faith is a series of short, online presentations that invite participants to reflect on what it means to be people of faith in the contemporary world.

Experienced lecturers from Catholic Theological College present on a variety of topics such as Philosophy, Spirituality, Biblical Studies, Christian Meditation, Theology, Interfaith Relations, and issues in Science and Religion.

## Cost

- \$25 per session: for people NOT seeking teaching accreditation
- \$40 per session: for teachers seeking accreditation

See the next page for the list of topics and presenters.

These sessions are eligible for maintaining accreditation for teaching in Catholic schools in all Victorian and Queensland dioceses. In other dioceses, teachers should check with their education office.

[Visit our website for a full description of the sessions and to register.](#)

# October – November 2023

[Visit our website for a full description of the sessions and to register.](#)

Day	Title	Presenter
Monday 16 October 7pm – 8.30pm	<b>The Women in the Gospel of Matthew</b> <i>Bookings close: Friday 13 October at 5pm</i>	Dr Rosemary Canavan
Tuesday 17 October 7.30pm – 8.30pm	<b>Basic Listening Skills for Pastoral Ministry</b> <i>Bookings close: Friday 13 October at 5pm</i>	Rev. Dr Jake Mudge
Wednesday 18 October 7.30pm – 8.30pm	<b>Reading the Old Testament: Why and How?</b> <i>Bookings close: Monday 16 October at 5pm</i>	Rev. Dr Kris Sonek OP
Thursday 19 October 7.30pm – 9pm	<b>Lectio Divina</b> <i>Bookings close: Tuesday 17 October at 5pm</i>	Rev. Assoc. Prof. John Dupuche
Monday 23 October 4pm – 5pm	<b>Meditation in the Classroom</b> <i>Bookings close: Friday 20 October at 5pm</i>	Dr Christopher Morris
Tuesday 24 October 7.30pm – 9pm	<b>The Eucharistic Hymns of Thomas Aquinas</b> <i>Bookings close: Friday 20 October at 5pm</i>	Rev. Dr Joseph Vnuk OP
Wednesday 25 October 7pm – 9pm	<b>Religious Education for Today: Why and How?</b> <i>Bookings close: Monday 23 October at 5pm</i>	Dr Rina Madden
Thursday 26 October 7pm – 8.30pm	<b>A Plenary Council and A Global Synod: What Next for Australian Catholics?</b> <i>Bookings close: Tuesday 24 October at 5pm</i>	Very Rev. Kevin Lenehan
Thursday 26 October 7.30pm – 9pm	<b>The Cry for a New Spirituality</b> <i>Bookings close: Tuesday 24 October at 5pm</i>	Rev. Assoc. Prof. John Dupuche
Monday 30 October 4pm – 5pm	<b>Scripture Meditation (<i>lectio divina</i>) in the Classroom</b> <i>Bookings close: Friday 27 October at 5pm</i>	Dr Christopher Morris
Monday 30 October 7pm – 8.30pm	<b>An Introduction to AI and Transhumanism ... for Christians</b> <i>Bookings close: Friday 27 October at 5pm</i>	Rev. Dr Christopher Mulherin
Tuesday 31 October 7.30pm – 9pm	<b>Sisters and Brothers All</b> <i>Bookings close: Friday 27 October at 5pm</i>	Dr Frances Baker RSM
Wednesday 1 November 7.30pm – 9pm	<b>Four Male Characters in John: A Journey into Relationship with the Divine Other</b> <i>Bookings close: Monday 30 October at 5pm</i>	Dr Paul Creevey FMS
Thursday 2 November 7pm – 8.30pm	<b>Levinas, Ethics, and Our Responsibility for the Other: Some Implications for Education</b> <i>Bookings close: Tuesday 31 October at 5pm</i>	Prof. Jānis Ozoliņš