



ONE MISSION, TWO PARISHES

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

Parish Office for both Parishes: 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133

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

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 1 OCTOBER 2023

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

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



Readings this week: Ezek 18:25 – 28; Ps 24; Phil 2:1 – 11; Mt 21:28 - 32.

Gospel Reflection ~ Greg Sunter

This week's gospel passage is one of many within Matthew's gospel that show Jesus at odds with the religious authorities of his day. The picture of the religious leaders that comes through Matthew's gospel is one of hypocrisy. Jesus is frequently portrayed as criticising the leaders for holding too strongly to the letter of the law and ignoring the spirit of the law and the call to compassion. This week's passage has Jesus seeking the opinion of the chief priests and elders on a hypothetical situation (a common style of debating a point of law in the Jewish tradition). He describes two sons, each asked by their father to go and work in the family vineyard. The first says 'No' but later does his father's bidding. The second says 'Yes' but doesn't follow through on his commitment. Jesus is criticising the religious leaders of his time who, with their words, said 'Yes' to God but by their actions said 'No'. He most certainly would have upset the leaders by telling them that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the kingdom of God before them. Whilst these tax collectors and prostitutes were regarded by the religious authorities as 'sinners' beyond redemption, Jesus holds them up in the image of the first son of the story. Although they may have said 'No' to God through their poor choices, ultimately they are saying 'Yes' to God in their acceptance of Jesus and the message of the kingdom of God. On the other hand, the leaders have said 'Yes' to God publicly through abiding by all the religious laws and maintaining a 'religious profile' but in their hearts and actions they have not truly said 'Yes!'

From the perspective of ... A Tax Collector: Hey, Jesus is talking about me again! I love it when he says that I'm better than some of those stuck up chief priests. All my life they've looked down on me; pretending they're better than me. I've seen the way some of them behave when they think no-one's watching! They're no better than me! And Jesus says that people like me will enter the kingdom before people like them! Yes! I know I've done the wrong thing plenty of times – Jesus has helped me to see that. Maybe that's what makes me different from those priests; I don't pretend that I've never done anything wrong.

Historical Context – Chief Priests and Tax Collectors: Only men of the Israelite tribe of Levi could become Priests and Levites. Men from the other eleven tribes were prohibited. It was not a religious 'call' but rather a fact of birth that led men to be priests. The chief priests and high priest performed all the rituals in the Temple in Jerusalem – it was they who performed sacrifices on behalf of others. They were very important and influential. Tax collectors were regarded poorly because they acted on behalf of the Romans – collecting revenue for an occupying and pagan force. They made their living by collecting extra amounts. They were looked down upon by most people. **Living the Gospel – Saying 'Yes!':** In many ways, it is easy to say 'Yes' and not really mean it. Some people do it all the time in their lives. They say 'Yes' when they have no intention at all of following through on their commitment. It's easy to say 'Yes' and not mean it when it comes to faith as well. It's pretty easy to turn up at Church on a Sunday and be seen to be doing the 'right' thing. But if our faith doesn't change the way we live, then maybe we're really saying 'No' to God.

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. Thurs., & Fri. @ 9.30am
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

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@slblackburnstn.catholic.edu.au

Website: slblackburnstn.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, 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 Leonard Taylor, Teresa Arelette, Carlton Gleeson, Natasha Mikolic, Doris Beatty, Maurice Rodrigues, Kate McLoney, Cris Canete, Fr. Tom Jones, Percy Alwis, Kathleen Donnithorne, Donald Wood, Margaret Regester, Giuseppina Defina, Isaura Tenorio, Antoni & Wanda Rusc, Mary Kim Yian Yeo and Bertha Andrews. May they rest in peace.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: Ordinary Time ~ Monday: The Holy Guardian Angels; Wednesday: St Francis of Assisi; Thursday: St Faustina Kowalska, virgin; Friday: St Bruno, priest; Saturday: Our Lady of the Rosary. Masses this weekend: Preface II of The Sundays in Ordinary Time, Eucharistic Prayer III, Eucharistic Acclamation I.

SL RITE OF PRESENTATION AND WELCOME this weekend for Samuel (Sam) Mitchell, Son of Alycia & Tom who will soon become the newest member of our Parish Family of Families. Please make them all welcome.

BREAK OPEN THE WORD: A copy of this publication is now available for ALL Lectors on our Rosters at ST & SL. They can be retrieved in person from the Priest Sacristies @ ST & SL Churches respectively.

SL ST V. DE P 2024 COLUMBAN CALENDARS are now available from the Counter in our Church Foyer/Narthex. Your donation towards their cost can be left in the St V de P Poor Box adjacent to where they will be available.

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.

SL PARISH HALL is currently receiving an external cosmetic repainting; it has been quite a number of years since it was last done. Your financial support of the Parish enables this to happen and will benefit us all moving forward.

MELBOURNE CATHOLICS: Celebrating the contributions and devotion of Catholic women.

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.

A VOCATION VIEW: "We cannot act overly proud just because we have responded to God's call. Responding is our duty and source of happiness; serving God with perseverance and happiness fulfils us.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: "Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves..." Philippians 2:3 Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self-image. But, if we truly believe everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life: your family, your friends and those who make you angry. (ST: Weekly First Collection Presbytery Envelopes: \$205; Thanksgiving Stewardship Envelopes this week: \$285; Vietnamese Donation: \$265.55; Monthly direct debits for Stewardship \$584; Monthly direct debits for Presbytery \$296; Monthly credit cards for Stewardship \$495; Monthly credit cards for Presbytery \$235 SL: Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$303; Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$488 Monthly direct debits for Stewardship \$1711.50; Monthly direct debits for Presbytery \$1472.50; Monthly credit cards for Stewardship \$787.50; Monthly credit cards for Presbytery \$707.50).

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

SATURDAY 6:00 PM SL
6:00 PM ST
SUNDAY 8:30 AM SL
9:00 AM ST
10:30 AM SL
5:00PM ST

30 SEPT AND 1 OCT

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

7 AND 8 OCTOBER

Janice D Souza
Kelvin Chen
Lucy Ferris
Joelle Roussetty & Martin Harris
Genevieve Hemsley
Thu Ngo & Thuan Tran

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY 6:00 PM SL
6:00 PM ST
SUNDAY 8:30 AM SL
9:00 AM ST
10:30 AM SL
5.00PM ST

30 SEPT AND 1 OCT

Godfrey Thong
Mary Italiano
Beryl Chelliah
Daphne Hickman
Ian Holmes
Hung Dinh

7 AND 8 OCTOBER

Anne Lobo
Patrick Kelly
Ian Holmes
Chin L Tay
Val Gardiner
Hoang Nguyen

SLIDE OPERATORS

SATURDAY 6:00 PM SL
6:00 PM ST
SUNDAY 8:30 AM SL
9:00 AM ST
10:30 AM SL
5.00PM ST

30 SEPT AND 1 OCT

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

7 AND 8 OCTOBER

Choir
Michelle Chen
Melina Barcellona
Lee Min Yee
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 30 SEP/1 OCT

6:00 PM John Ryan
8:30 AM Joe Brogno
10:30 AM Margaret Gearon
HOSPITALITY

THE BASIC LITURGICAL MINISTRY

SL WELCOMERS 7/8 OCT

6:00 PM Edna Lee
9:30 AM Marie Pekish
10:30 AM Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

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

ST CHURCH CLEANING

7th Oct @ 2pm
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

30th Sept – Nikhita Paul
7th Oct – Marie Parker

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Parishioners

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 6:
Peggy & Ngery D'Cruz
Next week Team 7:
Barry & Christine Silvester

ON THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK: Fr Mike Delaney asks where do we stand today in our response to God's call to be a disciple in the vineyard? Mother Hilda on harnessing the energies of love. Fr Tony Percy on acceptance, conversion, change, – acceptance of the person is not necessarily approval of their behaviour. Trish McCarthy on purity of heart and our capacity to respond to change, and Deacon Josh Clayton using evacuation training to assess what's the most important thing you have and what's the one thing that you couldn't bear losing?

MAJELLAN FAMILY MEDIA: [Baptism remains](#) a timeless and essential sacrament.

A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND IS FOR YOU: "Live Your Best Married Life in Love" Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse. This weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living. Every married couple deserves a Marriage Encounter weekend!! The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome. **Date: 3-5 November 2023** in Melbourne **Book Now** Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Please check our website for more details wwme.org.au.

UPCOMING PARISH MENALIVE WEEKEND AT BURWOOD: a forthcoming Parish [menALIVE](#) Weekend which will occur on 28-29 October 2023, and which is being hosted by the combined parishes of St. Benedict's and St. Scholastica's in Burwood.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES VICTORIA: [September 2023 Newsletter](#)

LONG TERM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AUSTRALIA-PACIFIC REGION - THE CAGLIERO PROJECT, SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2024 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Australia. Applications close October 31st 2023. Send us an enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au

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.

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

Raise your voices ... 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.

SAFEGUARDING UNIT: Safeguarding ALIVE: [September 2023](#)

LEGION OF MARY MELBOURNE SENATUS: Senatus Bulletin [October 2023](#)

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.

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.



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**
sinner **John** **enter**



Do the right thing

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A



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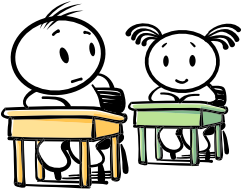
- ... go outside and play
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SUNDAY READINGS

READ AT HOME

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

1 October 2023



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,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Readings and Commentaries

The issue of personal and collective responsibility for our actions is complex and controverted. The prophet Ezekiel's exclusive focus on individual responsibility makes sense as a sharp corrective to the Israelites who blamed the misfortune of the exile wholly and solely on the sins of their forebears. Neither extreme can satisfy us. We are acutely aware of being caught up in the fallout from the actions, attitudes and policies of earlier generations, just as we know that the choices we make in our personal lives have ramifications for others.

These are existential issues. To give but three examples of the way the individual and the corporate are intertwined: the dispossession of the Indigenous peoples of Australia, the perpetration and cover-up of child sexual abuse by Church personnel, and the poisoning of the earth's atmosphere by greenhouse gases. There are no easy answers as to our personal responsibility for historic wrongs, but denying them is no answer.

What is clear is that we must do our best to right the wrongs of the past and be willing to submit our present assumptions, aspirations and behaviour to scrutiny. This is not a descent into paralysing guilt, but an ascent to freedom. Nor is it a project we embark on alone, but a shared enterprise guided by the Spirit of wisdom and truth.

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 law-abiding 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

The prophet Ezekiel's message to the people of Israel about personal responsibility is better understood in the light of the opening and closing verses of the chapter. They are worth checking out (18:1-2.31-32). At the outset God accuses the exiles of blaming their suffering on the faults of their ancestors, exemplified in an ancient proverb.

Without this context, the short extract we hear today begins abruptly. The point is made in categorical terms. Good people who choose to sin must accept its deadly consequences, while sinners who repent will be blessed with life. Each individual is personally responsible for his or her choices. This stark declaration is put in broader context by the concluding verses of the chapter. The drama of human choice takes place under the umbrella of God's desire for humankind to live. The people to are told "make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit . . . Repent and live!"

Elsewhere in the scriptures there is recognition that the choices human beings make do impinge on others, whether their contemporaries or later generations. Only two Sundays ago we heard Paul say "The life and death of each of us has its influence on others" (Rom 14:7). Ezekiel's prophetic task is to react against the people's evasion of personal responsibility, hence the absolute stance he takes.

It is not the reader's role to offer such explanations but to proclaim the reading in all its forthrightness. It has all the weight of a judicial verdict and this should not be shielded away from. It does end on a positive note.

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

It's fitting that Ezekiel's insistence on personal responsibility should be followed by a psalm that combines an individual's repentance with trust in God's forgiveness. Psalm 24/25 includes a personal admission of sin – "Do not remember the sins of my youth" – but is steadfastly focussed on God.

Each of the three verses has a character of its own. The first is a petition by the psalmist to be taught God's ways, with the repetition and variation that is a feature of Hebrew poetry. Words like "ways," "paths," and "walk" go hand in hand. The second is a confession of sin and a plea for God's mercy. The third is a confession of faith in God who "shows the path," "guides the humble," and "teaches his way".

In sum, the psalmist does not wallow in guilt, but consistently acclaims the goodness of God. The tone is set by the response and is maintained throughout. Noting the five-line second stanza, readers should find it easy enough to lead the assembly in this confident and positive prayer.

**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:

[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.]

**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.'

Second Reading

This is the only occasion in the three-year cycle of readings for Sundays and feasts that the whole of Philippians 2:1–11 is included in the lectionary. It consists of two inter-related parts – Paul's deeply felt appeal to the Philippians to be united among themselves, followed by the celebrated canticle that sums up the paschal mystery. The canticle is heard independently on Palm Sunday and on the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, while today the lectionary offers the option of reading only Paul's appeal without the hymn. Not to proclaim the full reading today would be a great pity. It is an ideal example of how Paul, in addressing a problematic situation, is inspired to profound theological reflection.

Paul's extended plea for the community to "be united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind" demonstrates the strength of the affection he has for them. It's a powerful and persuasive exhortation. But it's more than a moral appeal to good will. It's grounded in the self-sacrificing love of Jesus Christ and is the defining trait of those who claim his name. Believers must make his mind their own. That's what the canticle spells out so lucidly. With admirable economy it crystallises the whole paschal mystery.

This is a privileged text for readers to proclaim. In the first part, they are conveying the passionate love Paul has for the Philippians. This calls for great empathy and depth of feeling. In the second they are giving voice to an early Christian confession of faith. Each phrase should be given due emphasis, allowing the assembly time to digest its condensed meaning. This is not a text to be rushed. It deserves a solemn and measured delivery.

Gospel

All four gospels contain accounts of Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem in the interval between his triumphant entry into the city and the start of his passion. They vary in length and content. John devotes six chapters (11–17) to this interlude, but most of these are taken up with Jesus' intimate conversation with his disciples. Luke has two chapters, Mark three, and Matthew five (21–25). Apart from the cleansing of the Temple (21:12–17), Matthew's material is teaching-rather than action-oriented.

Today's reading, the parable of the two sons, is the first of three in quick succession. As has been noted before, the parables Jesus told are sometimes followed by an explanation or application. This may have been the case here. The parable proper is something that could have come from the wisdom tradition of the Old Testament. One son says "yes" to his father's command but reneges, the other says "no" at first but then obeys. Which is to be commended? The latter. This brief parable brings to mind Jesus' saying in the sermon on the mount: "All you need say is 'Yes' if you mean yes, 'No' if you mean no" (5:37).

Jesus then proceeds to apply the parable to his audience of Jewish leaders. Sinners whose way of life was "no" had come to believe in John the Baptist; the leaders who purported to say "yes" had failed to follow the Baptist. This allegation of hypocrisy on the part of the authorities is the opening shot in what will soon become the deepening conflict that culminates in Jesus' death. It will do no harm for ministers of the word to have this in mind when they proclaim this text.

Concluding Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

Amen.

May he let his face shine upon us
and show us his mercy.

Amen.

May he turn his countenance towards us
and give us his peace.

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 I, Roman Missal p 714)



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60TH ANNIVERSARY ST LUKE'S WINE:

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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



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,
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MEN'S WEEKEND

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ST IRENAEUS

28 - 29 OCT

St Scholastica's Parish Hall
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menALIVE seeks to renew faith in God and encourage men to become an active force of renewal in the Church.

During the weekend, the team will share about their lives, the challenges they face and the hope they have discovered in walking with God.

The most powerful part of the weekend?

The space for men to reflect and share with each other.

PROGRAM

SATURDAY 28 October

8:00 - 8:45 am Registration

8:30 pm End of Day #1

SUNDAY 29 October

8:30 am Start Day #2

12:30 pm Sunday Mass

1:30 pm Finish

COST

\$40 per person

RSVP

By 21st Oct 2023



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REGISTER TODAY



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