



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

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WEEKLY BULLETIN: SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER 2023

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

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



Readings this week: Is 25:6 – 10; Ps 22; Phil 4:12 – 14, 19 – 20; Mt 22:1 - 14.

Gospel Reflection ~ Greg Sunter

Who you ate with in Jesus' time was very important – it reflected your own status. To share table with people who were regarded as 'lesser' by nature of their lifestyle or illness was seen to lessen the status of other participants. Sharing table was as much a political action as it was a social one. This week's gospel is an important one for understanding Jesus' message of an inclusive kingdom. The king invites all the 'right' people to attend his son's wedding banquet but they shame him by refusing his invitation and murdering his messengers. This would have been an extraordinary action in Jesus' time. An invitation to the table of your social superior would not be rejected lightly. To try to save face and regain some honour, the king sends his servants to bring in people off the street – the poorest and least socially acceptable people. The invitation to the people off the street, 'bad and good alike', is a reflection of Jesus' own attitude to sharing table. Jesus ate with those who were regarded as unworthy: tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners. It was one of the harshest criticisms of Jesus made by the Pharisees and Scribes: 'He eats with tax collectors and sinners!' One of Jesus' strongest messages was about the inclusive nature of the kingdom and he lived it day to day. His inclusive table fellowship was a powerful statement about the fact that the kingdom is an invitation to all – rich and poor alike, regardless of status in this world. This parable highlights the invitation to join in the kingdom of God that has been rejected by the Jewish leaders but taken up by the 'lesser' people of society. The wedding banquet is a metaphor for the kingdom of God.

Historical Context: This gospel parable is a reflection of the way in which the message of God has been extended to people through time. The first invitation was extended to the Israelites who initially accepted the message of God but in time lost the focus. Jesus further extended the invitation to the Gentiles, viewed by the Jews as unworthy of such a relationship with God. Finally, within the early Christian communities there were some who, despite belonging to the community, failed to live appropriately and demonstrate their acceptance of the message of God.

Have you thought? – Inclusivity: This gospel parable reflects the inclusive way in which Jesus lived his life. In many ways, Jesus was a scandal in his society because he didn't obey the social boundaries. He was very clear in being inclusive and attentive to those who were normally shunned. Today, those boundaries are just as clear and easily identified but the methods of excluding people have perhaps become a bit more subtle. Who are the 'shunned' and 'left out' in our society today? Where do the boundaries lie? Who would Jesus be reaching out to and seeking to include in today's society?

Gospel Focus – 'How did you get in here?': In light of the inclusive kingdom metaphor in this passage, the final portion of the gospel may be a bit troubling to readers. When a guest is not wearing a wedding garment he is cast out of the banquet. We might say that being invited at the last minute the guest was unable to find suitable clothing. It is a sign that although he has been an unlikely inclusion in the banquet, he has not made any effort to respond to the generosity of the king and take up one of the cloaks that would have been provided and thus give due honour to his host. This is symbolic of those who refuse to change their ways and do not live as followers of Jesus even when they have been included in the kingdom.

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: Weds. Thurs., & Fri. @ 9.30am

RECONCILIATION

SL: By appointment please

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@slblackburnsth.catholic.edu.au

Website: slblackburnsth.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, Mike Yore, 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, especially Jessie Sammut who died recently, for the victims of the earthquakes in Afghanistan, the casualties of war in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza and for those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Malcolm McCorquodale, Ronald Excell, Sister Maureen Hickling, Dick Moore, Maria Vinh Nguyen, John Williams, Emilio Moleta, Margarita Mendes, Kurt Ludescher, Magencia Arciaga, Joseph Sheales, Daisy Searle, Aldo Pinzone, Marcel Hickman and Louis Rodrigues. May they rest in peace.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK: **Ordinary Time ~ Monday:** St Hedwig, religious or St Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin; **Tuesday:** St Ignatius of Antioch, bishop, martyr; **Wednesday:** St Luke, evangelist – Our Feast Day; **Thursday:** St John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, priests and companions, martyrs, or St Paul of the Cross, priest. **Masses this weekend:** Eucharistic Prayer for use in Masses for Various Needs II, Eucharistic Acclamation III.

SL CHRISTMAS CARDS & 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 are be available.

WORLD MISSION MONTH 2023 APPEAL HIGHLIGHTING THE WORK OF SALESIAN SISTERS IN TIMOR-LESTE: Catholic Mission has launched the celebration of World Mission Month 2023, focusing on Pope Francis' World Mission Sunday message, 'Hearts on fire, feet on the move'. Our **October 22nd Appeal** here in both **ST & SL** will highlight the burning passion that drives missionaries around the world to take action for a more just world. Sr Carolina, who is the face of the awareness and fundraising campaign, is a great example of the devotion of missionaries, dedicating herself to providing critical healthcare services to the rural community of Venilale in Timor-Leste.

PROCLAIM 2023: Registrations Are Now Open! 🌍 Over three days (16-18 November) join together with parishes from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne to be inspired, engaged and equipped to go out and proclaim the joy of the Gospel into our local communities. Hear inspiring local and international speakers, encounter Jesus through prayer, music and fellowship and participate in workshops to equip ourselves for mission! Register: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1131232> use the discount code: '*parish member*' to access the special registration price for parishioners. Enquiries: (03) 9926 5761 or proclaim@cam.org.au

2023 APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION LAUDATE DEUM of The Holy Father Francis to All People of Good Will on The Climate Crisis. Download the Laudate Deum toolkit: [The New Exhortation of Pope Francis!](#)

MELBOURNE CATHOLICS: Seeking God in tumultuous times

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: Once we have been captured by the beauty of God's promised reward, we want to go out into our world and invite others into the heavenly banquet. Who will tell the Good News? Now is a good time to begin.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER: "My God will fully supply whatever you need..." *Philippians 4:19* God really does provide for those who are grateful and generous. This is very difficult for people that don't live a stewardship lifestyle to believe. People are skeptical and say it's just coincidence. If you are skeptical, try living a stewardship lifestyle for just one month – be generous with your gifts of time in prayer, talent in charitable works, and treasure, then see how God provides for your needs. (**ST:** Weekly First Collection Presbytery Envelopes: \$207; Thanksgiving Stewardship Envelopes this week: \$290; Vietnamese Donation: \$250.50; **SL:** Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$388; Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$379.20).

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

14 AND 15 OCTOBER

Mia Perang
Caren Garlick
No Mass
Trevis Yee & Alfred Lee
9:30AM SL Steve Kilroe-Smith
Youth Group

21 AND 22 OCTOBER

Marge Santos
Hubert Lobo
May McKeown
Stefanie Chin & Martin Harris
Corey Thong
Mai Le & Tuyet Nguyen

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

14 AND 15 OCTOBER

Melina Barcellona
Susan Chen
No Mass
Pat Kawalevski
9:30 AM SL Megan McLean
Youth Group

21 AND 22 OCTOBER

Olive Hammill
Owen Greal
Sonya O'Farrell
Laura Cigana
Margaret Gearon
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

14 AND 15 OCTOBER

Tony Lobo
Michelle Chen
No Mass
Lee Min Yee
9:30 AM SL Manny Gonzalez
Theresa Nguyen

21 AND 22 OCTOBER

David Prabha
Michelle Chen
Anthony Fernandez
Lee Min Yee
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

SL WELCOMERS 14 / 15 OCT

6:00 PM Volunteer
8:30 AM Janette Clark
10:30 AM Volunteer

HOSPITALITY THE BASIC LITURGICAL MINISTRY

SL WELCOMERS 21 / 22 OCT

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

SL CHURCH CLEANING

21st Oct. – Val's Team
Val Fogarty, Jim Fogarty,
Anthony Fernandez, Maureen
Davis & Ellen Donoghue

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

14th Oct – Kate Skowronska
21st Oct – Nikhita Paul

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

Parishioners

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 8:
Fela Colasanti & Chin L Tay
Next week Team 1:
Owen Greal & Anthony Yeo



WHAT ARE THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER? For the Synod:

Oct. 4 – 29 in the Vatican We pray for the Church, that

she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

ON THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK: Fr Chima Ofor says this Gospel parable wakes us up to the many pains and contradictions in and around us and reminds us that there's much more to God's Kingdom into which we are invited. Mother Hilda on what we can learn from St Therese of Lisieux. Fr Tony Percy delves into the mystery and riddle of death, Mark Raue on Mission Sunday, and Pete Gilmore's peace plan. Plus, more great music!

NATSICC OFFICE: NATSICC Newsletter September / October Edition available [online](#)

ACNC COMMUNICATIONS: [Your latest news from the ACNC](#)

ACBC OFFICE FOR ECOLOGY, JUSTICE AND PEACE: [Social Justice Trends | Referendum Update](#)

HEART OF LIFE: [What's on at Heart of Life?](#)

MAJELLAN FAMILY MEDIA: [Our Nation's Moment of Reflection](#)

NCE - THE BRIDGE: [Stories](#) of Inspiration and Faith Formation

ACSL NEWSLETTER VOL. 6, ED. 8. OCTOBER 2023

LITURGY BRISBANE: Liturgical Education [Newsletter](#). In this edition: Four Gifts for You This Advent, Saying Yes to God, Eight Practical Ways to Get Ready For Advent, Catholic Advent Prayers for 2023 ... With the arrival of Advent comes a brand new liturgical year. Below the selection of articles you will find a range of helpful resources that you may wish to consider as you plan for 2024.

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

As we are one Mission now, it has been suggested that we require only one Chair?

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: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

Response to the Psalm: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Eucharistic Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: When the Lord appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

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).

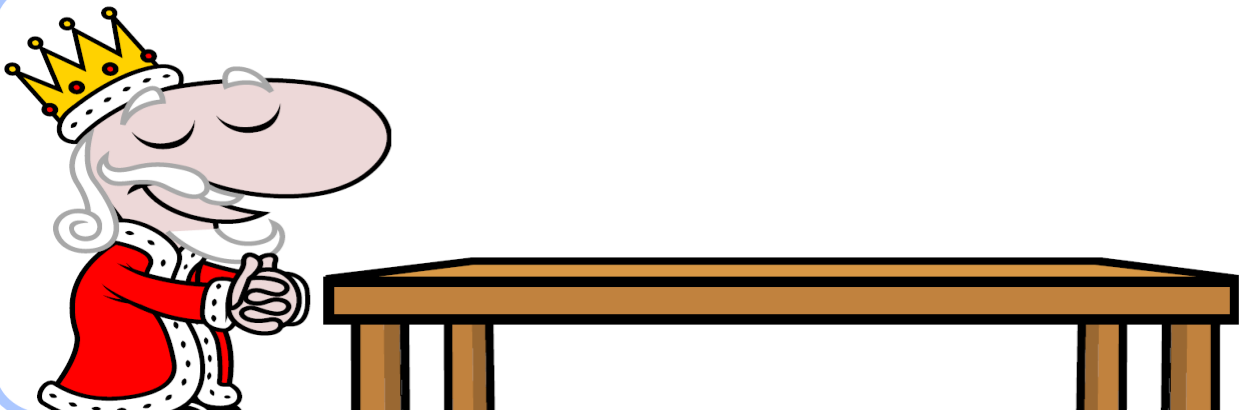
SL: MARGARET GEARON'S HISTORY OF THE PARISH & SCHOOL PART II is now available for @ \$15 each.



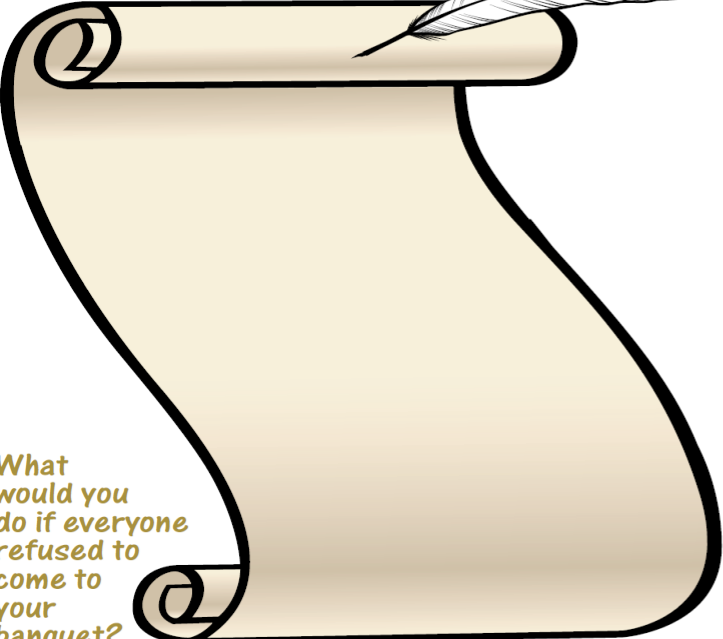
The banquet is ready!

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A


When the invited guests refused to come, the king asked people from the streets to come to the banquet. On the table, draw the finest food for the banquet and fill the room with guests from all walks of life.



Make a list of all the people you would invite if you gave a banquet.



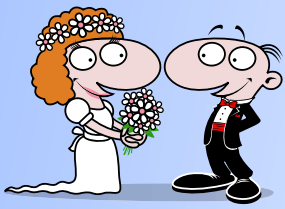
What would you do if everyone refused to come to your banquet?



BANQUET

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



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BANQUET

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SUNDAY READINGS

READ AT HOME

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

15 October 2023



Collect

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.
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 Commentaries

However disappointing it is that the English-speaking Churches have failed to agree in full on the translation of the Lord's Prayer, we still pray with one voice for "our daily bread". This is remarkable, given that no-one knows for sure what the word translated as "daily" really means. The Greek word is too rare for useful comparisons to be made. It could mean "for today" or "for the future" or something like "super-essential". That ambiguity opens up fruitful possibilities.

"For the future" connects the petition with today's first reading. Isaiah's vision of the messianic banquet fires our imagination of what the end-times promise – an inclusive gathering of humankind communing at a table laden with food and wine. Even if we persist in saying "daily bread," we can still let this glorious vision of the culmination of God's rule come to mind.

"For today" fits with the complementary perspective that Paul provides in his address to the Philippians. He's ready, he says, "for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach . . .". He's learnt to be content with what wealth or poverty the day has in store for him. However much or little there is, he can make do on the "bread for today". That's a freedom that citizens of affluent consumer societies can only pray for.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah**25:6–10**

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

First Reading

In Isaiah's oracle about the messianic banquet, several boundaries disappear as we listen. The boundary separating Israel from the nations dissolves; this banquet is for "all peoples". Earthly time and heavenly time merge, for this event will occur in God's good time. Grief gives way to joy, limits are swept away by abundance, and alienation from God is replaced with communion. It's a vision of fulfilment beyond human imagining. This passage may be familiar to some because it's a recommended text for funerals, but that use may lead to a common misinterpretation. The "mourning veil" and "shroud" are not garments that clothe either mourners or the dead. They refer to the veil in the Temple that kept the Holy of Holies from view, because for earthly mortals to see God's glory was to die. That barrier is destined to be removed to let human beings commune with the divine. This is a visionary text that draws on powerful images. One is that of a banquet. The enjoyment of abundant fare and table-friendship is a fundamental human good that serves well to symbolise our ultimate destiny. Another is that of the holy mountain. Mountain peaks appear regularly in the scriptures as privileged places for human beings to encounter God. Isaiah combines these images to paint a picture of profound appeal. The oracle has a poetic quality to it, as is evidenced by the way it is set out in the lectionary. Readers who respect this and give the assembly time to dwell happily on the images will be doing a good work.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 22**

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name,
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

Responsorial Psalm

The third use of Psalm 22/23 for this year, following its appearance during both Lent and Easter, is clearly justified by the banquet image it has in common with the first reading. This time it is distinguished by the use of a different response, taken from the end rather than the beginning of the psalm. It reinforces the theme of Isaiah's oracle. Much of the earlier commentary on the psalm is repeated here. The over-arching image in play is God as Israel's shepherd. The people's familiarity with the responsibilities of earthly shepherds made it easy to think of God in these terms. Just as shepherds ensured their sheep were kept safe and fed, so Israel's God protected and nourished the nation. Complementing the prime image of shepherding is that of hospitality. Generous provision for guests was (and remains) embedded in middle eastern culture. God may thus be readily thought of as a host who welcomes guests with scented oil and plies them with an abundance of food and drink. The buoyant spirit of the psalm is tinged with a realistic recognition of life's difficulties. Shepherds must lead their flock through "the valley of darkness," while hosts provide for their guests "in the sight of (their) foes". The principal challenge for readers is to pray this very familiar and much-loved psalm with fresh devotion. They will have served the assembly well if they give the impression the psalm has only just been discovered. They also need to take care with the two-part response and the two six-line stanzas. Thoughtful intonation and pausing will give the assembly the cues it needs to respond with confidence.

**A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20**

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere; full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew 22:1–14**

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited," he said, "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. [When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.']

Second Reading

Apart from the final words of personal greeting that round off Paul's letter to the Philippians, today's passage brings it to a close. In verses omitted from the lectionary text, Paul acknowledges receipt of several gifts of money the community had sent to support him (4:15-16). Earlier in the letter he had identified "brother Epaphroditus" as the community's courier (2:25).

That's the background to Paul's words: "it was good of you to share with me in my hardships". Paul's regular practice was to insist on being financially independent, refusing, for example, to accept support from the Corinthians (1 Cor 9:12-15) or the Ephesians (Acts 20:33-34). He seems to have made an exception of the Philippians because of his friendship with them. But even while expressing his thanks to them, Paul seems reluctant to admit his needs. He writes of his capacity for self-sufficiency – a Stoic virtue, but here explicitly rooted in God's sure bounty. All this seems to moderate Paul's gratitude for the Philippians' support.

Nonetheless, this is an attractive reading. It offers wise counsel about contentment in our current age of aspiration and entitlement. Above all it invites grateful acknowledgement of God's generous goodness. Readers should be able to convey its strongly affirmative message without difficulty.

Gospel

As he did with the preceding parable of the vineyard and wicked tenants, Matthew has incorporated allegorical features into the story of the wedding feast. The king's extreme actions – murdering those who refused his invitation and burning their town – make more sense in the light of the Romans' ruthless destruction of Jerusalem and the killing of its inhabitants in the year 70 AD.

Several Sundays ago, Jesus told the Syro-Phoenician woman that he had been sent "only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel" (15:25). Today's parable seems to be set within this perspective. The religious authorities of Israel had refused to respond to Jesus, so it's the "lost sheep" who are invited in their place.

The lectionary's longer option today includes the disconcerting postscript of the guest without a wedding garment. It's a jarring transition after the positive image of the wedding hall filled with the new guests. This awkwardness may be explained by viewing this appendix as a separate parable aimed at challenging complacency in the Christian community. Membership must not be taken for granted; it demands righteous living.

If Matthew has indeed juxtaposed two parables, there is a case for choosing the shorter text and concentrating on the message of the first parable. Even so, the story of the wedding feast presents the challenge of holding together the conflicting images of a bustling wedding hall and the smoking ruins of a town. It sets the stage for the increasingly tense confrontation between Jesus and the religious authorities that will ultimately climax in his execution.

Concluding Blessing

May almighty God bless us in his kindness
and pour out saving wisdom upon us.

Amen.

May he nourish us always with the teachings of the faith
and make us persevere in holy deeds.

Amen.

May he turn our steps towards himself
and show us the path of charity and 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 III, Roman Missal p 715)



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

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au

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

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



Dear Parishioners,

15 October 2023

For some two years and more we have been walking the pilgrim path together as 'One Mission two Parishes', i.e. St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South and St Timothy's Forest Hill. Some may even describe it as our contemporary 'Emmaus Walk'.

As you know there is only one of me and many of you. I have been the Parish Priest of SL and ST now for over two years. The PPC has been discussing during this time how best to design our weekend Mass Schedule so that it can be managed by one Priest moving forward; as has been mentioned in the Parish Bulletin/Newsletter from time to time during this period. The Divine Word Missionaries who have been providing regular supplies for us have advised that they will no longer be as available as they have been moving into 2024, for their members are ageing too and there are not as many of them as there used to be.

The proposition:

- There's only one Priest, many Parishioners and two Parishes
- All Parishioners have busy schedules
- Because Parishioners have busy schedules it will be easier to relocate a Mass that's already well attended rather than design a timetable to suit one priest and two parishes
- It has been suggested that while the Divine Word Missionaries are still able to assist that we leave our Saturday evening schedule as it is in both Parishes
- A good number of ST Parishioners have advised that their 9.00am Sunday morning Mass is too early
- That leaves us with Sunday mornings:
 - at the moment there is only one morning Mass at ST
 - as we move forward this ought to become the practice at SL
 - it is proposed that the 8.30am at SL remain
 - it is proposed that the 10.30am be relocated to ST
 - this will provide Parishioners there with a later morning Mass
 - we can consolidate our Rosters
 - we can consolidate our music resources
 - by relocating this Mass Parishioners from our 'One Mission and Two Parishes' can gather at ST which is 9 minutes away from SL via Canterbury Road and 11 minutes away via Hawthorn Road
- It is anticipated that this change takes place on the First Sunday of Advent which is 3rd December 2023.
- Feel free to chat with any Combined Parish Pastoral Council Member

Gentle regards,

Fr Gerard PP & on behalf of our Combined Parish Pastoral Council



ST. TIMOTHY

ST. LUKE



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)

ONE JOURNEY TOGETHER

**Listen to the voices of our Catholic
First Australians and Leaders on the
Voice to Parliament referendum.**

Resources available to listen, learn and
pray as we take this one journey, together!
www.indigenousvoice.church



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity



**Catholic Social Services
Victoria**
...building a more just and compassionate society

Hearts on Fire

FEET ON THE MOVE



"MISSION IS WHERE
MANY PEOPLE
need you."

Sr. Carolina

مجلس رؤساء الكنائس الكاثوليكية في الأرض المقدسة



אספת ההגמונים הקתוליים
של ארץ הקודש

THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC ORDINARIES OF THE HOLY LAND
Latins, Melkites, Maronites, Syriacs, Armenians, Chaldeans, Custody of the Holy Land

Prot. n. 37/2023

Jerusalem, October 11 2023

"Since he is not the God of disorder but of peace" (1 Cor. 14,33)

Dear brothers and sisters,

may the Lord indeed give us His peace!

The pain and dismay at what is happening is great. Once again we find ourselves in the midst of a political and military crisis. We have suddenly been catapulted into a sea of unprecedented violence. The hatred, which we have unfortunately already been experiencing for too long, will increase even more, and the ensuing spiral of violence will create more destruction. Everything seems to speak of death.

Yet, in this time of sorrow and dismay, we do not want to remain helpless. We cannot let death and its sting (1 Cor 15:55) be the only word we hear.

That is why we feel the need to pray, to turn our hearts to God the Father. Only in this way we can draw the strength and serenity needed to endure these hard times, by turning to Him, in prayer and intercession, to implore and cry out to God amidst this anguish.

On behalf of all the Ordinaries of the Holy Land, I invite all parishes and religious communities to a day of fasting and prayer for peace and reconciliation.

We ask that on Tuesday, October 17, everyone hold a day of fasting, abstinence, and prayer. Let us organize prayer times with Eucharistic adoration and with the recitation of the Rosary to Our Blessed Virgin Mary. Although most probably in many parts of our dioceses circumstances will not permit large gatherings, it is possible to organize simple and sober common moments of prayer in parishes, religious communities, and families.

This is the way we all come together despite everything, and unite collectively in prayer, to deliver to God the Father our thirst for peace, justice and reconciliation.

With sincere prayers for all,



+ *Pierbattista Card. Pizzaballa*

+Pierbattista Card. Pizzaballa
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem
President of the ACOHL



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

FOR URGENT RELEASE

Aid to the Church in Need joins call to prayer and fasting for peace in the Holy Land

The pontifical foundation Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) joins the Catholic bishops of the Holy Land in their call for a day of prayer and fasting for peace, to take place next Tuesday, 17 October.

The appeal was voiced by Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, in the name of the Catholic bishops of the Holy Land. "Once again, we find ourselves in the midst of a political and military crisis. We have suddenly been catapulted into a sea of unprecedented violence", writes the Patriarch, referring to the full-blown military conflict that erupted between armed Palestinian organisations and the Israeli armed forces, and which has already caused the death of hundreds of civilians.

To beseech God for peace, the Patriarch asks that the Catholics in the Holy Land join in a day of fasting, abstinence, and prayer. The executive president of ACN, Regina Lynch, [had already issued a call for prayers for peace](#) in the Holy Land on Monday. Now, in response to the appeal of the bishops of the Holy Land, ACN invites its benefactors and friends to participate in this day of prayer.

ACN Australia & New Zealand has arranged for a vigil of Eucharistic Adoration to take place from 9.00pm Tuesday 17 October until 6.00am Wednesday 18 October in the parish church of Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys, NSW. All are welcome at any time. During this vigil, the rosary will be prayed at 10.00pm, 12.00am, 2.00am, and 5.00am. The 5.00am Rosary will be in conjunction with the worldwide initiative "One Million Children praying the Rosary" where peace in the Holy Land is one of the intentions of this year's campaign.

Noting that many will not be able to participate in the above event, ACN encourages parishes to alert their people to this call and arrange similar opportunities for eucharistic adoration and the recitation of the rosary so that, in the words of Cardinal Pizzaballa, we may "turn our hearts to God the Father... in prayer and intercession." Where parish gatherings are not possible, families and individuals can commit to undertake their own prayer, fasting and abstinence on Tuesday 17 October, pleading to God the Father for peace.

