

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 19th - 20th September 2020

First Reading: Is 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

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

Second Reading: Phil 1:20-24. 27

For me to live is Christ

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation: See Acts 16:14

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

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

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.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness are
God's to give away as He sees fit.**

When God is generous and merciful to other people, he is not being unfair to us. He is simply being God.



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

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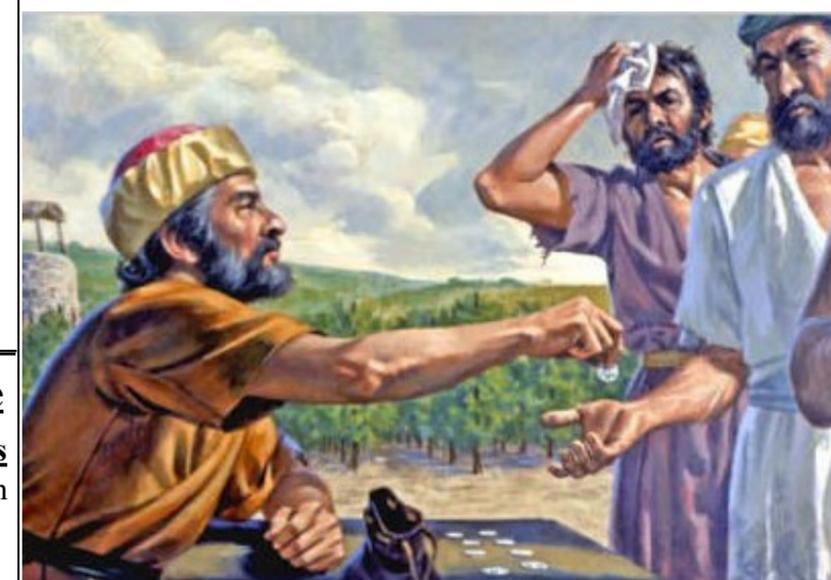


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Be Generous Through Fruitful Labour

God is generous and he wants us to imitate his generosity. The Liturgy of the Word invites us to recognise God as a generous and forgiving God. In the gospel parable, the master offers the same wage for a full day of labour to all, even though some worked only for an hour. Naturally, those who laboured the whole day expected more than those who worked less time. But the master says: ‘Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Are you envious because I am generous?’

Let us capture this message: God is a generous God. Many times we may not understand his ways. However, we always have to assure ourselves that whatever God is doing, he knows what he is doing. And that is why all we have to do - if we are privileged to work for the Lord - is to work hard for the Lord. What would be our reward? Our reward would be his company, his friendship. Therefore, let us pay attention not so much to the idea what we are going to gain from this friendship; for example when I go to church, what do I get out of it. Rather, let’s have the mindset of being with the Lord. St Augustine said: ‘Late have I loved you, Lord. Late have I loved you.’ Why? Maybe he only began to work for the master from the noontime of his life. Now he is able to discover that it would have been the best thing in life to have worked for the Lord from the early morning of his life; because being with the Lord is rewarding in itself. This is why generosity is reflected in our working for the Lord



by the very work, struggles and labours that we do each day.

Generosity to the Lord is also generosity towards others. We show our generosity in the way we take each moment as the right moment to do good. Every moment is the right moment to do everything in the best possible

way, with the best possible attitude and the best possible disposition. St Paul refers to it as ‘fruitful labour’.

Today, on Social Services Sunday, we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who provide care and support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our community. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Service Victoria’s 45 member organisations, made up of 7,000 passionate and committed staff and 17,000 generous volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. Their generosity to God shines through their service to others.

Office Hours:
Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

Parish Priest:
Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

Assistant Priest:
Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD

Italian Community Chaplain:
Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD

Deacon:
Yosef Meda, SVD

Parish Office: Cristina Agius

School Principal: Mark Tierney

School Phone: 9487 1001

Sacrament Co-ordinator:
Ylenia Useli
shpcatechists@gmail.com

Child Safety Officers:
Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

Child Safety Committee:
Robert Dullard (Chair)

Parish Council Members:
Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),
Kay Dufty (secretary),
Tony Eley, Gerard Grant,
Ophelia Swai,
Anisasio (Pauline) Veamatahau,
Mark Tierney, Ben Fortuna and
Natalie Baran

Parish Finance Committee:
Peter Constable (Chair)
0425 779 831

St. Vincent de Paul Society:
Pauline O’Day (President)
Ph: 9484 2445

Parish Mass Schedule

Zoom Live Stream Masses

Monday – Friday at 9.10 am

Sunday at 10.30 am

Please call Fr Jan for
Zoom ID on: 0400469540

**For other
Online Mass
Schedule
see next page**



We proclaim a crucified Christ
1Cor12:3

16 September 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

As we now welcome the beginnings of easing in COVID-19 Restrictions in Victoria, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you, the Clergy and people of our Archdiocese. It is great news that regional Victoria will, from tonight, move into the Third Step of the Roadmap to reopening, which includes our parishes located outside the metropolitan zone. However, we have a long way to go.

The deprivation in sacramental life has been a profound loss for our people. As well as all the other sufferings of the Pandemic, the sense of estrangement from the Eucharist has been a particular struggle for Catholics. The Mass is our primary means of gathering together in faith; it is the source and summit of our Christian life, and its life-giving nourishment and healing is dearly missed.

In the midst of this loss, I am grateful to our Priests and Deacons for continuing to serve the faithful, for sharing a sacramental ministry even under strict conditions, and for being alongside our people and their loved ones in times of death and grief. Thank you for your faithfulness.

All of us are anxious to open church doors, but I want to emphasise our need to be creative in the ways we do so, especially with the thousands of children who have been waiting for Sacraments of Initiation. Countless Catholic families are awaiting Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation for their children. Adults, too, have longed to be received into the life of the Church. We shall be exploring possibilities such as outdoor liturgies in parish and school settings to facilitate these crucial events of grace and welcome.

Throughout the pandemic, I have been advocating directly with the Government, reminding authorities continually of our respectful compliance with each stage of restrictions, and seeking a fair consideration in what is permitted. The Catholic community throughout the pandemic has been constructive and positive. We have, and continue to act in a mature way, caring for the safety and vulnerability of Victorians facing great risk. Thankfully the signs of driving down COVID numbers are looking good at this moment and Catholics join other people of faith in giving thanks for this outcome and working to ensure the steps ahead do not take us backward.

Now, it is essential that the Government does not treat faith communities as an afterthought to the opening up of other sectors. Our churches are locations for communities of care and essential service, and must be treated fairly and reasonably.

Practically speaking, I have been in discussion with the Premier to thank him for overturning the restriction on spiritual ministry to the sick and the dying, and have assured him that the Catholic Church is able to manage restrictions (including good hygiene, face coverings, social distancing and density requirements). If pubs and restaurants can open, then places of worship should be open under similar conditions and numbers.

If case numbers track well, I expect we will see larger outdoor gatherings in regional Victoria become possible over the next few weeks, and proportionate opportunities for gathering in metropolitan Melbourne. I am hopeful that this may occur sometime in October, which would be a deeply welcomed improvement on the current Roadmap indications. If we can open our churches, even for outdoor gatherings, then we should open them.

The Deputy Premier and the Multicultural Affairs Minister are conducting discussions this month through the Multifaith Leaders Forum. The Archdiocese will be contributing to these meetings. In addition I will continue to engage with the Premier and Ministers directly on the Church's need for opening doors, carefully and safely.

Be assured of my ongoing closeness in prayer and concern. I have heard your cry, and I am working to bring your voice to the authorities. The Lord has promised he will be with us always; let us place our hope in Him.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne



Online Masses

St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Monday- Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 8am, Sunday: 11am

Recorded masses can also be viewed at:

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Or: <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

TV Masses

Channel 44 (31): Live telecast from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday at 11am

Channel 10: Mass for you at home, Sunday at 6am.

RAI: Italian Mass from the Vatican, Sunday at 8:30am

Prayer for Courage and Compassion

Compassionate God,

Your unconditional love for all
inspires our hearts and empowers our actions
for those who are most vulnerable.

May we boldly and humbly serve one another
and be steadfast in our work for justice for all people.
Keep our hearts open to the joys and the hopes of our
world,

and our ears ready to hear your call
to truth, justice and reconciliation.

Let us continue to draw inspiration and strength
from those, like St Mary MacKillop,
on whose shoulders we stand.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen



Unlocking Growth in your Parish: The Power of Invitation

We all want our parishes to be healthy and growing. Pope Francis dreams of a 'missionary impulse, capable of transforming everything' and inspiring 'a constant desire to go forth and ... elicit a positive response from all whom Jesus summons to friendship' (Evangelii Gaudium, §27). At the heart of this missionary impulse is a people confident and equipped to invite others into relationship with Jesus and the Church.

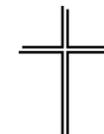
Building a strong invitational culture is an essential element of a missionary parish. In the past, all that was required to grow a parish was to build a church, open the doors and welcome those who came. Today, however, 'We cannot passively and calmly wait in our church buildings' (Evangelii Gaudium, §15). People are no longer coming to our doors. There is a prior step required. We need to go out, beyond our doors, to meet people where they are and then invite them in.

First, however, we need to examine our motives. Are we inviting people because we want them to make friends with each other and with God? Is it about what we want for people or what we want from them?

We need to be challenged by the question 'Whose Church is it?' It's said that the Church is one of the few, perhaps only, organisations that exist for the benefit of those outside it. Our mission is not complete until every man, woman and child has had the opportunity to meet Jesus and be invited into our community. It is as if we are saying to everyone, 'This is your Church. It is not just for us; in fact, we are incomplete without you.'

The simple act of inviting a friend to come with you to church can unleash growth in our parishes. It is so simple that even a child could do it—and often does. So why can't we?

To view full article please [click here](#)



'Walking with Wisdom' Contemplative Sessions (via Zoom)

Thursdays, 10am-12.30pm (AEST) on 8, 15, 22 & 29 October 2020. The Heart of Life invite you to join a series of contemplative sessions with Carole Carmody rsm and Marlene McGrath, providing opportunities for Deep Listening: to oneself at this unique time in our lives; to Divine Wisdom in the Heart, and in the Hearts of Others; and to engage in a gentle, creative response. Join for one or all sessions. \$85 for the Series or \$25 per session. Bookings at www.trybooking.com/BLILH. Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, tel 03 9890 1101, www.heartoflife.melbourne

Collections

1st Collection: \$130.00

2nd Collection: \$80.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



WE PRAY FOR:
The elderly and the sick
*Dhea Abenir, Anthony,
Lopisoni Amato, Peter Bourke,
Maria Crocco, Pasquale Curcio,
Nicola D'Orazio, Anthony Joseph,
Ray Mc Veigh, Bronislawa Slobodzian
& Anna Szweda*

Pope Francis: New Encyclical, 'Fratelli Tutti'

Pope Francis will travel to Assisi, October 3, to sign an encyclical on the social, political and economic obligations that flow from a belief that all people are children of God and therefore brothers and sisters to one another.

The Vatican press office, confirming the pope's trip, said the document will be titled "Fratelli Tutti" in Italian or "Brothers and Sisters All."

The document will indicate to the world a style for the future and will give the church and people of goodwill the responsibility for building it together. The pope is clearly inspired by Francis of Assisi who, in following Jesus, recognised in fraternity, lived under the sign of mutual and loving service, the horizon of a fulfilled and happy humanity.

Social Services Sunday – A Time to Reflect and Give Thanks

This Sunday we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 45 member organisations, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the 2020/21 Social Justice Statement brought out recently by the Australian Catholic bishops, To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today, and so draw your attention to a recent event hosted by CSSV, Counselling and Therapeutic Support in a Time of COVID, which provided an opportunity to become more familiar with mental health services, and how to practically reach out for or point to assistance. Parishioners will find the resources in this article helpful.



Dates to Remember

Monday 21st September: Feast of St Matthew

Wednesday 23rd September:

Memorial of St Padre Pio