

**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
(Year B) 19 September 2021**

**First reading** **Wisdom 2:12,17-20**

The godless say to themselves:  
‘Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.’

‘Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God’s son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.’  
The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** **Psalm 53(54):3-6,8**  
*The Lord upholds my life.*

O God, save me by your name;  
by your power, uphold my cause.  
O God, hear my prayer;  
listen to the words of my mouth.

*The Lord upholds my life.*

For proud men have risen against me,  
ruthless men seek my life.  
They have no regard for God.

*The Lord upholds my life.*

But I have God for my help.  
The Lord upholds my life.  
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart  
and praise your name for it is good.

*The Lord upholds my life.*

**Second reading** **James 3:16-4:3**

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn’t it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven’t got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don’t have what you want is because

you don’t pray for it; when you do pray and don’t get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

The Word of the Lord  
**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

God has called us with the gospel  
to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel** **Mark 9:30-37**

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, ‘The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.’ But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, ‘What were you arguing about on the road?’ They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, ‘If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.’ He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, ‘Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**Sacred Heart Parish  
Preston**

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**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
(Year B) 19 September 2021**

**Do you want to be the Greatest?**

Do you want to be great? Do you want to do great things? Surely, we all want to be great and want to do great things too. There is nothing wrong with that. After all, we call God, who created us in his image, a great God, don’t we? So, we are destined to be great. Probably greatness is in our DNA. Wow...isn’t that amazing to know that we are born to be great? But wait a minute: what do we mean by “being great?”

Throughout our history there have been many different understandings of “greatness” or “being great.” There are some classical examples worth mentioning. Adam and Eve, for instance, thought that being great means becoming like God with a possibility of becoming more powerful than the God who created them (Gen.3:1-24). This led them to give in to temptation, of eating the forbidden fruit. Surely, they were wrong and were forced to leave Eden as a result of their arrogance. Others understand being great means ability to show the might of human mind and technology. The construction of the Tower of Babel is an example of this (Gen 11:1-9). But God confused their language which led to the destruction of the tower of foolishness. Many people think that being great means having power, wealth and fame. King Herod, who called himself Herod the great, during whose sovereignty Jesus was born, is an example of this. He was known for building many fortresses, palaces and monuments, of which all were attributed to his greatness. But he was harsh to people. He even killed three of his own children. When Jesus was born, he wanted to get Him killed too. For him, Jesus was a threat to his greatness. For King Herod, greatness means having individual plans, pleasures and purposes above the lives of others and often at the cost of others. He was great because he was able to bring everything centered on him. Nowadays greatness is often associated with wealth, power and fame. One is great when one is rich, powerful and famous. If you are in the list of billionaires, you’ll appear in Forbes Magazine. And often for accumulating wealth, clinging on to power and fame, one sacrifices others including one’s own dignity.

Do you think Jesus was impressed with such understanding of greatness or being great? Of course not! He definitely dismissed them as false. We recall His temptations in the desert. Greatness rooted in wealth, power and fame was offered to Him. But He refused to accept it. For Jesus, it was a false greatness.

He taught his disciples the new meaning of being great. He said, ‘*if you want to be the first – that is the greatest, you must be the servant of all.*’ Jesus knew very well the right moment to pass His teaching on the true meaning of greatness to His disciples. He was aware of the “power struggle” among His disciples for the top position in the core group. Surprisingly, He didn’t scold them. He probably understood this natural desire to be great. But He corrected their understanding of being great. According to Jesus, true greatness does not depend on being served by others but in serving others. It is in the service of others that one discovers one’s greatness. Further explaining the new vision of being great, Jesus took a little child and brought the child into the midst of His disciples. The children, in Jesus’ time, were considered lowly, marginalized, overlooked, vulnerable, and deserved less attention. Jesus warned His disciples that unless they were willing to receive and care for a child, that is lowly and vulnerable, they were not great. Thus, being great lies not in having wealth, power or fame, but in the service of others. Our service to the marginalized, vulnerable, voiceless and those suffering social injustice, makes us even greater. Jesus did not simply teach us the new understanding of greatness but also gave us His life examples. He was always at the service of others. He preached the Good News to the crowd, cured the sick, mute, and dumb, gave sight to the blind, healed the lepers, consoled the afflicted, and even raised the dead. The purpose of His service to others was to bring joy and life to others. He said, ‘I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly’ (John 10:10). Jesus was truly a man of His words for He himself said, ‘The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many’ (Matt.20:28). He sacrificed His own life for others.

We all want to be great and do great things in our lives. As followers of Jesus Christ, let us earnestly seek for greatness that is rooted not in wealth, power and fame, but in the service of others especially the least of the brothers and sisters of Jesus. Fr Aloysius

**Office Hours:**  
Mon, Thurs & Fri: 10am -2pm

**Parish Priest:**  
Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD  
Ph: 0428 715 282

**Italian Community Chaplain:**  
Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD  
Ph: 0478 963 248

**Parish Office:** Rachel Costa  
**School Principal:** Mark Tierney  
**School Phone:** 9487 1001

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

**Child Safety Committee:**  
**Child Safety Officers:**  
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958  
Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212  
**Committee Members:**  
Mary Harb: 0422 891 324  
Teresa Dang : 0434 583 911  
Pauline O’Day: 0497 935 593

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

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

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:**  
Stephen Costello (President)

**No public Masses  
until  
further notice**

10:30am Sunday Mass  
and 9:10 weekday  
Masses are livestreamed.  
For the live stream links  
please visit:

[www.sacredheartpreston.com.au](http://www.sacredheartpreston.com.au)

**Parish Mass Schedule**

**Weekend Masses:**

**Saturday:** 6:00pm

**Sunday:** 9:00am (Italian),  
10:30 am, 6:00 pm

**Weekday Masses:**

**Monday to Friday:** 9.10am



## Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

### Feast Days of the week:

Monday 20th September	Sts Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions
Tuesday 21st September	St Matthew, apostle
Wednesday 22nd September	(St Maurice and Companions)
Thursday 23rd September	St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest (Padre Pio)
Friday 24th September	(Our Lady of Mercy)

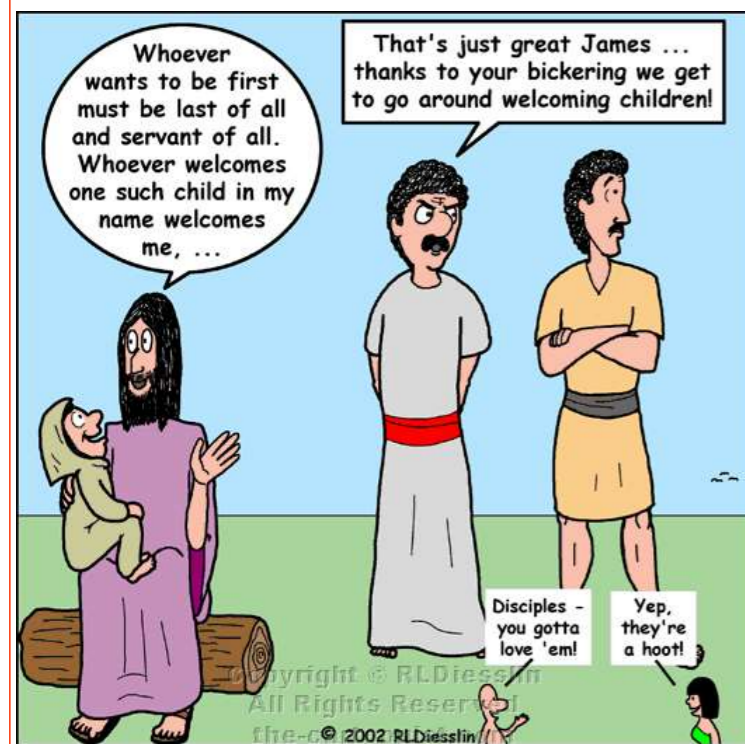
A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia: One Million Children Praying the Rosary*: ACN invites you to join the prayer campaign 'One Million Children Praying the Rosary' for unity and peace in the world on the 18th of October. Be part of this prayer campaign and join many others! Register and learn more at [www.aidtochurch.org/one-million-children](http://www.aidtochurch.org/one-million-children)



### Father's Day Appeal

Due to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions and public Masses not being able to be said at Parishes, donations to the Father's Day appeal can be made through the Priests Retirement Foundation website via debit, credit card or Paypal where the donor's details are loaded and receipts can be issued. The site is [www.cam.org.au/foundation](http://www.cam.org.au/foundation).

### Joke Corner



### Child Safety Committee.

It is a fundamental human right of all children not only to 'feel' safe but to be safe at all times and in all circumstances. All adult members of communities and organizations have a responsibility to protect this right. It is the ongoing commitment of the Child Safety Committee in conjunction with the leadership of Sacred Heart Parish to ensure that the extent of responsibility for taking action to prevent any form of harm to children is understood and accepted by every member of the community, visitor, volunteer or employee.

The members of the Committee are:

**Child Safety Officers:** Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958  
Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212  
**Committee Members:** Mary Harb: 0422 891 324,  
Teresa Dang : 0434 583 911,  
Pauline O'Day: 0497 935 593

### Working With Children Checks:

It is a requirement of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne that all clergy, employees and volunteers over the age of 18 are required to maintain a current Working With Children Check throughout their involvement in parishes, Agencies and entities. This is to ensure that we all stand united in creating safe environments for children and young people. The application process can be commenced online and finalised at a participating Australian Post Office.

To apply go to <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply#>

### Social Services Sunday

On 19 September 2021, we mark Social Services Sunday within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we invite all 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 43 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 recent 2021/22 Social Justice Statement – Cry of the Earth Cry of the Poor – released by the Australian Catholic bishops, which reminds us of the social mission of the Church and which urges us to reflect on 'the bigger picture' and to act together on social, economic and ecological issues. Together, we all have a role to play in building a just and equitable society, where all have equal opportunities to flourish and prosper.

### Prayer for Wonder and Awe

God of wonders,  
you show us your beauty in all created things.  
Help us to pay attention:  
to the taste of the ocean on our lips,  
the warmth of the sun on our hands,  
the song of birds in the morning and evening,  
the fragrance of the earth after rain,  
and to the star that guides us.  
Creator God,  
we stand in awe of all that you have made.  
Fill our hearts with gratitude for every good gift, great and small,  
that feeds and forms us,  
inviting and enabling us to become people who are fully alive in your amazing grace.  
Amen

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Volunteer in Australia and Overseas -

#### The Caqliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco

We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for January 2022 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Australia. When it is possible and safe to do so, we will recommence sending volunteers to work with disadvantaged young people in Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste & the Solomon Islands. Applications close October 30th. Send us an inquiry - [www.caqliero.org.au](http://www.caqliero.org.au)



### Lockdown Light—a weekly series

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown ...

Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations at [www.bit.ly/LockdownLight](http://www.bit.ly/LockdownLight)

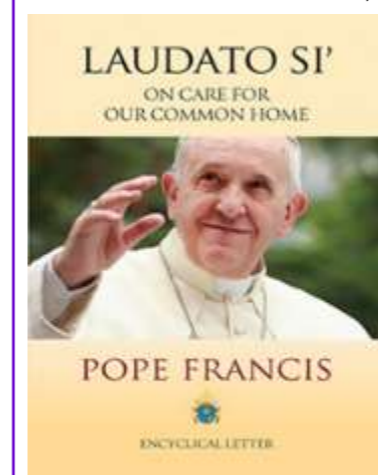
### LAUDATO SI: ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

Coming up is **REFUGEE & MIGRANT SUNDAY** on **26<sup>th</sup> September** designated by our Bishops as a time to focus on the issues of migration and seeking refuge. [www.acmro.catholic.org.au](http://www.acmro.catholic.org.au)

LS 25: "There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind, without enjoying any legal protection whatsoever"

LS: "Sadly, there is widespread indifference to such suffering, which is even now taking place throughout our world. Our lack of response to these tragedies involving our brothers and sisters points to the loss of that sense of responsibility for our fellow men and women upon which all civil society is founded."

If members of the human family find it necessary to migrate because of the environmental emergency then we are called to think about all the animals, insects, reptiles, fish, and birds



that must migrate to survive global warming. For some creatures there is nowhere else to go!

St Francis of Assisi please intercede for all creatures that share our common home.

### WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick  
Anthony, Peter Bourke,  
Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph  
Paige Lapenta, John Plum, and  
Bronislawa Slobodzian

That they may be blessed with constant care, attention and respect

Those who have died recently  
Giuseppina Cordima (RIP 4/9/21)  
Leo Tuttle (RIP 10/9/21)

### We Commemorate

Maria Crocco (1st anniversary 20/9)  
Deceased members of the Crocco, Rizzo, Gelain,  
Moretti, Bradshaw, Valier-D'abate, Kalinowski and  
Borowicki families.

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.

### THOUGHTS FROM POPE FRANCIS



For our life to be great, we need love and heroism. If we look to the crucified Jesus, we find both boundless love and the courage to give one's life to the utmost, without half-measures.

### An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

(say this prayer in lieu of receiving Communion)

### Online Mass Service

10:30am Sunday Mass and 9:10am weekday  
Sacred Heart parish Masses are livestreamed.  
For the live stream links please visit:  
[www.sacredheartpreston.com.au](http://www.sacredheartpreston.com.au)

Daily Mass from St. Patrick's Cathedral can be attended live online every day at  
<https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/mass-online>

Live telecast of Sunday Mass from St. Patrick's Cathedral can be viewed on Channel 44 (31) at 11am

### Cleaning Roster: Saturday 25 September 2021

Volunteers  
Thank you for your hard work

