

# 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 26th - 27th September 2020

**First Reading:** Ez 18:25-28

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.*

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.'

The Word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

R/ Remember your mercies, O Lord.

**Second Reading:** Phil 2:1-11

*In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Jn 10:27

**Alleluia, alleluia!** My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 21:28-32

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*

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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

## 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.**



## Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

**Parish Contacts:** Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124  
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



### 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**

## 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A 26th - 27th September 2020

### Words versus Deeds

"Which of the two did his father's will?" This question posed by Jesus in today's gospel touches a fundamental human dilemma: the gap between words and deeds, between intention and decision, between desires expressed in the calm of reflection and the quick fixes of lived life. This is a gap we all know: our deeds often fail to match our words!

But the gospel raises also more profound questions for us than simply reminding us to practice what we preach. It poses us a series of interconnected challenges.

1. There is the challenge to act with integrity: bring the inward person and the outward person into harmony. This is not simply the moral and the psychological challenge of integrity, but is at the heart of right living and faith. This quest for harmony takes place in the presence of God: we need to have integrity not just in ourselves,

but to have integrity in the divine presence before whom we are transparent.

2. We know that integrity is a quest for wholeness: that the various aspects of our lives should be connected up to one another. Wholeness involves us as individuals, as members of families and communities, and its links keep spreading out.

3. We are called by God to be people of obedient faith, and that means that

we are not just dealing with a religion of ideas or good feelings. Anything declared as believed is tested in so far as it informs our commitment to the creation.

4. The obedient son in today's gospel first rebelled and then recognised the path that he should follow. Being disciples involves taking this second look at our actions. We all like to declare our independence and to state boldly that 'We will not serve!' It is part of our human nature to be aware of our independence and freedom. Yet, we as disciples have to balance this with our appreciation of the limitations of our knowledge and of the Wisdom that created us. Integrating awareness of our freedom with our acknowledgment of the Christ as our teacher is an essential part of completeness and wholeness. It is part of the wisdom and integrity of holiness.

5. There is a challenge to each of us to acknowledge the generosity of God. We all tend to think of ourselves as models of humanity, and as Christians, we even tend to think of ourselves as model disciples. But here lies a great illusion! Those whom Jesus met that were self-satisfied, he challenged with questions. Those whom the self-satisfied automatically excluded, the tax collectors and prostitutes, he sat and ate with that they might come to know the goodness and forgiveness of God.

*cf Thomas O'Loughlin*





## World Day of Migrants and Refugees (27<sup>th</sup> September)



In his message for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis encourages us to embrace all those who are experiencing situations of precariousness, abandonment, marginalisation and rejection as a result of COVID-19. This year's theme for the Holy Father's Message for 2020 World Day of Migrant and Refugee is: "Forced like Jesus Christ to flee". This pastoral care of the Church towards Migrants and Refugees focused on the following aspects as named by Pope Francis: welcoming, protecting, promoting, and integrating migrants and refugees to enrich our local communities.

### Remembering, Working and Praying for Migrants and Refugees

On this 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, we remember, pray for, and commit to working to change the horrible reality of many in 'our own backyard'. We acknowledge and give thanks for the many parish communities across the state, along with those working within our Catholic social services and other organisations and community groups, who are making considerable efforts to assist people seeking asylum, refugees, and other migrants who hold temporary visas—many remain in harsh circumstances in detention centres, and the majority of the 115,000 living in the Australian community have been deemed ineligible for any federal government support payments during COVID-19, making many at risk of homelessness and despair. In his message for World Day for Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis tells us, "You have to know in order to understand" and "It is necessary to be close, in order to serve". Only when different elements of the community work together — individuals, parishes, schools, universities and organisations — can we effectively advocate for systemic change and provide for people's immediate necessities and other spiritual and social needs. We encourage you to read more at:

<http://www.css.org.au/Article-View/Article/23727/>

### Dates to Remember

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September:**

Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, archangels

### 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](http://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


### News from the Vatican

1. Speaking during the General Audience in the Vatican, Pope Francis looks to a post-pandemic world and reflects on the principle of subsidiarity, whereby every level of society has a role to play in revitalising the social fabric. Continuing in his series of catecheses on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in light of the Church's teachings, Pope Francis said, "Every one of us is called to assume responsibility for his or her part," and he highlighted the fact that we must look to the future working for a social order in which the dignity and the gifts of all of its members are respected.
2. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith announced the publication of a Letter approved by Pope Francis and entitled Samaritanus bonus ("The Good Samaritan"): On the Care of Persons in the Critical and Terminal Phases of Life". "Incurable cannot mean that care has come at an end" – those who are terminally ill have the right to be welcomed, cured, loved. This is affirmed in Part One of Samaritanus bonus. The Letter aims to provide concrete ways to put into practice the parable of the Good Samaritan, who teaches us that "even when a cure is unlikely or impossible", medical care, nursing care, psychological and spiritual care "should never be forsaken".

### A story from before COVID – Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

One day a man (we will call him Reza) was released from Yongah Hill Immigration Detention Centre north of Perth. He had been detained for two years because he had been accused of something which proved not to be true. Then he was continued to be detained because his visa had expired. He was released with \$60 which he spent on some accommodation overnight waiting for a plane back to Melbourne. Reza has a wife and teenage son. The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project has been supporting this family for two years and since Reza has no work rights, they need ongoing assistance. There is no income support for families such as these – they do not qualify for JobSeeker, JobKeeper or any other Government funding.

We encourage you to find out more at <https://basp.org.au/migrant-and-refugee-sunday-27th-september-2020/>

 **85 years of Support through Crisis**  
CatholicCare's story began in 1935 during the Great Depression, when one in three Australians were out of

work.

Just as we did 85 years ago, we continue to support our community through times of crisis like the Black Saturday bushfires, the East Gippsland bushfires earlier this year, and the Covid-19 pandemic.

But families and individuals will experience their own crises too. Family violence, relationship breakdown, financial insecurity, homelessness, illness, or addiction to alcohol or drugs are some examples of the crises we see within our community.

No one should ever have to walk a tough journey alone. With a listening ear and a compassionate heart, we're walking alongside families and individuals to guide them along their journey to a brighter future.

### COVID and the Road Ahead

*The Age - Abp Peter Comensoli*

Victorians have been in exile from the homeland of our humanity for six months now. Throughout this exile, hope has been hard to come by as fear, fatigue and frustration have taken hold. Now, a way out of captivity has been set before us. Every Victorian has an interest in the Government's Roadmap towards a 'COVID-normal' destination. But what do we actually want that destination to look like, and how might it shape the road ahead?

People of faith have deep resources to share here. While the voice of religious communities has gone largely unheeded in recent years, at this time of great fear it turns out religious people are motivated by something positive and inspirational. In the middle of lockdown, and cut off from all kinds of human sources of inspiration, people of faith draw on something that does not depend entirely on other people. It might be unfashionable to say, but God has been helpful to lots of Victorians in 2020.

All of God's people – whether believers or not – are my friends and fellow pilgrims on the journey ahead. From my Christian faith, this is a road that offers a horizon of hope and wellness. Some friends on this road have been lonely and isolated this year. Some of them have had a hard time stuck in high-rise public housing. Some have faced death and sickness apart from loved ones, and cried at a funeral without the tender presence of their nearest and dearest. Talking with our friends on the phone and via zoom has been helpful. But all of them tell me that it's God who has made all the difference.

Right now, we can't physically gather in our churches, synagogues, mosques or temples. I want our doors to be open; they should be open for the life-giving nourishment and healing offered there. We will do so safely and carefully, but we need to be open so as to gather as friends with the God who loves us.

### '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](http://www.trybooking.com/BLILH). Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, tel 03 9890 1101, [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)

### Collections

1st Collection: \$200.00

2nd Collection: \$145.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!



### WE PRAY FOR:

The elderly and the sick

*Dhea Abenir, Anthony,  
Lopisoni Amato, Peter Bourke,  
Pasquale Curcio, Nicola D'Orazio,  
Anthony Joseph, Ray Mc Veigh &  
Bronislawa Slobodzian*

Those who have died recently

*Anna Szweida & Maria Crocco*

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.



### 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.

### Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our experiences of liturgy and public prayer as never before. Providing pastoral care to the sick and dying in high-risk environments alongside health professionals engaged in medical care, has necessitated the development of innovative approaches to this vital work.

The ACU Centre for Liturgy will examine this current reality in "Liturgy, Prayer, Pastoral Care and Pandemics," a free public lecture presented live online from New York, USA by Sr Professor Julia Upton rsm of St John's University (New York) on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October via Zoom. Registration is essential for this free public lecture by 7<sup>th</sup> October. [www.acu.edu.au/LectureUpton](http://www.acu.edu.au/LectureUpton)

 **Help for marriages under stress**  
The BreakThrough Online Course created by SmartLoving will enable you to identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Restore hope for your relationship's future. Visit: [smartloving.org/breakthrough](http://smartloving.org/breakthrough)

Mary Undoer of Knots Discount - 50% | until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### Sacred Heart Bulletin

The Sacred Heart Bulletin is available online and if you would like to have a copy emailed to you, please send an email to:

[sacredheart3072@gmail.com](mailto:sacredheart3072@gmail.com) or call the office on 94803398 to be added to the email list.