

Reflections on the Gospel

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

In 10:27
Alleluia, alleluia! / My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; / I know them, and they follow me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 21:28-32
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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DOING THE FATHER'S WILL

In Middle Eastern culture like that of Jesus' time, honour is of paramount value. Honour is the public acknowledgement of the person's worth. On the other hand, shame is something that must be avoided.

In the context of this culture, the son who says 'yes, sir', when asked to work in the vineyard is the one who behaves properly; he is a good son. Remember that the dialogue takes place in public, and is heard by the villagers. Both father and son gain respectability by the response. Never mind if the son never went; it is unlikely that the neighbours would check the subsequent behaviour of the two sons.

The other son responds shamefully by saying, 'I will not', and publicly humiliates his father. The villagers will immediately say that this son is not good, and they will deny the father's claim to honour.

Notice that what Jesus asks about the parable is not which of the sons behaved honourably, but 'Which of the two did his father's will?' In the kingdom of heaven, this is what really counts.

Jesus then points out that tax collectors and prostitutes rank with that son who initially says no and but eventually does his father's will. They did the 'Father's will' when they heeded John the Baptist's call to repentance. On the other hand Jesus' temple opponents are like the 'yes' son. They publicly honour God but do not do what pleases him. They did not believe John the Baptist, even claiming that he was possessed by the devil. They questioned his authority to baptise. They did not honour God who sent John to prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

1 OCTOBER 2017

FIRST READING

Ezek 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

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.

RESP PSALM

Ps 24:4-9. R. v. 6

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / Do not remember the sins of my youth. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

3. The Lord is good and upright / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

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



St Clement of Rome Church

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Parish Priest : Monsignor Franco Cavarra (Parish Office 9850 3262) or (Presbytery 9850 6073)
Italian Chaplain: Fr Vito Pegolo (0419 736 890), School Principal: Mr Michael Heenan (9850 1216)
Pastoral Associate: Cecilia Tan (9850 3262), Parish Secretary: Bernadine De Silva (9850 3262)
Communion to the Sick: Trish Atherton (9850 2746) Clifton Centre: Mary Hansen (9850 1860)
St Vincent de Paul Helpline (1800 305 330)

Social Justice Sunday:

Pope Francis has called for an economic system that places men and women at the very centre—one that meets the needs of all people and is just and sustainable. He denounces economic structures that take a purely utilitarian view of human beings; treating them as mere elements of production, to be thrown away if they are not seen as useful or productive.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement for 2017-18 is titled 'Everyone's Business: Developing an inclusive and sustainable economy'. The Bishops call for an economy that is founded on justice and offers dignity and inclusion to every person.

Australia has experienced a quarter of a century of continuous economic growth, but the benefits of this good fortune have not been distributed equally. In our workplaces, conditions and security of employment have been eroded, while those who are unemployed subsist on incomes well below poverty levels. Australia is experiencing a housing crisis. And our indigenous brothers and sisters struggle with economic and social burdens that most Australians cannot imagine.

In the light of these challenges, the Statement calls us to build an economy founded on true solidarity with those who are most vulnerable. Such a society will reject an 'ideology of the market' that forgets the principles of justice and equity. Justice must be built into the very foundations of our community, and business can work for everybody's benefit, not just for shareholders. The excluded and vulnerable must have a voice in decision making. God is calling us to use his bounty wisely, for the good of all and of our planet.

For a full account of the statement and other related publication, please go to:

<http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au/publications/social-justice-statements> and click on the relevant links.

A copy of the statement in the yellow folder, is available in the foyer for interested parishioners. Please return after reading. Thank You.



MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS
Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun - 9am, 11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite Community Mass)
Tues 9:15am (Italian), Wed-Sat 9:15am. Eucharistic Adoration: Tues-Fri 8-9am (in the Chapel)
Reconciliation: Sat 10am (and on request). Marian Devotions: Sat 8.40am.
Baptisms: Welcoming (3rd weekend) & Baptism (4th weekend) every month. Weddings: By Appointment.

Recently Deceased : Maria Tenace, Rosaria Coaquinta
Death Anniversaries : Anna Terzini, Giuseppe Strazzabosco, Giuseppina Inseira, Ercolina Castagnone, Carla Poli,
Antoni Pesserella
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

PARISH DIARY

Sun 1st Oct @ 10am—Mario & Angela's Café after Mass
Thurs 12th Oct @ 7pm—Baptism Preparation in the Parish Office
Thurs 12th Oct @ 7pm—Scripture Studies in the Clifton Centre
Fri 13th Oct @ 6pm—Youth Group gathering in the Clifton Centre

RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA is an ongoing spiritual formation for those wishing to know more about the Catholic faith with the intention of being fully initiated as Catholics. It is also a good opportunity for all who wish to further deepen and strengthen their understanding of the Catholic faith. Meetings are held fortnightly in the Parish office. Dates on the banner in the foyer.

Contact: Martin Teh mcyteh@gmail.com (RCIA Leader)
Cecilia Tan cecilia.tan@cam.org.au

Same-Sex Marriage Postal Vote

This is a complex and often emotionally fraught issue. You are encouraged to inform yourself as much as possible on the issue, engage in proper discernment and come to a decision for yourself. To help you, there are several documents on the subject in the foyer. Please avail yourself to these, pray and vote accordingly.

Child Safety: Acknowledgment.

The Parish thanks St. Paul's Apostle Parish, Endeavour Hills, for sharing their two leaflets regarding child safety with us. These family friendly handouts are available in the foyer. Please take one.

Liturgy Roster	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
30 Sept/1 October	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
Sacristan	John Bruce	Jim Cowhey
COMMENTATOR	John Bruce	Sylvie Duff
Reader	Linda Cultrera	Rita Gagliardi
Special Ministers	Eloy De Witt	FuMa
	Corinne Goh	Gerasolimo
		Gabriella Grande
		Eleanora Mascitti
		Sylvia Mascitti
		David Mitchell
		Pam Mitchell

"Prepare the way..." "Stay awake!"
These are just some of the words that begin the Gospel of Mark and thus mark our entry into the new liturgical year and the Season of Advent. Join us for two Advent preparation sessions this October, aimed at helping liturgical teams bring the season to life in their local parish community.

SESSION 1: TUESDAY 10 OCTOBER
8.40am-9.30am
Light supper available from 8.30pm
9.30-10.00am: Benediction of the Gospel
10.00-10.30am: Benediction of the Gospel

SESSION 2: TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER
8.40am-9.30am
Light supper available from 8.30pm
9.30-10.00am: Benediction of the Gospel
10.00-10.30am: Benediction of the Gospel

WORKSHOP OPTION 1: Liturgical environment
WORKSHOP OPTION 2: Selecting music settings

COST
• \$25 per person for both sessions
• \$5 per person for an individual session

REGISTER ONLINE
www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au
Bookings close 1 October.

For any enquiries please contact Suzanne Hermon at the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation on 9828 9761 or email evangelisation@cam.org.au



Collections Last Weekend
1st Collection (Thanksgiving)
Actual — 1,797
2nd Collection (Presbytery)
Actual — 1,116
Many thanks & every Blessing!

