

# Reflections on the Gospel

**GOSPEL** Mt 18:15-20  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.'

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



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## HONOUR AND SIN

The Hebrew word *hobah* is often translated as 'sin' or 'trespass' but is more accurately translated as 'debt' (see the rendition of the Lord's Prayer: *Matthew* 5:12). And debt does not refer solely to money owed, but encompasses offences to a person's honour. And in a culture which has honour as its core value, it is very easy to 'sin' against the honour of the individual person or group.

In today's Gospel, Jesus proposes three steps to achieve reconciliation and avoid fatal consequences that may arise when an offence is committed.

The first is *confrontation* in private. If a person feels dishonoured or offended, he is to confront the sinner in private to avoid placing the alleged offence in the public arena. If the perception of dishonour has been cleared between the parties (by an apology, or a clarification of what actually happened) the conflict has been successfully defused.

If this fails, the second step is *negotiation* with two or three witnesses. The conflict has become semipublic and legal with the calling of witnesses (Dt 17:1-7). It is hoped that the witnesses-negotiators succeed where the private efforts failed, and honour can be repaid and restored.

If they are unsuccessful, the third, and last stage, is *adjudication*. The event has become public, and what is involved is not just the honour of the individual but also the honour and the good of the community. The community acts as the final arbiter. If the offender disregards the community's judgement, he is thrown out of the community and no longer treated as a part of God's people. In a culture where life depended on the support networks of family and community, this would be the ultimate tragedy.

Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

10 SEPTEMBER 2017

## FIRST READING

Ezek 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

*If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.*

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESP PSALM

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

**R. O that today you would listen to his voice!**

**Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



## SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the

Romans

Rom 13:8-10

*Love is the fulfilment of the Law.*

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

**Alleluia, alleluia! / God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; / and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. / Alleluia!**

# St Clement of Rome Church

Address: Egan Drive, Bulleen 3105 - Phone: 9850 3262, Fax: 9850 2550  
 Email: bulleen@cam.org.au, Web: www.stclementsparishbulleen.org.au  
 Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am-3:00pm

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)

## Priestly Ordinations

This weekend the Church in Melbourne welcomes two new priests. Fathers Toan Nguyen and Anil Mascarenhas were ordained on Saturday morning at St Patrick's Cathedral. Please pray for our new priests and for many more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our parishes and communities in Melbourne.

## Sacramental Program 2017

Applications for 2018 now being accepted. Forms can be downloaded from the parish website. Dates will only be finalized in Term 4 this year.

## FIRST EUGHARIST FOR THE CHILDREN ATTENDING STATE SCHOOLS

Reconciliation before First Communion: Saturday 23 September 2017 @ 10.00am  
 First Communion for After School RE children: Saturday 23 September 2017 @ 5.30pm  
 Please pray for these children and their families.

The fee to cover all administrative and resource cost is \$150 per sacrament per child. Fees payable on enrolment through the Parish Office. Please see Bernadine who is in charge of accounts. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the website or collected from the Parish Office. All enrolment forms must be completed and submitted by the last date for enrolment.

## Youth Group News!

Our next gathering will be held on Fri 13th Oct from 6-8.30pm in the Clifton Centre. All youth from grade 4 and up are welcome to attend. Please register by 9/10/17 to secure your place - Email - firmfoundation07@gmail.com or 0412 411 731. Looking forward to catching up with everyone.  
 Firm Foundation Youth Group Team

## MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION & OTHER SACRAMENTS

Mass Times: Sat 5:30pm (Vigil), Sun - 9am, 11am (Italian) & 6pm (Maronite Community Mass)

Reconciliation: Sat 10am (and on request), Marian Devotions: Sat 8.40am.  
 Eucharistic Adoration: Tues-Fri 8-9am (in the Chapel)

Baptisms: Welcoming (3rd weekend) & Baptism (4th weekend) every month. Weddings: By Appointment.

## Recently Deceased: Albert D'Arcangelo, Luisa De Stefanis, Tommy Pang

Death Anniversaries: Joseph Buhagiar, Sonia Palma, Giuseppe Colasante, Valerie Magree, Concetta Sicari, Renato Marfuni

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
 May they rest in peace. Amen



## Workshops for Lectors & leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word

Thursday 14 September, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start  
 Our Lady of Victories Basilica Camberwell, Parish Hall, 548 Burke Road, Camberwell VIC 3124  
 RSVP at st.annas.unibool@1717311.org.au, info@melbourneepiscopate.com.au

Pauline Books & Media invites you to participate in concurrent workshops celebrating the gift of God's Word in the liturgy. Rev. Dr. Brendan Beed & Bernadine Peres will hold formation sessions for lectors and leaders of children's Liturgy of the Word offering insight into how those serving in this important ministry of the Word witness to Christ through their faith, their proclamation and their presence.



Rev. Dr. Brendan Beed is a Melbourne Diocesan Priest and a member of the Liturgical Commission of the Melbourne Archdiocese. He is an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Melbourne where he works in the area of liturgical studies and pastoral care. He has worked extensively in the area of liturgical studies and currently works on the research project 'Lectors with the Word of God'.



Bernadine Peres works at Catholic Education Melbourne in the area of liturgical studies and pastoral care. She has worked in Catholic schools in the Melbourne Archdiocese and is currently working on the research project 'Lectors with the Word of God'.



BERNADINE PERES



REV. DR. BRENDAN BEED



## PARISH DIARY

Tue 12th Sept @ 4.30pm - Eucharist Classes in the Clifton Centre  
 Thurs 14th Sept @ 7pm - Baptism Preparation in the Parish Office  
 Thurs 14th Sept @ 7pm - Scripture Studies in the Clifton Centre  
 Sat 16th Sept @ 5.30pm - Baptism Welcoming  
 Sun 17th Sept @ 10am - Mario & Angela's Café

Collections Last Weekend  
 1st Collection (Thanksgiving) Actual - 2,175  
 2nd Collection (Presbytery) Actual - 1,090  
 Many thanks & every Blessing!

## Liturgy Roster

	Sat 5.30pm	Sun 9am
9/10 September	Elroy De Wit	Francis & Gloria Ng
Sacristan	Rene De La Cruz	Maria Papalla
COMMENTATOR	Paul Sammut	Yanna Tsouk
Reader	Connie Goh	Eleanora Mascitti
Special Ministers	Reg Lecordier	Sylvia Mascitti
	Cecilia Lam	Pam Mitchell
		David Mitchell
		Elva Waters
		Chris Zordan
		Trish Atherton

16/17 September	John Bruce	Francis & Gloria Ng
Sacristan	Paul Sammut	Yanna Tsouk
COMMENTATOR	May Teh	Grace Canatelli
Reader	Maree Marsi	Maria Papalla
Special Ministers	Martin Teh	Anne Fusca
	Enza Wilcox	Rita Gagliardi
		Fulvia Gerasilmo
		Gabriell Grande
		Eleanora Mascitti
		Sylvia Mascitti

## RCIA: Rite of Christian Initiation of Christians

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 mcytehg@gmail.com (RCIA Leader)  
 Cecilia Tan cecilia.tan@cam.org.au

## CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENT:

**ALL VOLUNTEERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE:**  
 URGENT ACTION REQUIRED THIS is an urgent reminder from the Vicar General that the Child Safe Environment direct training session scheduled for our area will be held between 1.00 pm and 3.30 pm on Sunday 10 September 2017 at St Pius X Church Hall, 419 Waterdale Road, Heidelberg West.

The training will not be repeated at this location and as such the Vicar General's office strongly recommend that surrounding parishes encourage as many of their volunteers and ministry leaders to attend the training at Heidelberg West or alternatively book to attend one of the other sessions listed below. Follow this link [www.ccam.org.au/childsafef](http://www.ccam.org.au/childsafef) to book, or for any queries please go to the CatholicCare website [www.ccam.org.au](http://www.ccam.org.au) or call 9287 5555 for more information.

## CELEBRATING GOD'S WORD IN THE FAMILY: WORKSHOPS FOR PRAYING & PLAYING THE GOSPELS AT HOME

Thursday 21 September, 7.30pm  
 Our Lady of Victories Basilica, Parish Hall, 548 Burke Road, Camberwell

Pauline Books & Media invite you to participate in concurrent workshops that will help families discover how they can engage with the gospel stories at home. Sharon Freeman's workshop for parents aims to encourage and enable adults to share Bible stories creatively with children in the home. Catherine Place will engage children themselves to discover creative and playful activities that bring the stories of the Bible to life. The session will finish by 8.30pm, so bring children along.  
 Details and RSVP: Sr Joanna on 0403 175 251 or melbourne@paulinebooks.com.au

## MASS FOR OUR LADY OF SORROWS

Sunday 17 September, 2.30pm St Brigid's Church, Corner Nicholson Street and Alexandra Parade, North Fitzroy  
 The Servants of Mary (the Servites) invite you to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows with a program which includes the Servite Rosary, Mass, a procession and solemn Benediction. You are cordially invited to come along, to honour and pay your respects to Our Lady, for the sorrows she endured during her mortal life in order to bring about the redemption.  
 Details: 9347 8191

## YEAR OF YOUTH IN YOUR PARISH: WORKSHOP DAY

Saturday 21 October, 9.30am-3.30pm  
 Catholic Leadership Centre, 576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

Parish priests, pastoral associates and parish leaders are invited to explore how your parish can use the Year of Youth to 'Open new horizons for spreading joy'. This workshop day is hosted by the Archdiocesan Office for Youth and Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation. It will equip parishes with ideas, tools and resources to prepare for the Year of Youth in 2018.  
 Cost: \$20 for individual registrations, \$60 to register a group of four from the same parish (includes lunch)  
 Bookings: <https://www.tvbbooking.com/RFGE>  
 Details: Archdiocesan Office for Youth on 9287 5565 or [aoy@cam.org.au](mailto:aoy@cam.org.au)