

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

1 OCTOBER 2023

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. We cannot spend all of our lives blaming others for what has happened to us. At a certain stage we must accept responsibility for our own lives and deeds. Sometimes we need to admit, 'I have done wrong. I am sorry. God, help me to do right in future.' Change is always possible. If we have the desire, God will guide us in the right path.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Dan 3:31, 29, 30, 43, 42

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (*striking the breast*) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the

sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

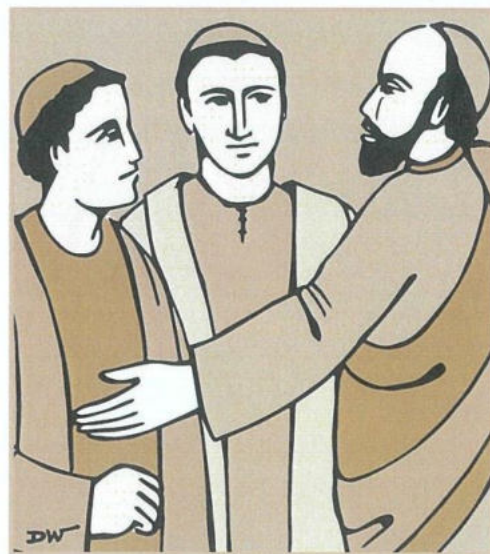
Ps 24:4-9. R. v. 6

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
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.

R. Thanks be to God.



ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD

Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Assistant Priest: Father Liem Duong

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Mon, Tues & Thurs) admin@stmarthas.org.au

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Friday) office@stmarthas.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Linda Praum sc@stmarthas.org.au

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson & Helen Williamson safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Alannah Hickry

Plenary Council Ambassador: Helena O'Neil



'He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the Kingdom of God ... Matt 21

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 **Fax:** 9764 3040

Email: office@stmarthas.org.au

Website: www.stmarthas.org.au

Parish Office Hours:

Mon, Tues & Thurs 9am-5pm & Fridays 9am-3pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Carolyn Parsell

Assist Principal: Steven Belcastro

Acting REC: Cindy Ronzini

THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

Vision:

**Welcoming
Eucharistic
Transformed by the Word
Full of Grace
Proclaiming Good News**



*Please
continue
to support the
St Vincent De Paul Society
through the Church
Poor Boxes.*

Mission:

**Alive with the Spirit
Inspired by St Martha
We Celebrate & Witness
God's love
Using our Gifts & Talents**



MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 7.30am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Saturday: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm



1st Saturday of every month:

8.30am Adoration followed by Mass

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

SYDNEY MALAYALEE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Rosary, Mass & Adoration from 6.30pm to 8.00pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month.



BAPTISM:

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11.00am
(One month's notice is required).

Baptism Preparation by appointment only.
Contact the Parish office for more information.

MARRIAGES: By appointment only.
(6 months' notice is required).

ROSARY:

Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8.30am

7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian Movement of Priests
Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.



PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:

Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am (school term only)



**Please support our Catholic Press
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2
& Catholic Leader \$2.50 are available
at the Church Entrance.**

SAFE GUARDING

A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board located at the side entrance contains various resources for children regarding Safeguarding.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY.

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.



**Office of the
Children's Guardian**

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN IN - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS; CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

ALTAR SERVERS ARE **NOT** PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.



GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY CELIAC PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE AN ACOLYTE IN THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.



Important Notice: Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Visitation Ministry
Please return any PYX's to the Sacristy that are not currently being used. Thank you!



FR JOHN HAYES HAS TWO VERY SPECIAL DATES APPROACHING.

**HIS BIRTHDAY IS ON MONDAY 9TH OCTOBER & HIS
26TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION IS ON 15TH OCTOBER.**
(Fr John will be away from the Parish from 5th -11th October, celebrating his Birthday
with Relatives.)



**October is the month of the Rosary. A prayer full of blessings as we
contemplate the mysteries of our salvation. Let us make use of this
beautiful prayer as we continue to grow together in faith and love.**

We extend our sincerest thanks to the Quan Family, formerly from the Solomon
Islands and Founders of the Rosary Mission Group, for generously donating a variety
of colourful hand-made and beautifully beaded Rosaries to St Martha's. The Rosary
can be a source of hope and comfort, especially during challenging times. Praying the

Holy Rosary is a great opportunity for each of us to strengthen our
relationship with Our Lady. The Blessed Rosaries are available in the
Church foyer and are free, however an offering into the LIFELINE
DONATION BOX would be appreciated.



**October is Depression and Mental Health Awareness
Month. All donations received will go directly to
support crisis support/suicide
prevention services.**

THE DONATION BOX IS LOCATED IN THE CHURCH FOYER



*"Hope does not disappoint, it is not an illusion, it is a hope. Beside each other, in love and
patience, we can prepare a better time in these days." Pope Francis (source CNA)*

Let us help others and Carry Hope Everywhere.

**The HOPE Keepsakes and Prayer Cards are FREE and available in the
Church Foyer. Please take one for yourself, or for someone you know
who may be struggling.**



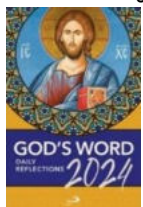
Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities; the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of his authority. Jesus refuses to name for these religious leaders the source of his authority. Instead, he questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God. The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will. Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders. Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.



Family Connection: The example Jesus poses in today's Gospel could have been taken directly from family experience. Each of us can recall instances in which family members spoke one thing but then did another. The point of Jesus' story is to show that our actions speak louder than words, even with God. As you gather as a family, talk about times when a family member said one thing and then did another. Acknowledge that sometimes the action taken displays a true change of heart. Then read today's Gospel, Matthew 21:28-32. Observe that Jesus faulted the religious leaders for not allowing John the Baptist's message of repentance to change their hearts and actions. The word we sometimes use for this change of heart is conversion. Jesus wants us to do more than pay lip service to the Gospel; he wants us to be

transformed by his word. Pray together that your family will experience a conversion to God and show evidence of this in both actions and words. Pray together today's second reading, Philippians 2:1-5.



2024 Bible Diaries are now available to purchase in the Church Foyer (limited stock). They are designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God make these an ideal gift.

\$20 each (rrp \$21.95) Cash payments only. Please do not use the tap' n' go machines.

Reflection for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A (Young Catholics)



Actions Speak Louder - In the Gospel passage for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Matthew 21:28-32, Jesus presents a parable to the chief priests and elders. A father asked his sons to work in the vineyard. The first son initially refused but later obeyed, while the second son agreed but didn't follow through. When asked which son did his father's will, they acknowledged the first. This story prompts us to reflect on the power of actions versus words. True transformation lies in our deeds, not just appearances. We might profess goodness but act differently. The sincerity of our hearts matters more than our knowledge. Our lives should reflect caring actions, for what we do matters more than what we know. This reading reminds us that change is possible. Despite initial refusals or mere lip service, we can still choose to embrace what is right and answer God's call to serve. Our actions can reshape our paths, illustrating our commitment to God's will.

A Change of Heart - In Ezekiel, the first reading for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, the Lord addresses those who deem His ways unjust, reminding them that it is their own paths that are askew. The virtuous who turn to wrongdoing face consequences, but the wicked who reform their ways will find life. This speaks of the opportunity for change and redemption. Both the First Reading and the Gospel parable underscore the significance of turning away from wrongdoing and embracing righteousness. God's mercy extends to those who change their hearts, demonstrating that true repentance leads to life. Like the first son, tax collectors and prostitutes, often deemed unworthy, can find the kingdom through sincere transformation. This challenges us to assess our own hearts and actions, recognizing the power of change and the boundless reach of God's grace.

The Humble Path of Christ - In Philippians, the second reading for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, we're urged to share in the spirit of Christ, embracing encouragement, love, and unity. By humbling ourselves and considering others more significant, we reflect the essence of Jesus' nature. He, though divine, humbled himself, becoming human and obedient even to death on a cross. In response, God exalted him, and all creation will acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. In the Gospel parable, Jesus emphasizes that genuine transformation, not just words, leads to God's kingdom. Tax collectors and prostitutes, who initially disregarded John's righteousness, changed their hearts, while religious leaders did not. These readings underscore humility and transformation. Like Christ's example, we're called to humbly serve and prioritize others. Authentic change, as seen in the repentant tax collectors and prostitutes, holds immense value in God's eyes. These readings invite us to adopt Christ's humble mindset and recognize that genuine transformation bears lasting fruit.

Reflection Questions:

- Can you recall a specific instance where your actions didn't align with your words? How did it impact others?
- Are you willing to change your initial stance if it turns out to be wrong?
- In your daily life, which holds more weight: what you say or what you do?
- How do you feel about the idea that true change lies in action, not just words?
- Do you agree that people can change their paths through actions, even after making initial mistakes?
- Have you ever questioned the fairness of God's ways? What led you to this thought?
- Do you believe in the concept of redemption?
- Have you ever had a significant change of heart that led you to act differently?
- What role do you think God's grace plays in personal change?
- Do you think society is generally forgiving of those who change their ways?
- How easy or challenging is it for you to adopt a humble attitude in your interactions?
- Do you agree that considering others as more important leads to a better community?
- Can you relate your own life to Christ's humility and transformation?
- How do you reconcile your own desires with the need to serve others?
- How can you apply the principle of genuine transformation in your own life?



Let us keep the HSC students and their families in our prayers during this time of preparation for the final exams.

Prayer for HSC Students

Dear Lord,

we ask for your blessing on our students that are preparing to undertake HSC Examinations over the coming weeks.

Grant them the confidence they deserve from their years of diligent study.

Grant them the ability to comprehend questions and effectively plan and articulate their responses.

May they be enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit Wisdom, Understanding, Fortitude and Knowledge.

May their faith and piety give them the strength to face these examinations and the satisfaction of achieving their personal best.

We ask these things through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



7th & 8th October

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Gina Surjadinata	Rachel Suriano	Mary L'Estrange
	Beatrice Bonett	Andri Surjadinata	Maria Soares	Andrew Bova
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Donald Bonett	Maria Yu	Helen Williamson	Owen Loney
	Helen Blefari	Leontia Jo	Merlyn D'Souza	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Grace T.	Mary Louise I.	Jay L.	Oliver B.
	Peter T.	Ryan W.	Jarvis L.	Marina B.
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Beatrice L.	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Phil Robinson

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:

Jim Bailey, Campbell Farrell, Dorothy Sirr, Sister Anastasia, Sister Clare Gamble OSB, Khalil Herro, Sister Margaret Hill OP, Sister Collette Holz OP, Francesco Campanale, Francis Tai Ta.

Repose of The Soul:

Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Betty Warbrick, Gerald Wilson, Francis Doumit, Frederick McDowell, Dorothy Harris, Daniel Lucich, James Brady, Ken Fraser, Elizabeth Keating, John McManus, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore Puglisi, William (Bill) & Dorothy Starr, Roger O'Reilly, Bruce & Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Francesco & Mary Sorbello, Stephen Maxwell Stewart & Christopher John Stewart, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Mary Trefle', Anne Trefle', Elie Sahyoun, Alan & Peg Bailey, Matteo & Caterina Genova, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Giuseppe & Romilda Reginato, Leonardo (Lenny) Fragassi.

Anniversaries:

Alberto Oliveira Almeida, Gerald Wilson, Eric Sidoti, Richard Anglin, Elizabeth Lalitha, Ben & Mary De Giovanni, Mary Anne Harrington, Dorothea Starr, Salli & Taisto Lammi, Joy Quinlan, Kevin Quinlan, Marie Leahy.

Sick Intentions:

Joseph Akkary, Baby Oscar McNamara, Tor King Yuen, John Quinlan, Sylvia Watson, Sheree Mouawad, Virgilio Lim, George Jabbour, Dr Maher Ishak Morian, Graham Byrnes, Stephanie Harrington, Phil Harriss, Sophie O'Donnell, Ken South, Ajith Antony, Pat Fraser, Siena Fabrie, Giuseppe Faraone, Joanna Jo, Simon Alam, Rosanne Sukkar, Henry D'Souza, Kevin O'Connor.

Special Intentions:

Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Dave (exams), Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano.



Beyond Blue
P: 1300 22 4636
W: www.beyondblue.org.au



CatholicCare - Archdiocese of Sydney
P: 13 18 19
W: www.catholiccare.org



Call 1800 55 1800



Lifeline
P: 13 11 14
W: www.lifeline.org.au



1800RESPECT
P: 1800 737 732
W: www.1800respect.org.au



Premium products, hampers and gifts from Cana Farm located in Orchard Hills. Beautifully presented in our rustic made-to-order timber boxes and gift wrapped to suit any occasion. Cana has a range of perfect gifts for friends, family, and work colleagues. Plus, for your corporate clients, our specialty bespoke hampers or branded product make for a memorable gift!



CATALOGUES AND ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER

**GIVE A HAND UP TO PEOPLE LIKE EMMA
AND JACOB DURING THIS ONGOING
COST-OF-LIVING AND HOUSING CRISIS**



GIVE NOW



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

Mt 21:28-32

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

cf. Ps 118:49-50

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,

by which you have given me hope.

This is my comfort when I am brought low.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose

suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

While we are familiar with the notion of personal responsibility, it may come as a surprise to learn that it took some time to fully develop in the Old Testament. While the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel were not the first to invent the concept, they are major contributors to its development. In Ezekiel 18, the prophet is trying to convince the people of Israel that while it might seem harsh that each person is held responsible for their sins, there is also the possibility to change one's life. God will respect this change of heart and reward it. As Jesus teaches in the Temple, he challenges the Jewish authorities to understand that what Ezekiel had spoken of continued to be true. Tax collectors and prostitutes took the opportunity that John the Baptist's preaching provided – to take responsibility for their lives and change. The parable of the two sons is a pointed commentary not only on the openness of sinners to John the Baptist but also on the opposition of the Jewish authorities. In the next few weeks, the lines of demarcation between Jesus and the authorities will continue to intensify. The Christians of Philippi are encouraged by Paul to take responsibility for the building up of their community, a community which is to be marked by unity, and a profound valuing of the other person. He reminds them of a hymn they know well, a breathtaking hymn that talks of the sublime example of Jesus' humility and love which is the model for all Christian life.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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