

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

15 OCTOBER 2023

COME TO THE BANQUET. Our God invites all people to the banquet of the kingdom, a banquet characterised by joy, integrity, and true peace. Sometimes, however, we decline this invitation preferring the lesser banquets that we know. May God enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Ps 129:3-4

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

GREETING

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

R. Amen.

P. The Lord be with you.

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.

P. Lord Jesus, you have revealed yourself as
the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You have poured out on your people the
Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to
eternal life: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

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

R. Amen.

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. May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all
times go before us and follow after and make
us always determined to carry out good

works. 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

Isa 25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away
the tears from every cheek.*

On this mountain,

the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.

On this mountain he will remove

the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,

he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;

he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,

for the Lord has said so.

That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;

the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice

that he has saved us;

for the hand of the Lord

rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R. v. 6

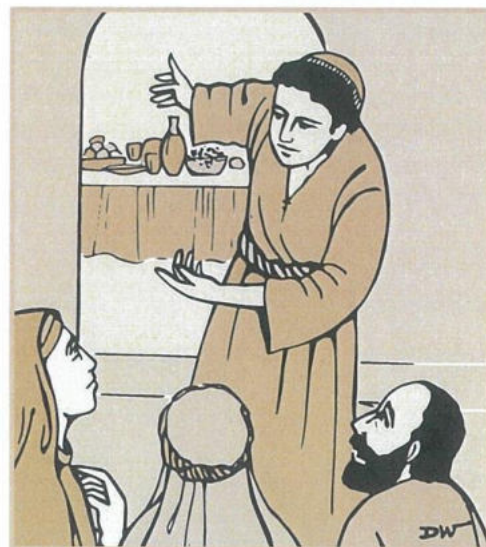
R. I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is
nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are
the pastures / where he gives me repose. /
Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive
my drooping spirit. R.

2. He guides me along the right path; / he
is true to his name. / If I should walk in the
valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. /
You are there with your crook and your
staff; / with these you give me comfort. R.

3. You have prepared a banquet for
me / in the sight of my foes. / My head
you have anointed with oil; / my cup is
overflowing. R.

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall
follow me / all the days of my life. / In the
Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and
ever. R.



SECOND READING

Phil 4:12-14, 19-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.

I know how to be poor and I know how to
be rich too. I have been through my initiation
and now I am ready for anything anywhere:
full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or
plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with
the help of the One who gives me strength. All
the same, it was good of you to share with me
in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil
all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as
only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for
ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Eph 1:17, 18

Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of
our heart, / that we might see how great
is the hope / to which we are called. /
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:1-14

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.

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of
the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may
be compared to a king who gave a feast for
his son's wedding. He sent his servants to
call those who had been invited, but they
would not come. Next he sent some more
servants. "Tell those who have been invited"
he said "that I have my banquet all prepared,
my oxen and fattened cattle have been
slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the



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



'Whomsoever you find, invite to the wedding'... Matthew 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.



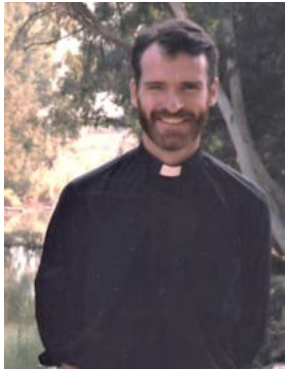
GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY CELIAC PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE AN ACOLYTE IN THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.



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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

DUE TO UNI COMMITMENTS, LARISSA WILL BE AWAY FROM THE OFFICE FROM FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER AND RETURN ON FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER. THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE UNATTENDED ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS DURING THIS TIME, BUT YOU MAY LEAVE MESSAGES THAT WILL BE RESPONDED TO ASAP.



CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO FR JOHN HAYES ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION ON SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER.

Dear Parishioners,

There have been reports of SMS message scams targeting individuals and parishes in the Archdiocese. These scams impersonate the members of our parish, including myself, asking for urgent help and often requesting gift card purchases for those in need. Rest assured that neither I nor any member of our parish staff would ever ask for such assistance through SMS or any other unsolicited means. If you receive suspicious messages, contact us directly via phone or in person.



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)

Immediately after criticizing the religious leaders through the parable of the tenants in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus proceeded to tell another parable, again directed at the religious leaders. We hear this parable in today's Gospel. In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus offers an image of the kingdom of heaven using the symbol of a wedding banquet. In today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah and in today's psalm, the Lord's goodness is evident in the symbol of a feast of good food and wine. Jesus' listeners would have been familiar with the image of a wedding feast as a symbol for God's salvation. They would consider themselves to be the invited guests. Keeping this in mind helps us to understand the critique Jesus makes with this parable. The context for this parable is the growing tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem. This has been the case for the past two Sundays and will continue to be true for the next several weeks. The parable Jesus tells is straightforward. The king dispatches his servants to invite the guests to the wedding feast that he is planning for his son. The listeners would have been surprised to learn that the first guests refused the invitation. Who would refuse the king's invitation? A second dispatch of servants follows. Again to the listeners' great surprise, some guests ignore the invitation. Some of the invited guests even go so far as to mistreat and kill the servants. The king invokes his retribution against these murderers by destroying them and burning their city. We might stop here for a moment. Why would some guests kill the servants sent to invite them to the king's wedding feast? It might be possible that the king was a tyrant, evidenced by the destruction of the city of those who refused his invitation. But if we follow this idea, then the allegory seems to be about something other than the kingdom of heaven. It is more likely that the destruction of the city would have been a powerful image corresponding to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70, which would have been an important event for Matthew's audience. With the invited guests now deemed unworthy to attend the king's wedding feast, the servants are sent to invite whomever they can find. The guests arrive, but it appears that accepting the king's invitation brings certain obligations. The guest who failed to dress in the appropriate wedding attire is cast out of the feast. We are reminded that while many are invited to the kingdom of heaven, not all are able to meet its requirements. God invites us to his feast, giving us his salvation. Yet he asks us to repent for our sins. Jesus' message in the parable cautions against exclusive beliefs about the kingdom of heaven. The parable also teaches about humility. Those who assume that they are the invited guests may find that they have refused the invitation, and so others are invited in their place. To accept the invitation is also to accept its obligations. God wants our full conversion in complete acceptance of his mercy.



Family Connection: Today's Gospel reminds us that God invites all of us to his kingdom. How do we respond to this invitation? In theological terms, God has granted us free will to accept or reject salvation. The parable of the wedding feast reminds us that God desires our wholehearted acceptance of his invitation to salvation. As you gather as a family, discuss what you consider appropriate attire for various occasions. For example, if your family were invited to a neighbor's barbecue, what would you wear? If you were planning to attend the symphony, what might you wear? If invited to an evening wedding, what might you wear? Discuss how our preparations for an event and our choice of attire indicates the importance and value we place on the occasion. In today's Gospel

Jesus uses this metaphor to talk about the kingdom of heaven. Read Matthew 22:1-14. Discuss why the guest was thrown out of the wedding feast. What does Jesus expect of those who accept his invitation of salvation? What would be the evidence of our conversion to God's salvation? Pray together as a family that you will respond wholeheartedly to God's invitation to salvation. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 23.

Let us keep the HSC students and their families in our prayers during their exams.



Prayer for HSC Students

Dear Lord, we ask for your blessing on our students that are undertaking 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.

21st & 22nd October

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Peter McCluskey	Georgette Sahyoun	Anne Marrins	Ravi Family
	Marian McCluskey	Peter Yamin	Maria Soares	Ravi Family
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Helen Blefari	Paulina Roncevic	Mark Soares	Volunteer Needed
	Patricia Saad	Robert Smith	Rachel Suriano	Volunteer Needed
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Saad Family	Mary Louise I.	Bonett Family	Lawrence X.
	Saad Family	Ryan W.	Bonett Family	Jayden Y.
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Suriano Family	Volunteer Needed
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Suriano Family	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Joy Li	Phil Robinson	Trudie Rogers	Vince Blefari

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:

John Quinlan, Noreen Hawkins, Jim Bailey, Campbell Farrell, Dorothy Sirm, Sister Anastasia, Sister Clare Gamble OSB, Khalil Herro, Sister Margaret Hill OP, Sister Collette Holz OP.

Repose of The Soul:

Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Francesco Campanale, 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, Betty Warbrick, Gerald Wilson, 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.

Anniversaries:

Ted Burton, Frank Burton, Mary Bentley, Lawrie Soares, Hubert Saldanha, Mahab Nohra, Donald Khoury, Alberto Oliveira Almeida, Gerald Wilson, Eric Sidoti, Richard Anglin, Elizabeth Lalitha.

Sick Intentions:

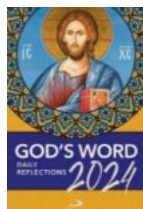
Joseph Akkary, Baby Oscar McNamara, Tor King Yuen, Sylvia Watson, Sheree Mouawad, Virgilio Lim, George Jabbour, Dr Maher Ishak Morian, Graham Byrnes, Stephanie Harrington, Phil Harriss, Sophie O'Donnell, Ken South, Ajith Antony, Pat Fraser, Siena Fabrie, Giuseppe Faraone, Joanna Jo, Simon Alam, Rosanne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

Special Intentions:

Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Youssef Family, Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano, Caterina & Francesco Agostino.

HSC Prayers:

Stephanie Glass, Thomas R, Matthew Soliman, Kristian Khairallah.



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.



CATALOGUES AND ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH FOYER

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!





Enrolment OPEN

First Reconciliation Term 4 2023



For Children in Year 2 or Older and who have received the Sacrament of Baptism.

Parent information Session: 7pm Monday 16th October 2023

FOLLOWED BY LESSON SCHEDULE:

1st lesson: 3:45pm Wed 18th or 3:30pm Sat 21st October

2nd lesson: 3:45pm Wed 25th or 3:30pm Sat 28th October

3rd lesson: 3:45pm Wed 1st or 3:30pm Sat 4th November

4th lesson + rehearsal: 3:45pm Wed 8th or 3:30pm Sat 11th November

Sacrament date: 6pm Tuesday 14th or Wednesday 15th November 2023



God's Constant Call to Divine Feasts

In the readings for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, we find striking parallels that delve deep into God's graciousness and the nature of divine invitation. Isaiah speaks of a grand feast prepared by the Lord, one that promises sustenance and joy, a removal of sorrow and a lifting of burdens. Matthew, on the other hand, offers the parable of the wedding banquet, where a king invites guests to celebrate his son's wedding. The interconnectedness between these passages reflects the continuity of God's love and outreach throughout the scriptures. The rejection by the initially invited guests in Matthew's parable can be seen as a mirror to those in Isaiah's time and even our own, who often overlook or dismiss God's offerings due to distractions or worldly concerns. The feast in Isaiah represents the promise of salvation and eternal joy, yet many miss out on this divine opportunity.

Similarly, in Matthew, the king's invitation, representing God's call, is ignored or treated with disdain, highlighting human tendencies to neglect spiritual wealth for fleeting worldly gains. Drawing these passages together, it's evident that God's benevolent invitation remains constant, spanning across time and testament. The challenge posed to us, both as individuals and as a collective, is to recognize, accept, and prepare for these divine moments. Whether it's the grandeur of Isaiah's feast or the solemnity of the wedding banquet in Matthew, both underscore the importance of being spiritually ready and receptive to God's eternal call.

Reflection Questions for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

- What do you do to be prepared to respond to God's daily invitations?
- How much effort do you put into my spiritual development compared to other aspects of life?
- Do you ever resent that God invites everyone, the good and the bad, to his table?
- In the context of Isaiah's vision, how do you perceive God's promise of care and salvation in your own life?
- Given today's challenges, how can you find assurance in Isaiah's words of God's steadfast love?
- How does the virtue of patience, as mentioned in Isaiah, resonate with you in today's era of instant gratification?
- Drawing from the parable in Matthew, what do you think is the significance of being 'prepared' when responding to God's call?
- How do you interpret the cautionary tale of the guest without the wedding attire in your own spiritual journey?
- Observing the interconnectedness between Isaiah and Matthew's readings, how do you think human tendencies have evolved or remained constant in acknowledging God's offerings?



Hearts on Fire
FEET ON THE MOVE



catholic mission
Freecall: 1800 257 296
catholicmission.org.au/timor

With Timor-Leste's fragile infrastructure, reliance on local health practices, and limited access to medical care, many health conditions only worsen, and sadly can result in death.

Next week Catholic Mission will offer you the opportunity to partner with the Sr Carolina and the Salesian Sisters in Venilale, Timor-Leste, where your gift can help continue a life-saving program to help address this reality.

We hope you will take next week's opportunity to make an incredible impact for those in need.

wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants. "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Shorter form, Mt 22: 1-10

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. Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven. 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: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

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 33:11

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as you feed us with the nourishment which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, so you may make us sharers of his divine nature. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

CALLED TO HOPE

The readings for today are both comforting and unsettling. Isaiah's vision of the whole human family gathered in peace on the mountain of the Lord is one that all people of goodwill hope will one day come to pass. The Gospel, on the other hand, introduces a discordant and unsettling note as Jesus continues to confront his opponents with the disturbing parable of the wedding feast. It seems hardly fair that a poor man dragged off the street to make up the numbers at a wedding feast should then be cast out because he was improperly dressed. If Matthew is compared with Luke 14:15-24 it quickly becomes apparent that Matthew has combined two parables of Jesus regarding weddings. One spoke of guests who were invited but refused, the other spoke of someone who came to a wedding improperly dressed. Since Matthew's community comprised both Jewish and Gentile Christians it seems his aim was to make sure both groups avoided complacency and taking God's gracious invitation for granted.

As Paul reflects on his experience as an apostle, one thing he learned was that there was no room for complacency. The ministry he had received to preach the gospel was one which entailed many risks, poverty and plenty, acceptance and rejection. In order to preach the gospel, he worked to support himself but was often assisted by communities that he had established. As he nears the conclusion of the letter to the community in Philippi, he thanks them for their generosity and support.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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