

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

22 OCTOBER 2023

**SERVING GOD THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY.** The kingdom of God is already present in our world. It is here that we practise the kingdom values of justice, honesty, love and compassion. It is here that we show our faith in action, work for love and persevere in hope. When we contribute to the well-being of civil society we are promoting the kingdom of God.

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 16:6, 8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

## 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 are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You are the firstborn of all creation: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are the head of the body, the Church: 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. Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. 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 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### RESP PSALM

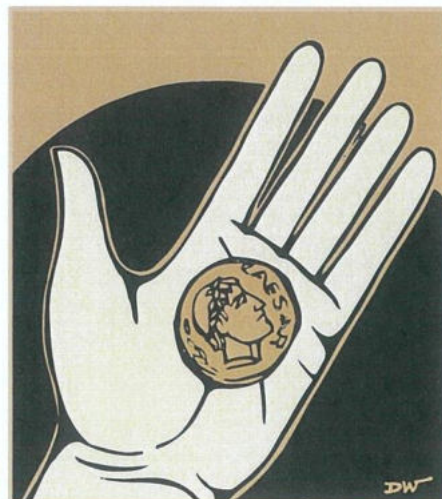
Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

**R. Give the Lord glory and honour.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**



4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

### SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

*We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:15-16

*Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

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.**

*Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.*





# 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](mailto:admin@stmarthas.org.au)

**Administration Support:** Larissa Argiro (Friday) [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

**Sacramental Coordinator:** Linda Praum [sc@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:sc@stmarthas.org.au)

**Safeguarding Officer:** Dianne Dawson & Helen Williamson [safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au](mailto: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



**'Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's'... Matthew 22**

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**Email:** [office@stmarthas.org.au](mailto:office@stmarthas.org.au)

**Website:** [www.stmarthas.org.au](http://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](mailto: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



**1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.



## **BAPTISM:**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AND RETURN ON FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> 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.



**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.**

**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.

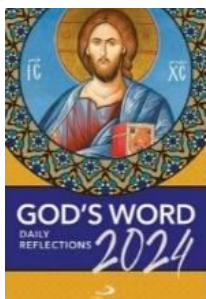
May their faith and piety give them the strength to face these examinations and the satisfaction of achieving their personal best. We ask these things through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



This week Catholic Mission will offer the opportunity to be part of a life-changing program which aims to address gaps in medical care, and provide families with essential health care and knowledge, equipping them with the confidence to act and autonomy over their health and well-being.

**The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic is a vital project for the Salesian Sisters and the Church in Venilale. Since its establishment, the clinic has provided life-saving treatment for families in need, like Petrolina's, whose daughter Vitoria was found to have tuberculosis. But, with an increase in the demand for treatment, the Sisters resources can only carry them so far.**

Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at [catholicmission.org.au/timor](http://catholicmission.org.au/timor), or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

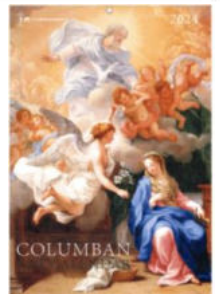


**2024 Bible Diaries** are now available to purchase in the Church Foyer (limited stock). They are designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God make these an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

**\$20 each (rrp \$21.95)**

**St Vincent de Paul 2024 Columban Calendars are now available at the back of the Church. \$10 each.**

**Cash payments only. Please do not use the tap 'n' go machines.**







### Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)

In today's Gospel Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem continue their tense exchange of questions and challenges. At this point the disciples of the Pharisees, together with the Herodians, try to entrap Jesus by their question about the payment of taxes. Matthew sets up an unusual partnership between the Pharisees and the Herodians. The Herodians were supporters of Herod Antipas, a Jewish political leader who collaborated with the Romans. Such collaboration would have required a compromised observance of the Mosaic Law. The Pharisees, on the other hand, taught scrupulous observance of the Mosaic Law and opposed Roman occupation. Herodians favored the payment of taxes; the Pharisees opposed it. The Herodians and the Pharisees approach Jesus, asking that he take sides in

their dispute. If Jesus answers with the Pharisees, he shows himself to be an enemy of Rome. If he answers with the Herodians, he offends popular Jewish religious sensibilities. Jesus' response to this attempt to trap him exposes the guile of his questioners. From his first words to them, Jesus shows that he is very much aware of what they are trying to do. He asks to see a Roman coin, which is readily provided to him. It may have come from the hand of a Herodian, but the Pharisees show themselves to be quite willing to accept this compromise. Jesus has already exposed the Pharisees as hypocrites. Jesus takes his response one step further. He asks that his questioners examine the coin. Agreeing that it is Caesar's image on the coin, Jesus tells them that it must belong to Caesar. Avoiding the question of lawfulness altogether, Jesus answers their question with simple logic. Then, going further still, Jesus tells them that their obligation is to pay to God that which belongs to God. Jesus' response to the Herodians and Pharisees suggests the ethic that Christians ought to adopt. It reminds us of the importance of keeping things in their proper perspective. Do we attach ourselves to worldly things at the expense of the love and honor that we owe to God?



**Family Connection:** Payment of taxes is unlikely to be a disputed issue in your family. Yet families can still learn something from this Gospel reading. Jesus' answer to the Herodians and Pharisees redirects their question to focus on the issue of greatest importance: loving and honoring God. Taking this perspective can help us make good judgments about the competing issues of importance in our lives. As your family gathers, make a list of the activities that your family spends time doing together, such as household tasks, jobs, academics, and recreational activities. Talk about the importance of each of these activities. Ask what would happen if there were an imbalance in our attention to these activities and we spent too much time on one activity at the expense

of another. In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us of the necessity of giving things their proper importance. Read Matthew 22:15-21. The Herodians and Pharisees were giving too much importance to the issue of the payment of taxes. Jesus reminds them that loving and honoring God is of greater importance. In family life we do many important things, but we remember that God is of the greatest importance in our lives. Pray together that your family will learn to keep things in proper perspective, remembering to keep God first in your lives. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 96.



*During the month of November, we remember those who have returned to the Father!*

FROM THIS WEEK WE INVITE ALL FAMILIES TO WRITE THE NAMES OF DEPARTED LOVED ONES IN THE BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE. THESE BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTENTIONS WILL BE SET UP ON A SPECIAL MEMORIAL ON THE SANCTUARY DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER. MASS OFFERING ENVELOPES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE. (NAMES CANNOT BE PRINTED IN THE WEEKLY BULLETIN DUE TO THE LARGE VOLUME).

**All Saints Day Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November - Mass will be celebrated at 9.10am**

**All Souls Day Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - Masses will be celebrated at 9.10am and 6.00pm.**

## MASS OFFERINGS

### Recently Deceased: Repose of The Soul:



### Anniversaries:

### Sick Intentions:

### Special Intentions:

### HSC Prayers:

Kay Doran, Sinead Dillon, John Quinlan, Noreen Hawkins, Jim Bailey. Campbell Farrell, Dorothy Sirr.

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.

Paul Albert Sarkis, Frances Doumit, Monica Ryan, Betty Warbrick, Maria Giovanna Frino, Ted Burton, Frank Burton, Mary Bentley, Lawrie & Maud Soares, Hubert & Blanche Saldanha, Mahab Nohra, Donald Khoury, Alberto Oliveira Almeida.

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.

Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Youssef Family, Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano, Caterina & Francesco Agostino, Sofie & Jerome Druart. Stephanie Glass, Thomas R, Matthew Soliman, Kristian Khairallah.



## GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the conflict.



**DONATE NOW**  
[www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza)  
**1800 024 413**



You can donate by scanning this QR code.

# A Message from Pope Francis - Pray for Peace



"Brothers and sisters,

already very many have died. Please let no more innocent blood be spilled, neither in the Holy Land or Ukraine or in any other place." Pope Francis called for the respect of "humanitarian rights...above all in Gaza," as well as the guarantee of "humanitarian corridors" and the release of the hostages, when he addressed pilgrims in St. Peter's Square at midday on Sunday, Oct. 15. "I continue to follow with much pain what is happening in Israel and Palestine," the pope told thousands of pilgrims after reciting the Angelus prayer with them. "I am thinking of the many [people], especially the little ones and the elderly," he said, referring to the victims in Gaza. Over 400,000 Palestinians have been forced to leave their homes because of the Israeli bombing of the region over the past seven days. "I renew my appeal for the liberation of the hostages," the pope said. According to Israeli authorities, there are 126 hostages, including men, women and children, including Israeli soldiers, who were captured by Hamas on Oct. 7 and taken to Gaza. Most of the hostages are Israelis, but there are also hostages from other countries, including the United States and Argentina, the pope's homeland. Pope Francis made a forceful appeal, especially for "the children, the sick, the elderly, the women and all the civilians," that they be not made "victims of the conflict." In this context, he called for the "respect" of "humanitarian rights...above all in Gaza where it is urgent and necessary to guarantee humanitarian corridors and help the entire population." Pope Francis referred to what is required of all sides in war by international law and the Geneva Convention, rights that the United Nations now say are being violated by Israel in Gaza, as residential buildings, ambulances and refugee camps have been hit by the bombing, and Israel has prevented electricity, gas, food, water and medical supplies from entering the 141-square-mile Gaza enclave where 2.3 million Palestinians live. He was referring to the carnage that already has taken place in just one week, starting with the massacre of more than 1,300 Israelis in the attack by Hamas on Oct. 7. Since then, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza, more than 2,200 Palestinians, including over 700 children, have been killed by the more than 6,000 bombs that Israel said it has launched into Gaza. Francis called for an end to this killing saying: "Enough! Wars are always a defeat. Always!" He advocated instead for "prayer and the force of meekness" as the ways to combat "the diabolic force of hate, terrorism and war." Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, has issued the call for prayer on behalf of the churches in the Holy Land and Pope Francis is inviting "all believers to join with the churches of the Holy Land in prayer and fasting [for peace and reconciliation]." Pope Francis ended his appeal by inviting everyone to join him in praying the Hail Mary to Our Lady for peace.



*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

*O Loving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, came into the world to do your Will and leave us His Peace. Through the intercession and example of our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace, grant us the wisdom and humility to reflect that peace to the world. Amen.*

## 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Tandiono Family	Yvonne Martins	Khairallah Family	Elias Family
Readers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Natalie Bains	Daniel Martins	Anne Marrins	Melanie John
Altar Servers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Marianna Soo	Greg Glass	Steve Doumit	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Lincoln M.	Julian M.	Elijah M.	John Paul B.
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Hayden M.	Lucas M.	Khairallah Family	Timothy P.
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Jacob M.	Khairallah Family	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Archie S.	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>
	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Edith Pun	Georgette Sahyoun	Trudie Rogers	Phil Robinson



The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

**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, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.

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: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection 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 32:18-19

**Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P.** Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen**

### THE CONCLUDING RITE

**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

### FAITH IN ACTION

Jesus was certainly caught on the horns of a dilemma as he faced the hostile demands of his opponents in Jerusalem. The Pharisees as religious authorities had combined with the Herodians (those who supported the Roman-backed Herod) to trap him on the question of payment of taxes. Jesus' response not only unmasks their hypocrisy but demonstrates his adroitness in dealing with a particularly pointed question: 'Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.' Stated like this it all seems clear; the problem arises when we must determine what belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God. What is the proper response for a Christian?

Today's readings warn us that false dichotomies are to be avoided between faith and the world. Isaiah reflects on the way Cyrus, the great ruler of Persia, is an unwitting instrument of God's will. In other words, God is at work in the world in ways that are unseen and often unnoticed. Consequently, if God is at work in the world the person of faith is called not to withdraw from the work but to transform it.

As far as Paul is concerned, the community of Thessalonica is a living example of what it means to be Christian in the world. Their faith has been expressed in actions seen in their working together in love, and persevering through hope. Living in the Roman empire they are praised for their ability to give both to Caesar and to God.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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