

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

29 OCTOBER 2023

OBSERVE THE SORT OF LIFE WE LIVE. In every society people observe the actions of others. When many people ignore a particular law others conclude that it is alright for them to do the same. Children often imitate the behaviours of their parents. When we practise the law of love in our lives we benefit not only those who need our help but also those who observe our actions.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 104:3-4

**Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice;
turn to the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face.**

GREETING

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

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have
mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are seated at the right hand of the
Father to intercede for us: 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, increase our
faith, hope and charity, and make us love
what you command, so that we may merit
what you promise. 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

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

*If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan,
my anger will rage against you.*

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the sons of
Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger
or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in
the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh
with the widow, or with the orphan; if you
are harsh with them, they will surely cry out
to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my
anger will flare and I shall kill you with the
sword, your own wives will be widows, your
own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to
any poor man among you, you must not play
the usurer with him: you must not demand
interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge,
you must give it back to him before sunset.
It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he
wraps his body in; what else would he sleep
in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full
of pity."

The word of the Lord.

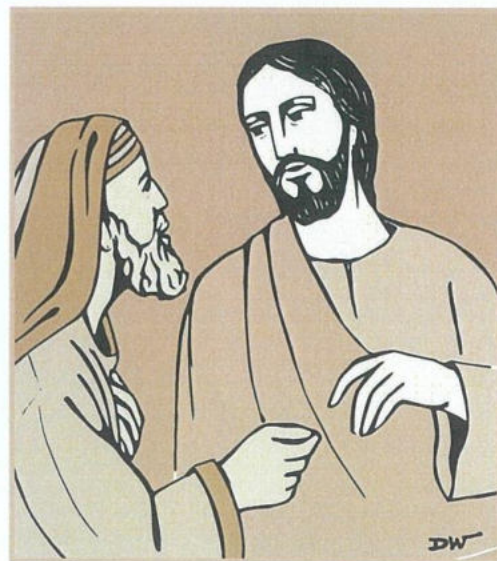
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock,
my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock
where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty
help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of
all praise: / when I call I am saved from my
foes. **R.**



2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised
be the God who saves me. / He has given
great victories to his king / and shown his
love for his anointed. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:5-10

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

*You turned away from idols to serve God and
await his Son.*

You observed the sort of life we lived when we
were with you, which was for your instruction,
and you were led to become imitators of us,
and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of
the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel,
in spite of the great opposition all round you.
This has made you the great example to all
believers in Macedonia and Achaia since
it was from you that the word of the Lord
started to spread – and not only throughout
Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your
faith in God has spread everywhere. We do
not need to tell other people about it: other
people tell us how we started the work among
you, how you broke with idolatry when you
were converted to God and became servants
of the real, living God; and how you are now
waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised
from the dead, to come from heaven to save
us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

**Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will
keep my words, / and my Father will
love them and we will come to them. /
Alleluia!**



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



'You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbour as yourself'... Matthew 22

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!***



May Weapons Fall Silent (adapted)

by Peter Arndt

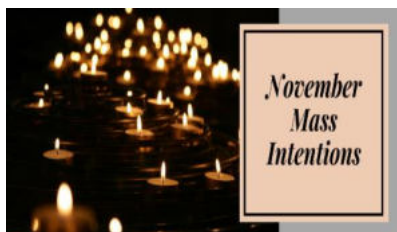
October 7 was a day of immense horror. Terror came to Israel when Palestinian militants attacked people attending a music festival and stormed a number of kibbutzim. Hundreds of women, men and children were slaughtered and many were taken hostage. Since that time, the Israeli Defence Force has launched air strikes on Gaza, where hostages were taken by Hamas militants, and ordered Palestinians to evacuate the north prior to the launching of a ground incursion aiming to eliminate

Hamas. The Pope recently noted that a humanitarian crisis is emerging in Gaza. More adults and children are being killed in the on-going missile strikes and the diminished supply of food, water, medicines and other medical supplies, and fuel is worsening the crisis. The Pope is also concerned about the conflict spreading to other parts of the region. In light of these circumstances, the Holy Father implored, "Lay down weapons and heed the cries for peace from the poor, the people, and the innocent children." "War solves no problems," he added. "It only sows death and destruction, increases hatred, multiplies revenge. War erases the future, it erases the future." The Holy Father went on to urge all believers to take one side only: that of peace. "But not with words," he continued, "with prayer and with total dedication." In this spirit, Pope Francis encourages everyone to pray for peace.



Depression and Mental Health Awareness Month ends this week. The donation box is located in the Church foyer for final donations that will go directly to support crisis support/suicide prevention services. Your generosity & support will be greatly appreciated.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - DUE TO UNI COMMITMENTS, LARISSA WILL BE AWAY FROM THE OFFICE UNTIL 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.



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 1st November - Mass will be celebrated at 9.10am
All Souls Day Thursday 2nd November - Masses will be celebrated at 9.10am and 6.00pm.

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

Prayer for HSC Students

Loving God, we ask that our students feel your closeness during the HSC exam period. Give them calm hearts and quiet confidence in the knowledge that you hold them in the palm of your hand.

Bless them with keen understanding and retentive memory. Give them the ability to grasp things correctly, be exact in their explanations and an ability to express themselves clearly.

Point out clearly the beginning, direct their progress and help them in the completion of each of their responses.

Holy Spirit send them your gifts of wisdom and knowledge.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)

This week's Gospel follows close behind the Gospel read last Sunday. It is the last of three questions put to Jesus by Jewish religious leaders who are trying to trick him into saying something that might get him arrested. This reminds us that the context for today's reading is the mounting tension between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem. The Herodians and the Pharisees asked the first question, which was about taxes. The Sadducees asked the second question, which was about the Resurrection (see Matthew 22:22-33). The third question, considered in today's Gospel, is asked by a Pharisee who asks Jesus about the greatest of the commandments. The question requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional rules, numbering over six hundred. Adherence to the Mosaic Law, for a devout Jew, is an expression of

faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of the Commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law. Jesus answers the Pharisees' question with a two-fold summary. Jesus says that all of the commandments can be summarized in two commandments: love God and love your neighbor. Both of these were central elements of the religious tradition Jesus learned from his Jewish community. Indeed these continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus' response to his questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbour.



Family Connection: Children learn about love from real, concrete examples witnessed in family life. We can help children to love God and love their neighbors by showing everyday acts of love, generosity, and kindness—our own expressions of our love for God. These acts, small and large, are the expression of what Jesus identified as the two greatest commandments: love God and love neighbour. Make a poster together as a family. Write the words Love God in the center of the poster and write the words Love Neighbor near each of the four sides of the poster. Read together today's Gospel, Matthew 22:34-40. Talk about how Jesus taught us that our love for God is revealed in the love that we show to other people. On the poster, use pictures and words to show some of the ways that your family shows their love for other people. Pray together that your family will continue to express your love for God by loving others. Pray the Act of Love.

O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbour as myself for the love of you. I forgive all who have injured me and I ask pardon of those whom I have injured. Amen.



CWF November Parish Appeal

The next Charitable Works Fund (CWF) Parish Appeal will be held across the weekend 4th & 5th November. Your donation will help those most vulnerable in Sydney - including our local Aboriginal community, as well as single mothers facing homelessness, people struggling with mental health issues and many others. Appeal envelopes will be provided for your use so please keep an eye out for them. You can also make a donation and find out more at

www.ourfaithourworks.org/cwf

MASS OFFERINGS

Recently Deceased:

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

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, Mary & Thomas Cahill, Mary & Patrick Marrins.

Anniversaries:

Frank & Marie Monaghan, Anthony Menino D'Costa, Benito Lavapie, Vito Iannella, Kathleen & Frank Moynihan, Joseph Manning, Paul Albert Sarks, Frances Doumit, Monica Ryan, Betty Warbrick, Maria Giovanna Frino, Ted Burton, Frank Burton, Mary Bentley, Lawrie & Maud Soares, Hubert & Blanche Saldanha, Kevin Fernandes.

Sick Intentions:

Theo McLean, 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:

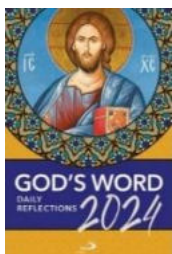
Deceased friends, relatives & Benefactors of the Dominican Order. Vigo Family, Antonia, Giuseppe, Raffaele, Teresa, Matteo, Filomena & Maria Pagano, Caterina & Francesco Agostino, Sofie & Jerome Druart.

HSC Prayers:

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

4th & 5th November

Special Ministers	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Vince Blefari	Gina Suradinata	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
	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Wardens	5PM	8AM	10AM	6PM
	Phil Robinson	Peter Yamin	Trudie Rogers	Anthony Thurn

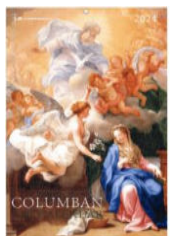


2024 Bible Diaries are now available to purchase in the Church Foyer (limited stock). They are designed to help you to keep the Word of God close to your heart in your daily life. A companion on the journey to pray, to share, to grow in God's love and be nourished by the Word of God make these an ideal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

\$20 each (rrp \$21.95)

St Vincent de Paul 2024 Columban Calendars are now available for \$10 each.

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



Important notice: The current roster ends on 31st December. The 2024 roster is underway so please advise the parish office as soon as possible of any changes or if you wish to join in these Ministries.



Reflection: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Old Rules for Fair Treatment

The first reading for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A outlines some of the social justice laws in ancient Israel. It specifically talks about the mistreatment of foreigners, widows, and orphans, as well as lending practices. The underlying theme is one of empathy and ethical treatment of vulnerable populations. The instruction to not mistreat or oppress a foreigner has modern relevance in discussions around immigration or minority rights.

Similarly, the call to look after widows and orphans can extend to any marginalized or vulnerable group today. We must take care of people who are easily taken advantage of. These ancient laws can guide our modern sense of social justice. Ensuring fair treatment of all, regardless of social standing, and applying ethical standards to financial and social systems, aren't just ancient religious tenets; they're practical guidelines for creating a more equitable society today.

Actions Matter In the second reading for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, Paul writes a letter to the Thessalonians. He praises them for their strong faith and says they are good examples for others. The message of the gospel is spreading not just by talking, but also through real belief and changed actions. Paul says it's not just about words but also about actions that make a difference. In today's digital world, words are easy to find but they often don't do much. This tells us that actions and true belief are important if we want to really communicate. The main point is that actions matter, not just words. How we act should show our love for God and for other people.

Love and Compassion The readings for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A emphasize the imperative to love and show compassion to others, especially those who are vulnerable or marginalized. In Exodus, God instructs the Israelites not to mistreat foreigners, widows, or orphans and to lend to those in need without interest. In Matthew, Jesus sums up the law with the two greatest commandments: love God and love your neighbour. The laws which God gave to Israel were meant to protect the vulnerable: widows, orphans, foreigners. They were meant to alleviate suffering, and to remind the Israelites that they had also suffered and that God had rescued them. Jesus points out that the many laws were all contained in "Love God" and "Love your neighbour." This is the point of these precepts. The word used for love is "agape" which is more than just a feeling of friendship or affection. It is a love committed to action. Both passages remind us that our ethical and spiritual responsibilities are interconnected. Loving God is closely tied to how we treat others. So we are also called to love the marginalized in our world. And we must not just love them by thinking well of them. We are called to action.

Reflection Questions

1. How do the social justice laws outlined in Exodus relate to your understanding of current social issues, such as immigration or minority rights?
2. In what ways do you think the call to look after widows and orphans can extend to today's marginalized groups? Who needs my help in the world today?
3. Do you agree that ancient religious tenets can serve as practical guidelines for modern society? Why or why not?
4. Paul emphasizes actions over words in his letter to the Thessalonians. How does this message resonate with you in the context of today's digital world?
5. What specific actions can you take to demonstrate your love for God and neighbour, as outlined in Matthew's Gospel?
6. How do you interpret the use of the word "agape" for love in the Biblical context? How does this understanding influence your day-to-day actions?
7. Can you think of a time when you were challenged to put your love for God into action by helping someone vulnerable or marginalized? What did you learn from that experience?
8. How can you balance the call to action in your faith life with the practicalities and limitations of your everyday life?
9. What action have I taken lately to love my neighbours? Do I consider all people my neighbours, even those I have strong disagreements with?
10. In your opinion, how are your ethical and spiritual responsibilities interconnected?
11. What steps can you take to better align your actions with the teachings from these readings?



GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

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



You can donate by scanning this QR code.



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



Crisis Support. Suicide Prevention.
Lifeline
P: 13 11 14
W: www.lifeline.org.au



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

GOSPEL

Mt 22:34-40

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.

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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. Look, we pray, O Lord, on the offerings we make to your majesty, that whatever is done by us in your service may be directed above all to your glory. 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 19:6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray, perfect in us what lies within them, that what we now celebrate in signs we may one day possess in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

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

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Communities, like the individuals that make them up, cannot exist or grow without reflecting on their stories. In remembering our past, we are reminded of lessons learnt, values shared, and obstacles overcome.

While the setting for the first reading is that of the time of the Exodus it clearly reflects the problems the Israelites faced when they had settled in the land. In order to resolve these problems, they are called to remember that they are a people where every member should be valued, especially those who cannot defend themselves. The other person is precious to God and has a dignity that is to be respected and preserved. They are reminded of their past so as to build a present that is just and equitable.

Jesus in his turn was asked what the most important commandment of the law was. The law of Moses was that formative and guiding tradition that shaped the Jewish people's self-understanding. In a sense, by asking what is the greatest commandment the Pharisees were asking, who are we? Jesus' reply is that we can only be truly ourselves when we can balance a wholehearted love of God with care for our brothers and sisters.

As Paul reflects on the history of the Thessalonian community, he praises God for the way they have overcome numerous obstacles. In the midst of opposition, they remained faithful to each other and to the Lord, so much so that they became a base for Paul's further missionary endeavour in the rest of Greece.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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