

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 20 Sept 2020



'My Ways Are Above Your Ways.' Those who had labored in the vineyard all day were angry when the owner paid the latecomers the same wage. Like the story of the prodigal son, this parable reminds us that the kingdom of heaven is not characterised by our limited concepts of justice but by a compassion that knows no limits. May we not be envious at the good fortune of others, but rejoice that we too are loved deeply by God.

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

2020 Sacraments Program

We are very pleased to announce that our Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion will go ahead. There will be restrictions to ensure the health of our children and their families.

Confirmation Ceremonies

**Friday 11 Sept @ 7pm, Saturday 12 Sept @ 12 & 3pm,
Friday 18 Sept @ 7pm and Saturday 19 Sept @ 2pm**
**No private prayer time is available on Friday evenings
of Confirmation Ceremonies.**

First Holy Communion

Sunday 1, 8 and 15 & 22 November at 11am
First Holy Communion Sessions begin
Monday 14 & 21 September, Monday 12 & 19 October
Allocated sessions at 3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.00pm
No private prayer time will be available on these Mondays.

Please contact the Sacramental Coordinator for further information
sacraments@stambrose.org.au



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Sunday Masses: Sat Vigil 5pm, Sunday 9.30am & 5pm
**Live-streamed Mass: Sat Vigil 5pm. You can participate from your home online
& receive the Spiritual Communion.**

Weekday Masses: 9am Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri (or Fri 9.15am school Masses)
Tuesday evening 7.30pm

Saturday 8.30am Devotions to Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday 9am Mass

Reconciliation: Sat 3.30 – 4.30pm

Adoration: Mon & Fri 6-9pm, Tues 5.45pm – 7.15pm,
Sat 3.30 - 4.30pm, Italian Cenacle: Mon 9.30am

Holy Hour & Cenacle: Wed after 9am Mass, Fri 9.30am

Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11am by appointment.

Weddings: by appointment. Contact Parish Office.

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Please pray for the children of our parish and their families as the children prepare to make their First Holy Communion through the Parish Sacramental Program over the coming weeks.



Congratulations to Sofia D'Annunzio who we recently welcomed into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism. Please keep Sofia and family in your prayers.

Catholic Mission Appeal this weekend – Welcome to our guest speaker

Br Julian's Reflection 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*The vineyard owner replied to the spokesman for the others:
"Friend, I haven't been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar,
didn't we? So, take it and go. I decided to give to the one who
came last the same as to you. Can't I do as I want with my own
money?"*

Are you going to get envious and stingy because I'm generous?"

Matthew 20, 1-16

We know the details of this parable very well: When those who had worked through the heat of the day saw, from the end of the line, that the late-comers were getting the usual daily wage, they built up expectations of getting paid more. So, when they were paid exactly what they had agreed to, they began to grumble: "It's not fair!" And we might well be prepared to agree with them.

That prompts me to ask myself: "Do I become resentful when I see people around me treated with greater generosity than I think they deserve?"

Let's not forget that this story is a parable which offers yet another of Jesus' examples of what the kingdom of God is like.

The director of the Darling Harbour Conference Centre in Sydney once joked, in his words of welcome to the participants of a Catholic Education Conference: "Darling Harbour is a lot like heaven; you'll see a lot of people there you don't expect to see."

Perhaps that's a bit like today's Gospel parable, which could be summarised in one sentence: "In the kingdom of heaven we'll meet a lot of people who haven't worked as long and hard as we have in supporting the Church, yet they'll still get the same reward." If I'm really honest with myself, I would probably feel like saying: "That's not fair!" That's because I have the

'LOVE GOD.....LOVE OTHERS' CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES FOR THE NEEDY CHILDREN OF SOUTH EAST ASIA....



These are unusual times, so we need to think in an unusual way....re our

ANNUAL OUTREACH to the NEEDY

"Operation Christmas Child" in our Parish will be going ahead as Samaritan's Purse still continues to co-opt volunteers, to collect, to pack, and to prepare boxes for transport to Asian children in time for their Christmas. Boxes will be available this weekend at the side door of the Church OR if the Church is closed, there will be BOXES on the verandah of the Convent, with brochures which remind you of the importance of what gifts are suitable for sending these children.

Please READ the Brochure carefully. Since the opportunity for particular shopping is in many ways curtailed, maybe you have NEW items at home which could be suitable for a GIFT BOX....or you might be able to shop. Any small offering you can make will be appreciated by those packing the boxes.

RE RETURN OF YOUR GIFTBOX WHEN READY TO SEND

If you are coming to Mass, please leave your GIFTBOX under the Altar as part of your Offertory at the Mass.

As the church is often closed at various times feel free to leave your GIFTBOX on the front verandah of the Convent, Unit 2/90 MacKenzie Street (park at the front of the house...easy to drop/or pick up BOX on the front verandah)

Would there be any SEWERS in our Parish who are prepared to stitch together some library bags if we supply you with the material? Please contact Sr Judith judith.clark@rscsisters.com.au 97361477 or 0455727501

Alternatively, if you are unable to pick up and fill a BOX....just leave your gifts for the children in the plastic box on the Convent verandah and they will be taken to the despatch centre by our generous volunteer Parishioner. Thank you for helping us to continue this loving service to the needy children this Christmas 2020.



To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop

We invite you to order your free copy of Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often.

These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please call 02 8912 277 or visit www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book

CWL Silver Circle Week 1 Results

1 st Prize	No. 18	\$20.00	Adele Abraham
2 nd Prize	No. 36	\$10.00	Nicky Antonio

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 safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or call (02) 9390 5810 or 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.

same attitude as the all-day workers, and can't stomach the extraordinary generosity of the estate owner. Envy makes me want to grumble.

Logically, we can accept that the vineyard owner can run his business however he wishes, but we're still not comfortable with the directions he gives his foreman for paying the workers. In our heads, we argue that, if he is so generous, why doesn't he give a bonus to those who worked hard all through the heat of the day?

Clearly, the estate owner is meant to represent God. So, if we conclude that those who worked all day should have gotten more than the late-comers, we are effectively saying that God is not fair. Yet there are lots of stories in the Bible to illustrate that God detests social injustice and exploitation of the poor.

This parable is good news for all the late-comers who have been promised a just reward for their work. But it's challenging for those of us who look at everything we have as the result of all of our hard work and effort. We develop a sense of entitlement. Yet, all we are and have are gifts from God. - our talents, health, education, opportunity, possessions, intellectual property, wisdom and experience. Everything is gift. We just can't get that appreciation comfortably integrated into our heads and hearts. We can get so wrapped up in our own self-interest that we fail to truly see and appreciate what God has given us, gives us and will continue to give us through the goodness of other people and the unfolding circumstances of our lives. We fall into the trap of thinking that we have earned everything we are and have. Yet, we cannot earn anything from God. That's what's so amazing about grace: It's all gift - free, gratis and for nothing.

This is a story whose message has been repeated throughout the Scriptures: Jonah threw a tantrum, and fell into depression when God spared the people of Nineveh; the elder brother regarded his father as a doting, old fool when he invited him to

join in the celebration of his younger brother's return; the Pharisee at prayer thanked God that he was not like the sinful publican. God's graciousness is a great equaliser, which demolishes presumed privilege and puts all of us who receive that graciousness on a par.

Strangely, many of us seem to develop a level of resistance when it comes to receiving God's graciousness. We seem to want to feel the satisfaction of earning it. We resist grace, however, because grace has the effect of changing us, and change is something we often are reluctant to embrace, because it is painful. But, if we can get beyond our resistance, and set aside grumbling, we might one day discover that the best response to grace is gratitude.

Even a few minutes of reflection on the parables of Jesus, which we think we know so well, is enough to remind us that many of those parables catch us by surprise as they shatter our expectations and disturb our comfort. Yet, today's first reading from Isaiah prepares us for the shock of today's gospel parable as it presents God proclaiming: "I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work. For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think" (Isaiah 55, 8-9). Still, I find myself siding with the all-day workers, wanting God to think and work the way I and they want God to think and work. Yet, at the heart of today's readings is that we're fooling ourselves if we think we can coax or manipulate God into fitting into the plans we make and the desires we want satisfied.

If there is another message clearly spelled out in today's gospel parable, it is that the vineyard owner is far more interested in the people who are in need of work to survive than he is in the harvesting to be done. After all, he goes out five times in search of labourers who need employment to survive, and he pays them the same wage, so that they can support those who

HELP NEEDED FOR LIVESTREAMING OF MASS



Thank you to the Parishioner who has offered to assist with this new Ministry in our Parish. As we all become accustomed to the restrictions due to Covid, the livestreaming of our 5pm Saturday Mass each week is being welcomed by those who are not able to join us in the Church.

We would like to form a group of Parishioners who would be appropriately trained to continue to provide the livestreaming each week. This would be on a rostered basis so you would not be required to do it every week.

Sean, Tyler and Zack and Audrey have done a superb job over recent months and will be happy to share their knowledge and skills with others. Sean has set up a single camera system to simplify the livestreaming and is asking for volunteers willing to learn how to operate the equipment available in the Church.

If you are interested in being part of this group please come along to 5pm Saturday Mass and have a chat to Sean or, if more convenient, contact the Parish Office on 9743 1023 or email admin@stambrose.org.au.

Priests' Retirement Foundation Appeal continues this weekend.

Support our retired priests. In 2007, the Priests' Retirement Foundation of the Archdiocese of Sydney was established to ensure all priests can receive the accommodation, health care and support they need in their retirement. There are now over 70 retired priests in Sydney with more requiring assisted living. The Priests' Retirement Foundation covers needs such as: Convalescence care, Assistance in transitioning to retirement, Health insurance, medical and dental expenses, assistance with board and lodging expenses, Minor repairs and maintenance of accommodation.

All donations to this appeal over \$2 are tax deductible and will be tripled by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. **Please mark the payment slip if you require a tax receipt.** Alternatively, online donations can be made at www.ourfaithourworks.org/give-to-prf

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

During these times of uncertainty, many are experiencing anxiousness for the first time and this Sacrament gives us strength, courage and awareness of God’s loving presence in our lives. Mark your calendar for the date of the next Mass with Sacrament of the Sick on **Friday 16th October** at 10:30. VASA can provide transport if needed.



VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATES OF ST AMBROSE..
VASA



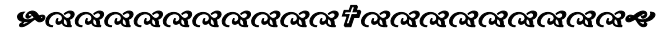
Last Wednesday, Jennifer Toohey and Pat Toohey hosted an enjoyable lunch for about twelve of our Shopping Bus Community and their carers.....a few hours of delightful interaction amongst the many ‘crafty’ ladies, as they chatted about the various crafts which contribute in so many ways to fill their days during this extraordinary time of ‘lockdown”. It was a very informative morning in so many ways....news of multiple rugs being delivered to Nowra for people whose homes were destroyed in the recent fires...exchanges between those ‘plying’ the needles, either by knitting or crocheting ...resulting in a beautiful array of woollen rugs to contribute to the many needy people of our city and country... and incidentally quite a lot of inside information about how to obtain that precious commodity “WOOL” nowadays ...from where....and how..... Thank God for our S H E E P.....

Thank you to Pat and Jennifer...

Reminder - School References requiring Parish Priests signature – please remember to include a stamped, (if not reply paid) self-addressed envelope so we can post them to the colleges on your behalf. Many thanks

depend on them. That challenges me to reflect on my views of the unemployed in my city, who turn up at employment offices late in the day or who line up at social security offices hoping for Government financial assistance. Do I see them as my brothers and sisters in need, or am I quick to label them as lazy, lacking in motivation or having no appetite for work? There is something about my culture that is quick to stigmatise the unemployed and those whose life circumstances have pushed them to the fringes of our society. Perhaps there’s even something about my Church and parish that makes these unfortunate people feel less welcome, for no other reason than that have been forced to live from hand to mouth.

Today’s readings disturb my comfort in ways they are surely meant to do. They push me to reflect on the way I think about justice, about my efforts to contain God, and my tendency to think I am entitled to this or that. It’s one thing to ponder such matters, but what am I going to do about them?



CatholicCare outreach to the lonely and isolated

CatholicCare and the Parishes of the Sydney Archdiocese are here to support vulnerable people in our local communities during lockdown. We can connect local volunteers to people who need help with their shopping and errands or even just for a regular friendly chat over the phone. If you, or someone you know, could use a little help during this time, CCareline 13 18 19 can connect you with a local volunteer from your community. CCareline 13 18 19 is a free and confidential helpline for counselling, relationships, parenting, ageing, disabilities, addictions and mental health.

CCareline is here to help. Call 131819 Monday - Friday 8am to 6pm.



Please remember in your prayers the following
for whom Masses will be offered.



Recently Deceased: Jimmy & Eileen, Fr John Langtry, Ray Hardman, Mary Kosmas, Chantal, Peter Economos

Anniversaries: Dulcie & Tony Tumminello, Mary & Jim Waters, Carmel Nolan, Giovanna Caldaroni, Arty Murphy, Antoinette Constable, Chakley George, Aronne Borg, Martin & William Toohey

Others: Fr Kevin McGovern, Patrick & Margaret Egan, Veronica & Anne Gough, Mario Iannacito, Angelo Iannacito, Mabel & Kevin Rice, Peter Waters, Helen Timpanaro, Paul Broderick, Harry O'Hara, Eugene & Aileen Morris, Ted & Laura Merlino, Harriet David, Terry Tully, Michael Culligan, Angelina Camuglia, Dr Leonado Dimaculangan, Jennifer Bast, Doug Kemp, Carmel Cullinan, Francesca Vizzari, Anthony Zovaro, Eric Pewal, Chris Elliott, Paola Pilosio, John Ferranda, Olivero Vendramin, Thomas Murickanickal & Kochappan, Joseph, Anna Nguyen, Gordon Bridges, John Baptist Nguyen, Giuseppe Rubbo, Teofilo Zamora, Paul, Filomena Agostino, Marie Madeleine Danev, Nicola Betto, Margaret Sharpe, Tamam Koloi, Helen Timpanaro, Mario Gemin, John Ryan, John & Gwen Kennedy, Ludivina Green, Agata Rodi, John Baptista Zammit, Catherine and John Manning, Joe and Mary Mangion, Rema Flannery, Margaret Jean Sharpe, John Pomroy, Mary & Ernest Vanzella, Gaetano Patamia, Filomena Agostino, Gina Querin, Santina Martinelli, Ruby Madera, Peter Soosai, Rita Gomez, Caoile Families, Iannacito, Funaro & Di Iorio Families, Guiseppe & Maria Idiotta, Whiteford Family, Culligan Family, Cootes Family, Zammit Family, DeBono Family, Moses Family, Nancy's Family, Dahdah Family, Wheeler & Higgins Families, Morson Family, Abraham, George & Cherote Families, Kennedy and McGovern Families, John White, June Bates, Dorothy Vantwest, Thelma & Stephen Muller & Family, Soloman Family, Merrell, Bourke, Gielis & Shields Families, deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society, dearly departed souls and all souls in Purgatory.

Please pray for the sick especially:

Maria Nguyen, Kevin McGrath, Patricia Christosi, Dalton James Bonnici, Maria Manno, Joseph Borg, Yuan Sheng Ye, Theresa Tan's mum, Veronica Rutherford, Baby Willow Rose Frazer, Paul Dovico, Jim Branley, David Bagnato, Angela, Rosaria Natalina Patamia, Felice Minutillo, Charlie Rossini, Kelly & Ursula, Giuseppina Algozzino, Peggy Kerr, Viru, Fr Paul Boyers, Kevin McGrath, John and Betty Gattenhof, Esther Tully, Gary and Leslie McGrath, Rosa Mastro, Tanya Greenaway, Gianna, Matthew, Luisa, Zia Pina, Grace Comare, Sean Peters, Elizabeth Esguerra, Juliet Walsh, Barbara Wayne, Marilyn Deguara, Elijah, Adrian Vanzella, Matthew Chan, John Rodrigues, Belinda Nicholls, Nan Peters, Carmela Smigliani, Shinta Widzaza, Alan Borg, Rosa Maria Santos, Bhupinder Tamber, Rebecca Sinclair, Marina Arasaratnam, Teresa Domalewski, Adel Abraham, Anne Vassily, Gloria Clark, Kim Long, Bob & Marion Merrell, Terry Murphy, Stacey Spencer, Joanne Ford, David, Celia and Gomes Family, Warwick Cook, Louise, James Anthony Manassa, June Corcoran, Rosina Morson, Celina Shaw, Laurence O'Connell, Sam Carroll, Dr Bede Muller, Robert Carey, Carmen Zammit, Mario Bianco, Rochelle Rodrigues, Kevin Desouza, Pat Toohey, Charmaine Yu, Anne Collins, Anna Viteznik, Adrian Walker, Lauren Wedd, Sara Benjamin & Family, Peter Weinfeoe, Ivy Ross, Dr Siri Kannangara, Maria Rosa de Angelis, Frank Zappia, Cecily Culligan

COVID-19 Update

The NSW Government has recommended parishioners wear face masks when attending religious services as an additional safeguard to help combat the spread of COVID-19.

2020 World Mission Appeal – Cambodia



This year's Catholic Mission Church Appeal highlights the important work of the Church in Cambodia, which aims to reach out to those who have been affected by disability, and give them hope and support to live a fulfilling life.

This appeal shares the story of Chen, a landmine survivor who lost both his legs when he was 16 years old. Chen has been given the care and opportunity to turn this tragic event into a positive outcome through the support of the Arrupe Centre in the Apostolic Prefecture of Battambang in north-western Cambodia.

The Arrupe Centre urgently needs support to continue providing young people like Chen with opportunities so they can live a full and dignified life. We invite parishioners to help support crucial mission work like this in Cambodia and around the world.

Tax Receipts 2019/2020 – thank you to all who have contributed financially to parish and appeals on behalf of other agencies.

Anyone needing a tax receipt for giving to CFW, Project Compassion and or Priests Retirement Foundation please email admin@stambrose.org.au Receipts can be printed out for you and left in the foyer of the church or can be emailed to you. Please include your preference in your email.