

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R/: The Lord is near to all who call him.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.”

So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Cheltenham

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Pastoral Associates: Frances North, Christine Dunne

Psychologist: AnneMaree Eddy

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A **19th / 20th September, 2020**



This gospel offers yet another challenge to human ideas about what is just and reveals the generosity of God. The Master makes a point of having those who came last paid first. One must imagine the queue, with the newly arrived workers at the head and those tired from a full day’s labour watching as the late-comers are paid in full. In many ways, the audience is drawn into sharing their disappointment and indignation. If those employed early had been at the head of the queue, they would have gone off happy with their contracted wage. The problem arises only when they see the latecomers reaping the same reward. This alludes to a problem that has arisen in Matthew’s community. Those Jewish Christians who have risked all and believed from the beginning are now seeing the newcomers to faith being offered the same reward. Jesus’ answer is simple: the kingdom is God’s. God can do as he likes, and what God chooses is to welcome all and offer reward to all who come to belief, no matter at what stage.

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Monday to Friday 9 am – 3.30 pm
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PARISH SCHOOL:
Our Lady of the Assumption 9584 9488
Principal: Mr Richard Jacques
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MASS TIMES:
SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MASS TIMES:
Saturday 6:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am, 11:00 am
Tuesday 6.00 pm
Wednesday 9.15am
Thursday, Friday 9.15 am
Saturday 9.00 am

COMMUNION SERVICE:
Monday 9.15 am

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

RECONCILIATION:
Saturdays: 9.30am & 6pm

BAPTISMS: SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
Either during a weekend Mass or at 12.30pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month. 6 weeks' notice required. Please refer to our Guidelines for Infant Baptism and Application Form available on our parish website.

WEDDINGS: CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR MORE INFO
By appointment, 6 months' notice required. Saturdays or weekdays (not Sundays).
Contact the Parish Office: 9583 6161

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A – 19th / 20th September, 2020

PRAYING FOR:

Karen Rak, Terry O'Connell
...and all those who died recently.

We also remember:
Vera and Jack Moloney
...and all whose anniversaries occur about this time.



COVID RESTRICTIONS: Stage Four restrictions now apply. General Guidelines from the Archdiocese of Melbourne, (Update #16 : 16th September, 2020):
<https://cam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/16-16September20-UPDATE-COVID-19-GENERAL-GUIDELINES.pdf>

Broadcast & Online Masses:
11am Sunday Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral continues to be **televised live (free to air) on Channel 31** (Ch. 44 on Digital TV).
This Mass is also live-streamed on the Melbourne Catholic website: melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass
Pre-recorded Masses available online: cam1.org.au/Greensborough/Spirituality/Mass-Online or stsimonsparish.com.au/mass-videos or holyfamilydoveton.org.au/
Mass can also be heard on **Light FM (89.9 FM)** every **Sunday at 7am.**

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY: The 20th of September marks **Social Services Sunday** within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 45 **member organisations**, the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the 2020/21 Social Justice Statement brought out recently by the Australian Catholic bishops, **To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today**, and so draw your attention to a recent event hosted by CSSV, **Counselling and Therapeutic Support in a Time of COVID**, which provided an opportunity to become more familiar with mental health services, and how to practically reach out for or point to assistance.

ST DOMINIC'S EAST CAMBERWELL invites parishioners of OLA to a webinar on 'To Live Life To The Full'. Speakers include Bishop Terry Brady, Dr Caroline Johnson and Trish Mowbray. To register online go to:

www.trybook.com/BLKPG

Registration closes on 28th September.

Enquiries: 99126870 or email the parish at:

secretary@stdominics.org.au

SCRIPTURE READINGS for Daily Mass (Australian Liturgical Calendar) online: www.universalis.com/Australia/1000/mass
Navigate the daily Scripture readings for the week ahead using the right-hand column

BRIGIDINE ASYLUM SEEKER PROJECT Trivia Night: has been moved to 9th October, and it will be run via Zoom. You don't need to be a Tech Wizard to play. If you would like to join in, please email Colette at colfoxw@gmail.com. Entry is your donation direct to Brigidine Asylum Seekers Trust Account. BSB: 083 004 NAB-ACCOUNT: 569246603. Please give your name and the word 'Trivia' in the reference. If Zoom Trivia is not for you this year, any donation you could make would be greatly appreciated.



Do you sometimes experience jealousy or resentment? What causes this response? How does it make you feel?

Imagine the feelings of the workers who arrived last when they were paid for a full day's work. What might they say of the generosity of God? • Share together a time when you have experienced overwhelming generosity. • Is there a difference in how we react if we are the recipients of generosity compared with our reaction when we see others being treated with generosity that we believe they do not deserve? Do we live in a generous society? • Look for occasions this week to be generous, not only with money, but with time, attention and attitude. Challenge those who lack generosity of spirit.
Try meditating on the words of Psalm 103 this week:

*The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.*