

Reflections on the Gospel

Mt 23: 1-12

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

They do not practise what they preach.

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, "The scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses. You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to what they say; but do not be guided by what they preach, since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You however, must not allow yourselves to be called Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL
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SCRIBES AND PHARISEES

In a culture where reading and writing were uncommon, those who had these skills, like the scribes (Greek *grammatists*), were the possessors and transmitters of learning. In Israel, the scribes were a class of professional exponents and teachers of the Torah. They were held in respect and were addressed as 'my lord' or 'master' (rabbi). They taught the people the Law, spoke in the synagogue, settled cases in the community, copied Scripture texts, and acted as guardians of tradition.

The scribe was not necessarily a Pharisee, but in fact, most of the scribes belonged to the Pharisee party that adhered to the strict interpretation of the Law. The Pharisee (Hebrew *perushim*, 'the separated ones') conceived of religion as centered upon the observance of the Torah, and interpreted the Law in the strict manner.

In his time, Jesus was also addressed as 'rabbi'. But his teaching was recognised as being more authoritative than that of the scribes with whom he often came into conflict.

Today's Gospel is taken from the discourse in which Jesus denounces the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 23). Scholars believe that the speech reflects not just the deep opposition between Jesus and the teachers of the Law in his time, but also the conflict between the followers of Jesus and the Pharisaic Judaism that rose after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. In their efforts to build the Jewish nation around the Law, the Pharisees excluded those Jews who believed in Jesus as the Messiah. In turn, the Christians criticised the rabbis, just as Jesus did.

Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

Mal 1: 14-2: 2, 8-10

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Malachi

You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 130

R. In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great nor marvels beyond me. **R.**
2. Truly I have set my soul in silence and peace. A weaned child on its mother's breast, even so is my soul. **R.**
3. O Israel, hope in the Lord both now and for ever. **R.**

1 Thess 2: 7-9, 13

SECOND READING

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

We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.



Like a mother feeding and looking after her own children, we felt so devoted and protective towards you, and had come to love you so much, that we were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you, brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / You have one Father, your Father in heaven; / you have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ. / Alleluia!

Mt 23: 9, 10

St MALACHY'S PARISH
APSLEY * EDENHOPE * GOROKE *
MINIMAY

**5th November 2017, 31st Sunday in
 Ordinary Time A**

Priest in Charge: Fr John Corrigan
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Bulletin notices
 Bulletin notices Monica van Dyk
 0447267149
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Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: William Mahoney, Tim Mahney,
 Aileen Parker, Barney Clarke, Keith Rowe, Colin
 Mulraney, Pat Tansey, Finn Kirby

Next weekend

Sun Nov 12 – 10:30am SAWC

Church Collections – from 22nd Oct

Edenhope \$134.00
 Planned Giving \$181.00
Total: \$ 4092

Parish Diary

Sun Nov 5 11am Mass
 Sun Nov 12 10:30am SAWC
 Sun Nov 19 11am Mass
 Sun Nov 26 5pm Mass

new roster times: Please be aware that 9am
 masses will now be at 11am

<u>Edenhope:</u>	<u>This Weekend Mass</u>
Reader	G Clarke
Prayers/Psalm	A Wait
Gifts	A Wait family
Ministers	G Griffin
Cleaning	M Rowe, K Neall
Linen	
Lawns	
Collection	
<u>Edenhope:</u>	Next weekend – Awaiting new roster

St Malachy's

Mon Foundation 2018 transition morning

Tue St Malachy's Parent's Association
 Melbourne Cup Luncheon, 12 noon start

Wed Ang & Sherryn at Respectful Relationships
 PD in Horsham,

Thu Ang at Diocesan Principal Meeting: 4/5/6
 students attending Hostel and Barkala Flats

Bus trip:

Wagners Rose Nursery, Kalangadoo & Oatcoat
 Lane, Penola. **Saturday 25th November.** Depart St
 Malachy's School 9am. \$30, includes bus and picnic
 lunch. Seating limited Bookings essential ph
 0427865235. Or robae@bigpond.com
 Wagners is home to over 700 varieties of roses, which
 are pruned and weather permitting, should be
 'bloomin' lovely at this time of the year

Father John's Corner

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD: It is a comfort to us on
 earth, when a loved one dies, to think that the
 person is in heaven. This consolation is real and it
 is right and good for us to hope for heaven, but
 death is not always a free pass to Heaven. In order
 to get there, many souls will benefit from the gift
 of our prayers. Each November, the Church gives
 us extraordinary means to intercede for the holy
 souls in Purgatory. You're encouraged to visit a
 cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the
 dead. Cemetery Masses are scheduled this month,
 but you might also consider a personal visit and
 private prayer.

SISTERS OF MERCY IN CASTERTON: As part of the
 celebration of 160 years since the arrival of the
 first Sisters of Mercy in Victoria, the Sisters are
 acknowledging all those women in our
 congregation who have served in the various
 places in Victoria where they have worked. The
 Sisters in Casterton will be remembered at a
 celebration of graveside prayer and story sharing
 on Friday 17 November at 11am. All are welcome
 to this celebration of the lives and work of the
 Sisters of Mercy in Casterton.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

• Tuesday 7 November. 10am Requiem Mass,
 Edenhope Cemetery.

2017 WORLD MISSIONS APPEAL: Envelopes may
 be returned via collection plate today or posted
 directly to Catholic Mission, PO Box 1668, North
 Sydney NSW 2059