

## **25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

### **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING:** 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.**

I will bless you day after day  
and praise your name for ever.  
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,  
his greatness cannot be measured. **R.**  
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. **R.**  
The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

**SECOND READING:** 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.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

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

### **GOSPEL:** 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  
bailliff, "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.'

### **COVID-19 Prayer.**

**When this is over,  
may we never again take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger,  
Full shelves at the shops,  
Conversations with neighbours,  
A crowded theatre. Friday night out,  
The sharing of Eucharist,  
A routine check-up, each deep breath,  
The school rush each morning.  
The roar of the 'G', a boring Tuesday,  
Life itself.  
And when this ends, may we find that we  
have become more like the people  
we wanted to be,  
we were called to be, we hoped to be.  
And may we stay that way -  
Better for each other because of the  
worst.**

Laura Kelly Fanucci

## WELCOME

### Parish of Cororooke

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Coragulac, VIC 3249

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Parish Sec: Gracesyn Perrett 52331464  
Moderator: Maureen Finn 0428329231  
Supervising Priest: Fr Michael O'Toole  
School Principal: Leanne Eastman  
Child Safety Officer: Leanne Eastman  
St Brendan's: 9.30am Sunday/ 5pm 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

### ALTAR & SACRISTY DUTIES:

*St Brendan's:*

20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Sept: M O'Shea & K McKay

*St. Joseph's:*

September: Ryan

### RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Sept 20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>

Viv Bone, Margaret Beasley, Hugh Delahunty,  
Irwin Sutherland, Ed Carmody, Mary Jones,  
Francis Lenehan & Mary Lenehan

SICK: *Nathan De Lorenzo, Helen Hunt,  
Leah Spokes, Tarlea Roache, Geraldine Finn,  
Patricia Hickman, June Turner, Ross Soares,  
Goldie Elsum*

### **Prayers and Images in the Time of Virus:**

Following the success of Michael McGirr's *Trees in Solitude*, *Prayers and Images for Pentecost*, Garratt Publishing are pleased to present a complimentary second 'Trees' series from Michael – *Trees Without Masks*. Over the coming weeks these beautiful prayers and images will be shared. Download the prayers from the news section of the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

### **Catholic Earthcare Convocation is digital during**

**September:** Catholic Earthcare is a place and platform where the many, diverse voices within our church community come together, in dialogue, to help and co-create our shared future. Come join us digitally during September, so together we can all celebrate and *Care for our Common Home*. View the program and register for sessions at <https://catholicearthcare.org.au/2020-convocation/>

## Understanding Scripture

### God's generosity

Our awareness of labour laws and our concern for wages disposes us to focus on the workers in the parable and on the manner of payment. But this is a parable about 'the kingdom of heaven' (20:1), not about first century labour practices. What can we learn by focusing on the 'kingdom' aspects of the parable?

First, notice that the landowner calls workers all day long. Though this may be seen simply as a plot device, it reflects the good news proclaimed by Jesus. God so desires people to share the life of the kingdom that God persistently invites people into the vineyard. In the parable it is the landowner himself - not a manager or other employee - who does the hiring. The landowner goes out five times to hire labourers, literally from 'dawn' to 'evening' (20:1, 8). Similarly, in the parable about the wedding feast the king sends messengers three times to bring guests into the feast; he even refuses to take no for an answer (22:1-10/Sunday 28). In the parable of the vineyard (21:33-43 - Sunday 27) the king sends servants to collect the produce; though the servants are rejected, the king sends again and again. Such parables indicate something about the kingdom: the kingdom is a gift which God is eager to share; indeed, more than merely eager, God is persistent in extending the invitation.

In last Sunday's parable the unmerciful servant sought merely patience and was surprised when he was unexpectedly and undeservedly granted mercy: his unpayable debt was cancelled. In this Sunday's parable those hired first are surprised at the landowner's generosity. But witnessing the landowner's generosity led them not to rejoice in such kindness, but to expect more for themselves. Though they agreed to their wage, they now wanted more than justice. But mercy and generosity are *gifts*: they are neither earned nor deserved. The mercy Jesus extends to tax-collectors and sinners who have only responded to God's call in this final hour is a gift of that mercy and generosity which characterises God's kingdom. God deals justly with everyone, and generously with those in need.



