

St. Augustine's Parish, Maryborough

~inc. St. Kevin's, Barnett St. Avoca, St. Mary's, Hardy St. Dunolly,
St. Patrick's, Pyrenees H'way & Evans St. Amphitheatre,
St. Patrick's, Main St. Bealiba, St. Patrick's, Barkly-Redbank Rd. Redbank,
St. Augustine's, Burke St, Maryborough~

Parish Priest: Fr. John Monaghan **Parish Secretary:** Jill Morse **Parish Office:** 21 Burns St. Maryborough.

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27th September 2020 Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS UPDATE: While our “re-open” date is still listed for 23rd November, the continuing downward trend of those affected is both in itself welcome news and gives us hope that we may soon be able to gather for Mass, even if in limited numbers similar to when restrictions were eased off last time. We continue to pray for all who are affected by this pandemic, those in healthcare and those who in a myriad of ways are caring for others. Bishop Paul informs us that with the other bishops of Victoria he has been making representations to government for easing of the restrictions in places of worship. They propose that places of worship should be treated in the same way as other places where people can gather socially. It is hoped their representations on our behalf will bear fruit and we will very soon gather again in our parish communities. While needing to safeguard people's health, we have shown that we can observe the necessary precautions for physical health at the same time as we celebrate the liturgy, which contributes so much to the spiritual and mental health of the community. Bishop Paul prays particularly that we will soon be able to share the Eucharist, source and summit of our Christian life

SR TIRSA BALE RIP: Bishop Paul Bird has notified us of the death last week of Sr Tirsa, a member of the Baptistine religious order, who for the past few years has served as a Pastoral Associate in Horsham parish. Sr Tirsa had been unwell and returned to the Philippines earlier this year for medical treatment. We pray that Christ may welcome Sr Tirsa into eternal life and our thoughts are with her Horsham community member, Sr Manuela Cabigas, and their fellow Baptistine sisters at this time.

SR BARBARA'S NEW MARYBOROUGH STREET: We're delighted to hear that Central Goldfields Shire Council has approved the naming of Barbara Court, after our beloved Sr Barbara May, for one of the new roads in the next stage of Whirrakee Rise development, in acknowledgement of her wonderful contribution to our Parish, Shire and district.

Remembering those who have died:

We pray for Sister Tirsa Bale who died recently and those whose anniversaries are at this time including: Montague Reed, Cath Maffescioni, Kel Nitschke, Dorothy Treloar, Nicholas Halley, Marion Slater, Anne Lunt, Jim Rinaldi, John Heffernan, Damien Tardrew, John Simpson, William Clarke and George Arrowsmith.

**Today's Readings: Ezekiel 18:25-28, Psalm 24:4-9, Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 21:28-32.
(Gospel of the Vineyard Owner's Two Sons)**

Is God Fair?

I have an employee who drives me really crazy. He does nothing I ask him to do; is always late, leaves early, takes endless breaks, follows my directions only when it suits him. Most of the time he does just what he wants to do and is completely ungovernable.

Why don't I just fire this guy? Because, although he does nothing that I ask him to do, he does everything well. He does what needs to be done, and sometimes more than I would ever expect of anyone. Though I tear my hair out about his blatant disrespect for my wishes, I have to admit he's the best I've ever seen. He's like the first son in the parable: he says *No* but does *Yes*.

Lots of people say *No* but do *Yes* in the reign of God. They don't go to church, baptise their babies, or live by the Book in the way we would like. They don't seem to worship the same God we do, or any God at all. Yet God has a very different abacus than ours, and the tally may come out better for them than for faithful churchgoers who live by the Book but have no love in their hearts. Is this fair? Not while we are pushing the beads, perhaps. But God doesn't stoop so low as fairness, and all kinds of unlikely people are making their way toward the Kingdom.

Are you more like the first or second son in the parable? Can you forgive the other son?

Conquer judgmentalism! Whenever the little judge pops up in your mind and condemns a fellow traveller, retire it promptly. Watch out for the way the little judge accuses YOU. Show mercy to all, including yourself. "Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand".

Fair Game

When I taught high school, I spent a number of years coaching a soccer team. Then I became a soccer referee. That was back when I could still run up and down a field for an hour blowing a whistle.

What I liked about the game of soccer and especially about "refing" was that no arguing with the referee was tolerated. If you tried it, the ref would give you a "yellow card," holding it up to your face without speaking a word. It was your only warning. Do it again and he would "red card" you, kicking you out of the game if you were a player or off the field if you were the coach. It was the ref's way only. It taught players patience. It taught them to concentrate on the game and not to blame those officiating for their problems. It taught us all to keep our mouths shut. Consequently, when I became a referee, I took the responsibility to be fair and accurate seriously.

Scripture reminds us that God is just and forgiving. But our actions and our choices make a difference. We can argue all that we want and say what we think needs to be said as we compare ourselves with others. But it is to no avail. God judges us by God's standards and not by our perceptions.

Jesus told those he encountered many things in parables. He used stories to illustrate the greatest examples of how best to live your life in the service of others. He challenged his followers by speaking directly about those on the margins and those the world most commonly ignores. Many were astounded by the things Jesus said and did and they left all behind and followed him.



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