



## MOYNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Patrick's Parish, Port Fairy  
Infant Jesus Parish, Koroit

[www.moyneatholic.org.au](http://www.moyneatholic.org.au)



# *Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2020*

### **FIRST READING**

Isaiah 45:1,4-6

*I have taken Cyrus by his right hand to subdue nations before him.*

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: 'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

### **RESPONSORIAL**

Ps 94(95):1-2,6-9

*R/. Give the Lord glory and honour.*

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples.

*R/. Give the Lord glory and honour.*

The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught.  
It was the Lord who made the heavens.

*R/. Give the Lord glory and honour.*

Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts.

*R/. Give the Lord glory and honour.*

Worship the Lord in his temple.

O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'

He will judge the peoples in fairness.

*R/. Give the Lord glory and honour.*

### **SECOND READING**

1 Thess 1:1-5

*We constantly remember your faith,  
your love and your hope.*

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Phil 2:15-16

*V/. Alleluia!*

*R/. Alleluia!*

*V/. Shine on the world like bright stars;  
you are offering it the word of life.*

*R/. Alleluia*

## GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-21

*Give back to Caesar  
what belongs to Caesar.*

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

## PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



We pray for **Francisca Mifsud** and **Nance Hammond** who died recently. We remember **Michael Corrigan** and **Mary Therese Wolff** whose anniversaries occur at this time. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## THE NEW MINISTRY DISTRICT

The retirement of Fr Michael Linehan as Parish Priest of St Pius will necessitate some changes for the new Ministry District, and this includes some change to our existing Mass schedule. NB: Fr Michael will not be replaced.

- The 2 retired priests (Fr Bill & Fr Michael) will not be scheduled on the

weekend Mass roster but will assist from time to time.

- Alternate times for weekend Masses is not desirable in the new schedule. Thus the need for fixed times for the four parishes.
- There is a commitment to celebrate Mass in all 4 parishes each weekend.

## SELF-CARE IN ISOLATION

- [✓] Stick to a routine.
- [✓] Get out once a day.
- [✓] Find some time to move each day.
- [✓] Reach out to others.

## CDF PAY FOR PARISHES

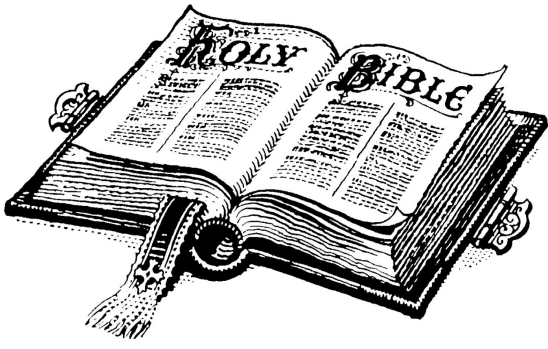
An online thanksgiving portal known as *CDF Pay for Parishes* allows anyone, anywhere, any time, to make electronic payments to the parish or presbytery accounts, as a one off, or on a regular recurring schedule. Users receive an electronic receipt for any payments.

During this period where Masses are suspended, parishes need the financial support of parishioners more than ever. For further information please contact the Parish Office and speak to Louise. Phone 5562 2231. Visit:

- [bit.ly/CDFpayKoroitParish](https://bit.ly/CDFpayKoroitParish)
- [bit.ly/CDFpayPortFairy](https://bit.ly/CDFpayPortFairy)

## PETITION TO PREMIER ANDREWS

"We, people of Victoria's faith community, request that you adjust the 'Roadmap for Reopening' in a way that secures the equitable treatment of religious communities and grants us the opportunity to practise our faith in a COVID-safe manner." View and sign at <https://www.equalityforfaith.com.au/>



## Reflection on this Sunday's Gospel

by Fr Francis Fernandez

### GIVE TO GOD WHAT IS GOD'S

#### Loyal collaborators with Caesar

In the Gospel for today Jesus reaffirms the duty of all of us to obey civil authority. The Pharisees and the Herodians had attempted to lay a trap with their question: Was it licit to pay tribute to Caesar? There were those among the Jews who argued that such payments simply reinforced the tyranny of foreign domination over the Chosen People. If the Master were to acquiesce in this payment, the Pharisees would be able to accuse him of collaboration with the Romans. He would thus be discredited before a good part of the people. But if He were to oppose the tax, the Herodians, who were in league with the (occupying) civil power, would then have grounds for a denunciation to the Romans.

Jesus gives his enemies a profound response, which went far beyond their twisted expectations. He does not limit himself to a 'yes' or 'no'. The Master speaks: *give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God*. Render unto Caesar what rightfully belongs to him: tribute, obedience to just laws ... but nothing more. The State does not enjoy absolute power and dominion. As ordinary citizens, Christians have "the obligation of rendering to the state whatever material and personal services are required for the common good." [Vatican II, *Gaudium et spes*, 75.]

For their part, civil authorities are obligated to act with equity and justice in the distribution of their goods and

services. They have to serve the common good without looking for any personal gain. They have to legislate and govern with the greatest respect for the natural law and the rights of people. This includes the protection of life from the moment of conception, defence of the family, religious liberty, the rights of parents regarding the education of their children. The Lord speaks through the Prophet Isaiah: *Woe to those who decree iniquitous decrees!* [Is 10:1.]

Christians are obliged to pray for those who exercise civil authority. Rulers and governments have a great responsibility to carry out. Christians should fulfil their duties to society with virtually scrupulous exactitude. There should be no more loyal collaborators for the common good than the Christian faithful. This fidelity will spring naturally from well-formed consciences. Their relations with civil authority should become, in fact, a path to sanctity: the payment of taxes, the power to vote, our involvement in associations for public welfare, active participation in political life should that be our calling ... Let us examine ourselves today to see if we are truly being good examples to others of fostering the common good.

#### Religious dimension of humanity

The Lord recognized the civil power and its rights, but He also stated quite clearly that we have to respect the rights of God. [Vatican II, *Dignitatis humanae*, 11.] Human activity cannot be reduced to strictly social and political spheres of action. Every individual has a profound religious dimension to his being. It informs all of his works and gives them tremendous dignity. This explains why the Lord adds those important words: *Give to God what belongs to God*.

Whenever a Christian plays a part in public affairs, in education, say, or in cultural life, he or she cannot behave as if to reserve the faith for some better occasion in the future. *The distinction*

*which Christ made was not intended to relegate religion to the temple – to the sacristy – so that temporal realities would develop apart from divine and Christian law. [St. J. Escrivá, Letter, 9 January 1959.]* Quite the contrary; Christians are challenged to be light and salt in the middle of the world. We are called to transform the environments in which we live and work, so as to make them more human. We should strive to make the path to God accessible for as many of our fellow men as possible.

In the words of the Second Vatican Council: *The laity accomplish the Church's mission in the world principally by that blending of conduct and faith which makes them the light of the world; by that uprightness in all their dealings which is for every man such an incentive to love the true and the good and which is capable of inducing him at last to go to Christ and the Church; by that fraternal charity that makes them share the living conditions and labours, the sufferings and yearnings of their brothers, and thereby prepare all hearts, gently, imperceptibly, for the action of saving grace; by that full awareness of their personal responsibility in the development of society, which drives them on to perform their family, social and professional duties with Christian generosity. [Vatican II, Apostolicam actuositatem, 13.]*

### **Faith is a powerful light**

When it comes to fundamental questions of social morality, Christians should be fully aware of the fact that their religious faith serves as a powerful light illuminating the whole area of the

common good. The teachings of God and his Church are not an obstacle to human welfare or scientific progress. They are rather a sure guide for the realization of those worthy goals. When, for example, a Christian maintains the indissolubility of marriage, they are showing the way to guaranteeing the health of society. Christians thus provide huge benefit to all. It is not a question of safeguarding our own special privileges. We have so much to give for the good of society! This is what we can learn from the example of the first Christians. A person with a well-formed conscience can make an enormous contribution to the real welfare of his or her fellow citizens. The Christian has a most precious light to offer amidst so much darkness!

*Render to God the things of God.* The Lord is the life of every person from the moment of conception. The Lord sanctified family life in Nazareth and later taught us to respect the indissolubility of marriage. The Lord revealed these truths even though many of his hearers were scandalized at his message. Despite all social pressures and propaganda to the contrary, married Christians should take care not to block the wellsprings of life. Truly, all men and women should make a serious effort to receive good formation for their consciences.

Our entire life is for the Lord, and everything in it. How is it possible that we could reserve some area of it for our sole personal domain? Let us ask Our Lady to give us the joy of knowing that we are children of God. She will help us to realise our personal responsibilities in society at large.

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