

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.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

20 SEPTEMBER 2020

REFLECTING THE GENEROSITY OF GOD

Today's Gospel is introduced as a parable 'about the kingdom of heaven'. That is, it illustrates the way in which God's rule is reclaiming the world for values that allow people to live lives that are human in the fullest sense of the word.

In the Palestine of Jesus' time, employment was for many a day to day business. Whether labourers got work—and the wage they needed to support themselves and their families—depended on whether they were hired for that day in the marketplace.

The story presupposes a long working day with successive hirings during the day. The 'just wage' agreed upon at the start of the day would have been a denarius, the standard wage for a day's labour. This is in fact what everyone receives, but when those who have laboured since early morning see even the latecomers paid this wage, they expect that in *their* case 'a just wage' will mean considerably more. Hence their grievance.

Jesus' message is that we cannot simply take the conventional idea of justice and apply it without qualification to God. God is just, but, beyond justice, reserves the right to be overwhelmingly generous as well. If the landowner, out of wider social concern, chooses to be generous and to pay everyone, deserving or not, what social justice today would call a 'living wage', this truly reflects the will and action of God. Aligning ourselves with this view of God has much to do with allowing the values of the kingdom to transform our lives and our world.

Brendan Byrne, SJ

FIRST READING

Isa 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
My thoughts are not your thoughts.

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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

Phil 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
For me to live is Christ.

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Acts 16:14

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

GOSPEL

Mt 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

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

20 Sept 2020
Wk 25 Yr A/2

WELCOME TO ST PATRICK'S CHURCH

Website: <https://stpatrickswesttamworthparish.org/>



<u>Parish Priest</u>	Fr Anthony Koppman	Presbytery 67658211
<u>Deacon</u>	Deacon Peter Harrison	Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9.30 - 11.30 am
<u>Administration:</u>	Ms Anne Bowden Ms Di Bolitho Mrs Elaine Smyth	westtamworthparish@armidale.catholic.org.au St Joseph's School Principal Mrs Katie Hanes 67654079
<u>Sacristan</u>		

WEEKEND MASSES	Vigil: Sat: 5.30pm Sun: 9am and 5.30 pm **72 people only in the church	CONFESIONS Sat: 4.30-5.15pm *Or by appointment
WEEKDAY MASSES	Mon: **No Mass Tues: **No Mass Wed: **12 noon St Pius of Pietrelcina Thurs: 9am Fri: 9am Sat: 9am	

ENTRANCE ANTIphon: *"I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord;
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever."*

May God have mercy on all those asked to be remembered in prayer:

Recently Deceased: Marie Trinder, Thomas Brown, Peter Press, Bob Edgecock, Dudley Ryan, Sr Kathleen Price (sjm).

Anniversaries: Betty Lynch (2/9), Matthew Moloney (9/9), Bill Hansen (10/9).

Deceased: Elizabeth (Betty) Perry, Max Kennedy, Joy Aurelia Trowbridge, Lionel Grattan, Margaret O'Callaghan, William Coulston, Andrew Tickner, Hugh O'Brien, John O'Brien.

Sick: Kim Myers, Rachel MacPherson, Shirley Hobbs, Deacon Peter Harrison, Jenny Buxury, Aria Lee Hawley, Joy Makepeace, John Joe Kiely, Monica Austin, Joe Lew, Trisha Aquino, Paul Steer, Baby Jack Smith, Noel O'Brien, Bill Press, Karen Guillermo, David Owens, Yvonne Tarrant, Terry Lee, Rosa Maria Santos, Margaret Greentree, Janice Rizzi, Richard Crawford, Sr Pat Bartley, Judy Cummins, Brindley Cavallaro, Maureen Harrison, Elaine White, Linda Bourke, Peggy Bussell, Margaret Doyle, Christopher Struck, Graeme Bussell, Jack & Marge Attard.



CRACKERS TAILS After pulling three double shifts in a row, Billy, a hotel clerk, was worn out. On one of his few breaks, he went to the hotel restaurant to grab a bite. When his food came, Billy, his mind in a fog, bowed his head for the blessing and whispered these words to God: "Good evening, Holiday Inn, how can I help you?"

COMING EVENTS

20 Sep Marriage Preparation Course, Gunnedah.
4 Oct Sunday 2am -Daylight Saving begins
18 Oct World Mission Appeal (Mission Sunday)

J = Jesus First
O = Others Second
Y = Yourself Last

"May God bless you and keep you strong." (1875)



IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CHURCH: The recent improvements to the Sacristy and Church will make a significant difference to our day-to-day operations, as well as ensure we are meeting the many safeguarding guidelines. Whilst there is still much to do in the repair and maintenance of our buildings, we hope you enjoy the fresh and new look in our lovely church.

WEEKDAY MASSES All masses will be celebrated at the normal times this week.

HOLY LANDS COLLECTION: Thank you for your generous support of this appeal. St Patrick's was able to contribute \$491.05 due to your kindness.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE: Do you know someone considering marriage? The next course will be held on at St Joseph's Gunnedah Parish 20 September. Please contact our office.

30 SCHOLARSHIPS AT AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY: Do you know of anyone considering their next step in life following school who might be interested in studying a Bachelor of Arts (Western Civilisation) in 2021? There are 30 scholarships on offer. Please contact the office.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: In response to the horrific explosion in Beirut, Aid to the Church in Need Australia is running a national emergency appeal to support the people of Lebanon. To help the appeal visit www.aidtochurch.org/lebanon or call 1800 101 201 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm AEST.

SEPTEMBER is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, whose memorial the Church celebrates on September 15. September falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection.



COVID-19 UPDATE: Masses are continuing in line with current COVID-19 restrictions.

ONLY 72 PEOPLE ARE ABLE TO ATTEND MASS AT ANY ONE TIME AT ST PATRICKS. It is preferable for you to register with the Parish Office. **PLEASE EMAIL THE PARISH AND LEAVE YOUR NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS AND PREFERENCE TIME FOR MASS ATTENDANCE** (Saturday evening or Sunday). The parish phone is not always attended so please only call if you do not have email. If not registered you may still attend mass, however you **MUST** leave your name and contact details on the sheet upon entering and can only enter if less than 72 people have registered on the entry sheet already. **Masks are currently strongly recommended however not mandatory at the time of print.

SOCIAL DISTANCING - **YOU MUST **** REGISTER TO ENTER**
**** SANITISE HANDS ENTERING AND LEAVING**
**** KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

*Mary Our Mother, sustain us in moments of darkness,
difficulty and apparent defeat.*

Sat Cleaning Roster: 26/9/20 J Hutt and J Moran 3/10/20 M Vella and R Pace

First Collection WEST TAMWORTH PRESBYTERY BSB 082105 Acc 001023642
Second Collection WEST TAMWORTH CHURCH BSB 082105 Acc 001041198