



St Mary's Parish

Incorporating the Catholic communities of Hamilton, Dunkeld, Macarthur, Glenthompson and Penshurst.

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26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

1 October 2017

First Reading Ez 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth,
and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown
from of old.
Do not remember the sins of
my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.
(R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those
who stray,
he guides the humble in the
right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading Phil 2:1-11

(or shorter form Phil 2:1-5)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition

among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.

But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in
the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name
of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

**My sheep listen to my voice,
says the Lord;**

**I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Mt 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel passage is one of many within Matthew's gospel that show Jesus at odds with the religious authorities of his day. The picture of the religious leaders that comes through Matthew's gospel is one of hypocrisy. Jesus is frequently portrayed as criticising the leaders for holding too strongly to the letter of the law and ignoring the spirit of the law and the call to compassion. This week's passage has Jesus seeking the opinion of the chief priests and elders on a hypothetical situation (a common style of debating a point of law in the Jewish tradition). He describes two sons, each asked by their father to go and work in the family vineyard. The first says 'No' but later does his father's bidding. The second says 'Yes' but doesn't follow through on his commitment.

Jesus is criticising the religious leaders of his time who, with their words, said 'Yes' to God but by their actions said 'No'. He most certainly would have upset the leaders by telling them that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the kingdom of God before them. Whilst these tax collectors and prostitutes were regarded by the religious authorities as 'sinners' beyond redemption, Jesus holds them up in the image of the first son of the story. Although they may have said 'No' to God through their poor choices, ultimately they are saying 'Yes' to God in their acceptance of Jesus and the message of the kingdom of God. On the other hand, the leaders have said 'Yes' to God publicly through abiding by all the religious laws and maintaining a 'religious profile' but in their hearts and actions they have not truly said 'Yes!'

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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the Gunditjmara people.

Country Mass Schedule

	1 st Sun	2 nd Sun	3 rd Sun	4 th Sun	5 th Sun
Penshurst 8:30am	No Service (To Ham)	Mass	SAWC	Mass	Mass
Dunkeld 8:30am	Mass	No Service (To Glen)	Mass	SAWC	SAWC
Glenthompson 8:30am	SAWC	Mass	No Service (To Dunkeld)	Mass	SAWC
Macarthur 8:30am	No Service (To Ham)	SAWC	Mass	SAWC	Mass

St Joseph's Penshurst

◆ 8th Oct Cuppa after Mass	
8th October 2017	
Lector	Brendan Kelly
Prayers	Laine Kelly
Gifts	Anita & Aileen
Special Minister	Catherine Loria
Leader	
Communion to Hospital	Catherine Loria

Our Parish Collections

1st Collection: Priest Support: \$ 1,001
2nd Collection: Stewardship (2017-2018 FY)
Pledged: \$118,820 Given: \$19,352

St Mary's Parish Mission Outreach

(10% of Stewardship) Given last Financial Year;
Sr Lorudes—Kenya Mission \$6,000
Children of Phoenix \$3,000

St Mary's Parish Ministry Roster

	30 Sep & 1 Oct Ministers of Communion	7 & 8 October Ministers of Communion
6 pm	Z Celewych, T Grove & P Kelly	J Ryan, M Byrne & T Groves
10.30am	M Bell, D Brody, G Howell, P Fitzgerald & Nicola J	G Howell, A Campbell, Charlotte, S Fitzgerald & Pryia

Date	Welcome	Computer	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Commentator	Gifts	Cuppa	Count Team
30/09	S McCaskill J Schurmann	Pauline Murphy	Michael McGrath	Pauline Kelly	Karen Brewis	M Grinham T Tuppen	John & Helen Watt	B & J Roache
01/10	O'Brien Family	John Hockey	Helen Tripovich	Val Lovell	Alida Aylmer	Noreen Doherty	Trish Irving	
7/10	J Schurmann K Shanahan	Chris Jansen	Jacinta Ryan	Maureen Dunn	Ray Corbett	M McGrath & P Murphy	Helen & John Watt	M Cook J Watt
8/10	Campbell Family F & D Soulsby	Carolyn Stanhope	Margaret Roberts	Charlotte Stanhope	Chelsea Storer	Patricia Blohm	Anne & Des Slattery	M Stewart



Wednesday Mass
St Mary's Day Chapel
5:15pm
 All Welcome
 Please join us for the
 celebration of Mass .

Aged Pensioner Service
 Emergency Home Maintenance — Cost of
 materials your only expense.
 Replacement of light bulbs,
 Dripping Taps, Fly screens,
 Doors, Cupboards & Drains.
 Contact Peter Fitzgerald on 0427 752 475



www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchhamilton



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Deaths:

Anniversary:

Rex Cameron, Stuart Aylmer.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Graeme Sewell, Andrea Andre, Carissa Watt,
 Mary Guy, Jan Merrett, Kate Kuiper, Margaret
 Mckinnon, Peter McCluskey, Edna Scullion, Anne
 Gurry, Margaret Hardingham, Gladys Ryan.

Feast Days

Mon. 2 - The Holy Guardian Angels
Wed. 4 - St Francis of Assisi
Sat. 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary



2018
 Columban
 Art
 Calendar
 Available
 Piety Stall
 or
 Office.
 \$9

What's happening this week in St Mary's Parish?

Sunday : **Rosary** 7pm St Mary's Church.
Wednesday : **Meditation** 7.30-8.30pm Parish House.
Men's day out Maryknoll 1.30-4.30pm.

Fatima Statue

will be at St Mary's Primary School
 for the Month of October.

Year of Youth 2018

A Year of Youth for Australia has been declared for 2018 by
 the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.
 The Year of Youth commences at the start of the new
 liturgical year on 3 December 2017 (the first Sunday of
 Advent) and concludes at the end of Ordinary Time in 2018
 (25 November, Christ the King).

The theme of the Year of Youth is:

Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy.

information is on Ballarat Diocese website
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au /Youth and Young Adult
 pages, or email youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Church Cleaning October

T Soawyer, M Duyvestyn & I McGrath

PRAYER

God, ever swift to welcome tax collectors
 and sinners
 and all who open their hearts to repentance,
 you graciously promise life
 and salvation
 to any who turn away from their
 transgressions
 to do what is lawful
 and right.

Let your Spirit make our hearts
 docile to the challenge of your word,
 and let the same mind be in us
 that was in Christ Jesus.
 Through Christ Our Lord.

Amen

St Mary's Parish

'Seamless garment' extends to care for older Australians Andrew Hamilton | 26 September 2017

The International Day of Older Persons, celebrated on 1 October, presents itself with a slightly apologetic demeanour. 'How old is older?' we might be tempted to ask. The wording certainly allows those of a certain age free to opt in or opt out. But the United Nations may have shown its hand in its promotion, telling us that by 2050 there will be fewer children than people over 60.

Whatever of its boundaries, the day is topical. Legislation to legalise euthanasia is soon to be introduced into the New South Wales and Victorian parliaments. Opponents and supporters have both focused on the predicaments of older people.

The conditions in many nursing homes where huge profits are said to be made out of the neglect of the elderly have also aroused public disquiet. Internationally, photographs of refugees fleeing war and persecution always include elderly people whose hold on life is tenuous.

Discussion of ageing is often confined to practical matters. The deeper questions of why older people matter and of what value a good society should put on them are either answered in slogans or not considered at all.

These questions are best put in a broader framework than that of age. I have found attractive the image of the 'seamless garment' of questions to do with life. It was widely used in the 1980s by Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernadin to argue for a consistent ethic of life that extended from conception to death, and to view within a broad vision the controversial issues of abortion, capital punishment, war and euthanasia. He was widely criticised by people who focused on single issues of individual or social morality for minimising the absolute importance of their cause.

The image of the seamless garment is resonant in Christian circles: in John's Gospel Jesus' possessions were divided among the soldiers who crucified him, but his garment was not cut up because it was seamless. The image was much used in the early church to commend unity in the face of the differences and hostilities that threatened to tear it apart.

At the heart of the image of the seamless garment of life is the recognition that life is a gift and a privilege. It is therefore to be respected, nurtured and served. It is not a possession to be used or discarded, to be bartered or to be cut according to the demands of the situation. The value of life comes from the unique value of each human being, whether old or young, and the respect due to them.

As habitual attitudes, respect and gratitude for life as a gift may be contrasted with control over life as a possession to be used, directed and cut by

choice. In the logic of choice, life will be negotiable at each stage and in each situation from birth to death, either at the choice of the individual or of the state. There is no seamless garment of life to be respected but a collection of ribbons to be torn off or let flutter as the individual or national situation demands.

"Underlying the International Day of Older Persons is the insight that life is a gift and that from its beginning to its ending, people deserve respect. That should be a common cause."

Setting these two attitudes to life in sharp contrast highlights the different directions in which they lead. It also explains the mutual incomprehension that often marks discussion on issues to do with life. Usually, however, people alternate between the two approaches, depending on the topic under discussion. Understandably so, because choice and gift are not contraries. The freedom to choose is central to the unique gift of each human life, and so is to be celebrated and defended. But as an expression of life, it should not be used to destroy life but to enhance it. the International Day of Older Persons invites us to make this choice for life.

This means we should also find room for a seamless rhetoric in conversation about life, built both on respect for life and for freedom of choice. The image of the seamless garment recognises both common ground and for difference of judgment when discussing the issues it embraces. It therefore encourages us to explore the limits of choice and of the claims of life across all its stages.

The centre of any rhetoric of the seamless robe does not lie in words but in symbolic action. It includes such disparate activities as caring for and accompanying old people, demanding proper regulation of nursing homes to ensure that they can live freely and decently, protesting against military actions and penal measures that deter people from choosing life and advocating for an economic framework that allows families to raise children decently.

Underlying the International Day of Older Persons is the insight that life is a gift and that from its beginning to its ending, people deserve respect. That should be a common cause.