



Gospel Mt 10:26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

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Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Gospel reads: '... not one [sparrow] falls to the ground without your Father knowing.'

But that is a bad translation. The Greek simply says 'not one [sparrow] will fall to the ground without your Father.' Full stop! Our Heavenly Father accompanies a dying sparrow as it dies! That is the measure of the Creator's love for all creatures. God wants to – does – enter into the moment of death, *our* moment of death.

Now, that *would* be consoling if I were facing what Jesus was foreseeing for his disciples in the first century.

One of the first Christian groups to hear this Gospel was that set around the Tigris River running through Baghdad in modern day Iraq. Now they face terrible persecution from fanatical Muslims. We can barely imagine hearing today's Gospel amongst the remnant, left in Baghdad today. How does 'Do not be afraid' really sound to them?

So, we could pause for a moment to pray for those for whom today's Gospel is a challenge beyond our imagining.

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The Living Word

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

21 June 2020

First Reading Jer 20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,
"Terror from every side!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!"
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace
will be theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe
with justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you
will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

**(R.) Lord, in your great love,
answer me.**

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my
brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me. (R.)
2. This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.

In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)

3. The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants
in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth
give him praise,
the sea and all its living creatures. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man,
and through sin death, and thus death
has spread through the whole human race
because everyone has sinned. Sin existed
in the world long before the Law was given.
There was no law and so no one could be
accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet
death reigned over all from Adam to Moses,
even though their sin, unlike that of Adam,
was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the
gift itself considerably outweighed the fall.
If it is certain that through one man's fall so
many died, it is even more certain that divine
grace, coming through the one man, Jesus
Christ, came to so many as an abundant free
gift.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:26. 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Spirit of Truth will bear witness
to me, says the Lord,
and you also will be my witnesses.
Alleluia!**



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

191 Cox's Road, North Ryde NSW 2113

Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel
(Michaelite Fathers)



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Michaelite Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr George Gorzkowski CSMA

Community: Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Mon 8:30am, Tues 7:00pm, Wed 8:30am, Thur 8:30am, Fri 7:00am,
Sat 8:30am. Public Holidays 8:30am

(Limit of 50 people each Mass. No bookings first to arrive admitted)

Reconciliation: Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next Week: 13th Ordinary (A) 2 Kings 4:8-11; Romans 6:3-4, 8-11; Matthew 10:37-42.

Fr Stan writes ...

In today's Gospel passage on this 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus might be understood as putting suffering in perspective. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to keep their focus on God. Those who can harm the body do not have ultimate power; God does. Still persecution and suffering cannot be avoided or prevented. But Jesus reassures his disciples that God knows and cares about what happens to his children. We might not face the same type of persecution, but we do experience difficulties as we endeavour to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others prevent us from doing what we know to be right. We need the reminder that what God thinks about us is more important. We are reassured by the promise that God cares for us and protects us.

We are looking forward to more of the restrictions being lifted regarding the number of people able to attend church. With care and attention to hygiene and physical distancing, I pray that many more of you will feel comfortable in attending Mass again.

An Act of Spiritual Communion



My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy
Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You
sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.



Planned Giving Program

Your new set of envelopes are available from the church foyer as usual. Your giving number has not changed, so if you are unable to collect your new set from the church, any contribution to the Planned Giving Program can be made by using an ordinary envelope and quoting your number. Thank you for your ongoing support in these difficult times. If you wish to join the Planned Giving Program or for any changes to your details, please call Nadia at the parish office 9888 2569 or 0419 269 692. **Parish Finance Team.**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the Tuesday 7:00pm Mass will be suspended during the winter months and will resume with the warmer weather in the Spring.

Prayer to St Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil, may God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

NEW DATES FOR PLENARY COUNCIL Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the National Plenary Council Assembly has been postponed to October 2021 (Adelaide) and April 2022 (Sydney). The discernment papers foundational to the development of the working paper and ultimately the agenda for the Assembly are available on the National Plenary Council webpage under the Discernment tab: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>

Restrictions eased on churches.

Up to 50 people are now allowed to attend Mass or private prayer in a church with further restrictions eased from July 1. Up to 50 people can now also attend baptisms and funerals and 20 attend weddings with that number also increasing from July 1. Please stay tuned for an update next week for the July 1 changes. In the interim, all parishes must ensure that their churches are not left unattended when their doors are open and they must keep written records with names and contact details of everyone who comes into the church at any time and these records must be kept for at least 4 weeks.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Maree Gill, Andrea Carnemolla, Immacolata Dominello, Kenny Sutherland, Craig Kooyman recently deceased.

Also, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Walter Gaspari, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Vincenzo Surace, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Angelo, Carmela & Paul Scicluna, Gregory Zammit, Christopher Cissie, Pauline Zahra, Lina Maria & Joe Mallia, John Kooyman, Nunziata Pirino and the deceased members of the Mule', Carabetta, Biviano, Marcellino, Blayne, Bennett, Zammit and Zahra families.