

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

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.

Responsorial Psalm: Response: *The Lord is near to all who call him.*

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27

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.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

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 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.'

Next Week's Readings:

First Reading: Ezek 18: 25-28

Second Reading: Phil 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A 20th September 2020

God's Ways are Not Our Ways....

On this weekend we hear a thought-provoking parable about the Kingdom of God. Through this Jesus teaches us how the kingdom of God is open to all, that our God is a generous God who desires to save all people, all nations. In the Gospel we hear of a landowner who is very different from how we think. Probably most of us naturally sympathize with the first group of workers. Our reaction generally is that those who have done more, who have given more, should get more. That is simple justice.

But the story tells the difference between God's perspective and ours. In other words, God's perspective is that of the owner, who gave some of the labourers more than what it seemed they earned. What this means is that we have to look at this story from a very different point of view. We notice what God's justice is like. It is clearly stated in the First reading from the prophet Isaiah. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). Another name for God's justice is mercy and compassion. God wants all to be saved. God is generous in opening the doors of His kingdom to all who choose to enter, both those who have laboured a life-time for Him and those who come at the last hour.

So, rather than judging God for acting this way, we should be deeply grateful that our God is ready to receive us back at any stage once we express sorrow for our sins and wish to be reunited or united with Him in love. It teaches us that nothing God gives to us is our due. We have no right at all to receive the reward except by the mercy of God. Everything He gives us is pure gift from His abundant generosity and we cannot possibly earn it or deserve it. We should not be envious or jealous because God is generous to someone else. We labour for the Lord to give Him back a little through our praise, honour, and glory. And we labour for our neighbour for their welfare with the same spirit of loving-kindness and compassion which the Lord has shown to us.

Let us rejoice that eternal life with God is offered to all people, including the people whom we may find this difficult to accept. Let us persevere to change our thoughts and ways and see with God's compassionate eyes. This parable is an invitation to experience the mind of God - to practice love and compassion without the narrow mindedness of thinking in terms of our pathetic understanding of justice.

Blessings,

Fr. Dantus Thottathil.

Mass Times

Wednesday 23/09
9:00am

Rosary and Mass

Saturday 19/09
5:00pm

Vigil Mass

Sunday 20/09

7:00am

Mass at Gumdale

9:30am

Mass

Reconciliation:

By appointment only.

PASTOR:

Fr Dantus Thottathil
MCBS (email:
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ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

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Quote of the Day:

What are we
afraid of losing in this
world,
when actually nothing
belongs to us.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Les Sellwood (Chair), Joshua Walsh (Sec.), Bruce Corrie, Helen McNamara, Paola Nunez, Maria Jones, Pam Chapman, Julia McLean

Archdiocesan Safeguarding Officer for Manly is: Les Sellwood: 0401 235 739

STOPLINE Contact: AOB@stpline.com.au

This Parish is Child Safety Aware and also complies with Australian Privacy Laws. A copy of the Child Safety and Protection of Vulnerable Adults policy is situated in the foyer of the church.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Karen Booker, Michael Gibbings, Mary Schmidt, Joyce Starkey, Pat Wilson, Sandra Wilson, Maddie Bell, Sr Teresa Geraghty, Mary Forrester, Krystyna Kelly, Sheila Petersen, Richard Pook, Violet Maureen Phillips, Ash Dean, Dennis Patterson, Carmen Phairs, Irene Gavriila, Rosa Maria Santos, Dawn O'Sullivan, Leon and Roz Thomas, Maura Poots, Angela Geraghty, Hugo Callan, Joan Francis, Angela de Weger, Terry Coles, Margaret Brennan, Ted Chapman, Leslee O'Connell, Katherine Pickering, Stacie Stonier, Val Steeden, Mitchell Swee, Barbara Pete

For a name to be included in the 'Prayer for our Sick' list, the Privacy Act now requires the personal permission of the nominee or a close relative.

ANNIVERSARIES: Gertrude Anderson, John Brian, Judith Brennan, Kathleen Carter, Peter Carter, David Cootes, Edna Dillon, Val Fagan, Bernard Foster, Alan Gill, Cecily Graham, Frank Grainger, Luigi Gregori, Luzette Hageraats, Gilda Hankins, Victoria Hardy, Maureen Harrison, Margaret Harrison, Annie Horswill, Keith Joseph Imeson, Andrew Jones, Michael Kearney, Mary Laracy, Diane Larkins, Lance Lawes, Pat Little, Margaret Murphy, Margaret, McIntosh, Peter McIndoe, Lisa Orford (Argent), Jessie Platt, Clem Raine, John Ryan, Florence Schmid, Paul Skillender, Leo Smith, Ray Tranter, Josephine van Daalen, Bob Ward, Madge Wiese.

COVID-19 UPDATE

From the Archdiocese: 'The Chief Medical Officer has expressed confidence in organisations with COVID Safe plans and at this stage parishes following the [Industry Plan for Places of Worship](#) can continue to hold acts of worship with no additional operating restrictions.' Bishop Ken Howell

Our Parish operates under the COVID safe plan and we can continue to celebrate mass following these guidelines.

Mass celebrations at St. John Vianney's:

Mass bookings for **55** people can be made until End-September.

To book please visit <https://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/sjv?embed=1>.

If you require assistance for bookings, please contact the parish office on 3131 2610 or email us at manly@bne.catholic.net.au

Mass Celebrations at St. Jude's:

We are currently able to celebrate with **20** people in attendance with social distancing in place.

To book please contact: Helen McNamara via phone 0403 193 625 or e-mail: Imac11@optusnet.com.au

September 20, 2020 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"So the last will be first and the first last." (Matthew 20:16)
You've heard the saying "It's not where you start, but how you finish." This certainly applies to this Bible pas-sage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live "God-centered" lives and not "self-centered" lives.
(Accessed on September 2, 2020 from <https://www.archstl.org/about-stewardship/bulletin-inserts/weekly-bible-reflections>)

Announcements

Baptism: This weekend, through Baptism, we welcome Aurora Souter. Please keep Aurora and her family in your prayers as they begin their faith journey.

Mass Bookings: Mass bookings for the first weekend in October are now available. From Monday 21 September bookings will become available for the 10th, 11th, 16th and 17th of October, these bookings will appear grouped under one heading as two different session times. All bookings that are made from now on have been limited to one seat per booking, this is to allow for a simplified contact tracing system to be put into place. If you are a family or booking multiple seats you will be require to book one seat for each person attending, using their details. In the event that you have made a booking and can no longer attend mass we ask that you please cancel your booking, this can be done using the booking confirmation you receive via email, the option to cancel is located at the bottom. If you have an questions please contact the parish office on 3131 2610 or email: manly@bne.catholic.net.au

Reminder: To any parishioners who give to our parish via envelopes you have not yet collected your 2020-2021 envelopes. These are available to collect, please contact the parish office on 3131 2610 or email: manly@bne.catholic.net.au to arrange collection.

2021 Columban Art Calendar: If anyone is interested in purchasing the 2021 Columban Art Calendar, please write you details on the expressions of interest sheet at the back of the church. The cost of calendars will be calculated based on the number of calendars ordered due to shipping costs to receive the calendars. Expressions of interest will close on Monday 28 September to allow for the order to be place.

Multicultural Mass 2020: The Archdiocesan Multicultural Mass (online event) will be held on Monday 27 November 2020 at 2:30pm. Multicultural Mass is an opportunity to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity and the richness that this diversity brings to the life of the Australian church. It also presents an opportunity to reflect on the timely message of Pope Francis as he urges us to respond to the needs of vulnerable mi-grants, refugees and internally displaced people around the world. For more information please visit:

<http://multiculturalcare.org.au/action/archdiocesan-multicultural-mass/>



2020 ANNUAL

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Be blessed and bless others with your gift

Our faith calls us to help one another through prayer and action. Your gift today will be a blessing to struggling local families; to seminarians and retired priests; and children in our community in dire need of the love and care of a Catholic community.

19 – 20 September 2020

catholiccampaign.com.au