



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish

4 HARTLEY STREET, P.O. BOX 9, ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871



Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, strengthened by the Word of God, is united by our Sacramental Life into a Covenant to make Jesus the Christ known and loved in Central Australia.

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Deadline for Bulletin submissions is Wednesday 5 p.m.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday to Friday

9 am - 12 noon & 4 pm - 5 pm

Saturday: 9:30 am - 10:30 am

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

20th - 21st September 2014

THE LAST WILL BE FIRST

From Sunday Reflections by Fr. Eugene Lobo, SJ



Jesus used many parables in his teaching, stories about everyday affairs, well known to his hearers, to bring out a spiritual message. The parable in today's gospel is difficult for the many hard working people to hear. It challenges the sense of Justice and Fairness that most people in the working world hold to be sacred. Justice and Fairness mean a day's wage for a day's work. That principle does not seem to be upheld in this

parable. The story describes the landowner hiring day labourers to work in his vineyard. We find the owner going out several times during a day to get workers and he makes an agreement with each one of them for a wage of one denarius. This was the normal daily wage for a worker in Jesus' time. The vineyard owner went out at six o'clock in the morning and again at nine, at noon and at three and five o'clock in the afternoon. It was normal for workers to gather at a crossroads or a market place waiting to be hired. Each time the vineyard owner assures the workers he will give them a "just wage". With just one hour of work time left, the owner went out once more. He sees men waiting there and asks them why they have been standing here idle all day. They respond saying that no one hired them. They were in fact idle the entire day, not because of laziness but because no one wanted to employ them.

Thus the landowner has five groups of workers labouring in his vineyard, each group of which was hired at different time. The normal presumption would be that at the end of the work day each group will receive a different amount of pay based on how long they worked. That would be justice and fairness. When the workday ended and pay was distributed, the usual order of first hired first paid was reversed. The foreman began with the last hired who only worked for a brief period. Starting with the last and arriving to the first each worker received the exact same pay of a usual day's wage. Technically this was not unjust because it was what all agreed to. Personally and practically however, this would have seemed unjust. Either those who were hired first should have been given more or those hired later should have received less. But it did not work that way. As a response to those who grumbled at the unequal treatment and payment of wages, the landowner claimed that he was not acting unjustly and that he is perfectly free to do as he wishes with his money. What some of the workers see as cheating, the land owner sees as an act of generosity.

The key of the parable then is the statement that the last will be first and the first will be last. In the kingdom of heaven justice and fairness do not follow worldly values. In the kingdom of heaven everything is done by grace and not by merit. The righteousness we have developed in the world will not bind God in the kingdom of heaven. God is free to do what he wants with what belongs to him, namely his grace. He is just and fair in all His dealings and no one will ever go unrewarded for his works.

Parish Team:

Parish Priest:

Fr. Jan Szweda, SVD

Aboriginal Chaplain:

Syro-Malabar Chaplain

Fr. Binesh Naramattathil

RCIA Coordinator:

Secretary:

Mel Buenviaje

Parish Past. Council Chairman

Fred Twohig

OLSH College Principal

Br. Matthew Green, FMS

Parish Mass Schedule:

Monday to Friday: 7 am & 5:30 pm

Saturday 11 am & (Sun Vigil) 6 pm

Sunday 7:30am, 9:30 am & 5:30 pm

Ngkarte Mikwekenhe Community

1st, 3rd, 4th (and 5th) Sundays of the

month - 11am Aboriginal

Community Mass at South Terrace.

2nd Sunday of the month—11 am

Aboriginal Community Mass at

Amoonguna, Southeast of Alice

Springs, off the Ross Highway.

Sacraments:

Reconciliation:

Saturday 11:30 am & 5:30 pm

Baptism:

By appointment: one

month's notice required.

Marriage:

By appointment only, 6 months'

notice required.

Daily Readings: starting 22 September

Mon: Prov 3:27-34 Lk 18:16-18
Tues: Prov 21:1-6,10-13 Lk 8:19-21
Wed: Prov 30:5-9 Lk 9:1-6
Thu: Eccl 1:2-11 Lk 9:7-9
Fri: Eccl 3:1-11 Lk 9:18-22
Sat: Eccl 11:9-12:8 Lk 9:43-45
Sun: Ezek 18:25-28
 Phil 2:1-11 Mt 21:28-32

+ **Pray & read your Bible every day** +

Please pray for the elderly and those who are sick

Isobel Laverty, Janice Loria Lazo, Margaret McNaught, Rita Knchel, Graciano Mercado, Kevin Feed, Penelope Sleming, Hermon Turkey, Tilde Cabantog, Benedicto J Chupungco, Eileen Sanvictores, Manuel Sarangay, Alice Costa, Do Quyen, Paul Rindahl, Gwyneth Allwright, Kathleen Williams, Lafie Saanga, Dianne McGinn, Georgina Gilbert, Editha Baslot, Ann Vernon, Kevin Edwin, Paul Manard, Heather Cent, Jala Breanna, Singmia Fofung, Colleen Langcake, Cathy Golotta, Marissa Johnston, Allison Burgess, Rosemarie Schnell, Bill Sims, Antonio Mutia, Gill Dew, Mark McGinley, Patricia Wyatt, Lorraine Gore, Peter Strachan, Gary Brenton, Glen Clarke, Imblisa, May Lee Shah, Bill Costa, Maria Lourdes Sacramento.

May the Lord grant them healing.

Recent Deaths: Allan and Michelle Ash
 Charlie Bartolo

May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Devotional Practices:

Divine Office & Morning Prayer
 Monday to Friday 6:45am

Prayers of the Holy Rosary
 Monday to Friday 5pm

Saint Joseph Devotion
 First Wednesday of the month 9am
 Contact: Cathy Golotta 8952 1991

Malayalam (Indian) Fellowship
 Sunday 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Adoration
 Adoration every second Saturday of the month at Missionaries of Charity Convent 12 Standley Crescent, from 3-4 pm

Parable Poses Puzzle for God's People

"The last will be first and the first last'. These words of Jesus, with which today's reading from Matthew concludes, occur in different contexts in all three synoptic gospels – God's ways constantly overturn our human expectations. And that is the lesson of the parable in today's gospel. Of all the parables of Jesus, the story of the labourers in the vineyard is probably the most puzzling for Christians of successive generations. That means that it is a great success, that it achieves what Jesus intended. A plausible story, reflecting the common experience of his hearers begins to unfold. It was normal for day labourers seeking employment to gather in public places. One denarius would have been a normal day's wage. We are given a hint where the story is leading however; Israel, the Lord's vineyard, was a familiar theme of the scriptures. An element of suspense holds the attention of the listeners – what is the unusual behaviour of the landowner leading to? Then the conclusion of the story comes as a shock, leaving us unsettled, as our reasonable expectations are not fulfilled."

From a homily by Fr John Thornhill SM

<http://www.theemmauseries.com/a25sunday.html>



SYNOD ON THE FAMILY

Family life will be the focus of an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops that will meet at the Vatican from 5 to 19 October 2014. Around 150 delegates will take part in the meeting to discuss the "pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization". The Australian Catholic Bishops invite all to observe **Friday the 10th of October as a special day of prayer and fasting** for the success of the Synod.

LITURGICAL NOTES

SACRED SILENCE, as part of the celebration, is to be observed in the designated times. Its nature, however, depends on the moment when it occurs in the different parts of the celebration.

- For in the penitential act and again after the invitation to pray, individuals recollect themselves;
- Whereas after a reading or after the homily, all meditate briefly on what they have heard;
- Then after Communion, they praise God in their hearts and pray to him.

Even after the celebration itself, it is a praiseworthy practice for silence to be observed... so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner. GIRM 45

A **HOMILY** is recommended on weekdays, especially during the seasons of Advent, Lent and Easter.

Words of Wisdom – St Thomas Aquinas

“There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.”

WELCOME!

Welcome to CRUZ ANTHONY BUTT son of Anthony Vincent Butt and Sarah Dawn Butt baptised on Saturday 20/09/2014.

Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us, whether long time residents or those newly arrived in the Parish. Welcome to all guests and tourists. We pray that you have a lovely stay!

Parish Diary

Sunday 21 September
 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 11:00 am Syro-Malabar Mass

Monday 22 September

Tuesday 23 September

- Prison Ministry 5:45 -7:30pm

Wednesday 24 September

Thursday 25 September

Friday 26 September

Saturday 27 September

Sunday 28 September
 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Social Justice Sunday

Feast Day – St Vincent de Paul (September 27)

As a priest, St Vincent de Paul developed a special concern for the poor after giving the Sacraments to a dying peasant. He cared for slaves, prostitutes, war victims, and the destitute, becoming known as the Great Apostle of Charity. He was canonised in 1737.

On this feast day, let us pray for all the Saint Vincent de Paul Societies, the churches that sponsor them, all other charitable ministries, and the people they help. May the Lord multiply the provisions they distribute to the needy, give new strength to the workers, and bring in more volunteers who serve the poor with genuine love.

The Associates of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart will be meeting at 17 Grevillea Drive on Sunday 28th September at 2pm. Please bring your Hans Kwakman MSC book and Session 5 notes for our discussion time. - Kathleen OLSH.

DID YOU KNOW

- In the Greco-Roman world, casual labourers used to gather in the agora or town-square waiting for employers to hire them.
- In the early Church, there was sometimes a jealousy between those who had believed from the earliest days in the risen Christ and thus suffered persecution, and those - especially Gentiles - who came to the belief later on.

Cleaning: 27 September **Group 6**
 Jo Black, Colleen Thomas, Kate Kelly

Counters: 28 September
 Carmel Leonard

Last Week's Collections:
 1st Collection: \$ 1,177.05 (for the presbytery)
 2nd Collection: \$ 2,331.65 (for the parish)

Thank you for your generosity!

Groups please remember to keep the Bulletin team informed if you change your days/times etc.

28 SEPTEMBER - SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

The Australian Catholic Bishops' 2014–2015 Social Justice Statement was launched on 17 September 2014 at The Crypt of St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. The title of the Statement is **A Crown for Australia: Striving for the best in our sporting nation**. The Statement highlights the vital role that sport plays in the health of individuals, the life of communities and the inclusion of all in Australian society.

Bishop Christopher Saunders, Chairman of the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council, said, "Australians are passionate about their sport, whether as participants or as supporters, whether following the fortunes of their local club or their national team. Sport brings us together, builds communities and lets us celebrate the joy of movement and skill. Good sport makes everyone a winner.

The Catholic Bishops highlight the transformative power of sport and call on all levels of society to treasure and safeguard sport from those forces that undermine its integrity.

The Statement and associated resources can be downloaded at: www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au



Assist a Student Appeal Sunday 28th September. Society Members will briefly address the congregation after Communion.

- David Reilly OLSH Conference President.

ALICE SPRINGS JOINS HISTORIC GLOBAL CLIMATE MARCH:

All welcome at the COMMUNITY VIGIL 5:00pm
 Sunday, 21 September at the Telegraph Station
 (Parish Social Justice Awareness Group will be there)

- from the Social Justice Awareness Group

Campfire in the Heart

Meditation Retreat on 17th - 19th October 2014.
 Come, Listen, Learn, Live
 Led by Kath Houston and Sue Woods

For more information phone Sue Woods 043 88 11 742

Roster for weekend of 27 / 28 September 2014

	Commentator	Readers	Special Ministers
Sat 6:00 pm	Greg Gilbert	Walter Litvensky Patricia Litvensky	Rose Sabadin Leanne Dieckmann Anne Chivers
Sun 7:30 am	Jenny Montefiore	Tony Whitelum Joanne Pulsford	Fred Twohig Rita Steller Carmel Leonard
Sun 9:30 am	Debbie Cook	Precy Taylor Ron Wallace	Mark Bensted Virginia Loy Helena Casseeram
Sun 5:30 pm	Mel Buenviaje	Cristina Buenviaje Franchesca Ives	Thampi Joseph Thomas John Marieta Ives

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

20th - 21st September 2014

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.

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 ways, 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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:2-3.8-9.17-18 **R/** 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. 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: Matthew 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: "Now 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" The Gospel of the Lord

Prayers of the Faithful: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Antiphon: Ps 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.