



Our Parish is a Christian community which welcomes all to walk together in a spirit of compassion, justice and hope.

**Thirty- Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9 / 10 November 2024**

Gospel Reflection

An extract from Mike Marsh,

www.interupptingthesilence.com

We all know this text as the “widow’s mite.” We’ve read the commentaries and heard the sermons – “The poor widow is an example of generosity. You should be generous like her.” I suspect most of us have heard that one or something similar more than once. Sometimes I think that we are so familiar with this story that we no longer hear or even look for another meaning. So we expect and settle for the usual interpretations. We are not surprised when this text is used for the annual stewardship campaign. Or we anticipate its use to criticise the rich for not giving more. And it holds before us the fact that there is an unequal and often unfair distribution of the world’s resources reminding us that the majority of the world lives without enough – without enough money, food, shelter, education, healthcare.

All of that is valid. There is truth in those interpretations. But there is also something else going on in this story. This gospel is not simply about the treasury of money. It is, rather, about the treasury of poverty. Hafiz, the great Sufi poet of the fourteenth century, offered this prayer: “God, grant me the riches of poverty for in such largesse lies my power and glory.”

The riches of poverty. Most of us, I suspect, have not seen or experienced the riches of poverty very often. Instead we tend to view poverty as a problem to be fixed and not as a source of power and glory. Poverty is often a problem to be eliminated and solved but not in today’s gospel. The poverty of the poor widow is not a problem to be fixed but rather a virtue to be interiorised. The poor widow becomes our teacher and we her students. She embodies the virtue of spiritual poverty. She has no need for the money of the rich, the long robes of the scribes, or marketplace respect. She has no need for the best seat in the house or even the appearance of holiness. The absence of the widow’s need to have becomes

her need not to have. So she does what makes no sense. She gives her last two coins. “She out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” For what else does a poor widow have to give? She has no abundance, only the riches of poverty.

The riches of poverty come not from acquiring but from letting go. All authentic spirituality is about letting go: letting go of comparison, competition, expectation, judgment; letting go of status, reputation, and appearances; letting go of the need for power, to control, to succeed, to win, to be right; letting go of our need for approval and perfectionism; letting go of all the illusions we create or buy in order to make ourselves feel better. Ultimately it means letting go of ourselves and the ones we love most.

Spiritual poverty begins with letting go and it always reveals the fragility of life. It takes us to the border between life and death where there are no guarantees – only hope, where there are no answers – only faith, and where there is no security – only love. This is where the poor widow lives. This is where God lives. And they live in union as one. In the face of the poor widow – the face of spiritual poverty – the Christ sees and recognises himself.

Acknowledgement of Country

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old. May we acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Kulin Nations, who are the traditional custodians of our parish land, whose cultures and customs have nurtured, and continue to nurture, this land since men and women awoke from the great dream. We acknowledge their continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

Warm Welcome to all who celebrate the Eucharist with us today, to the church communities across our parish and a special welcome to all who happen to be visiting our Parish.

A special welcome and thank you to Fr Joey who is Presider at 6.00pm Mass.

A Prayer by Joyce Rupp

Loving God,

Every act of generosity on my part is only a response to the generosity with which You have already blessed me.

I reject the image of success, into which this world tries to shape me.

An image defined by wealth, status and power. Instead, I ask that you would remake me in your image.

An image defined by generosity, humility and servanthood.

May I model my giving on the one who gave it all. And may others see in me a glimpse of your character, against which the riches of this world seem dull and worthless.

Would you cultivate in me a spirit of contentment.

Help me not to strive for more and more but grow in gratitude, for all the ways you have blessed me.

Would you mold within me a generous heart, empowering me to give sacrificially, not under compulsion,

But in joy and faith. Amen.

Pastoral Care Appeal

This weekend is CatholicCare Victoria's (CCV) annual Pastoral Care Appeal to support Catholic Prison Chaplains so they can continue their work as messengers of God's mercy, love and compassion. The presence of Catholic Chaplains is a crucial witness to our faith, a crucial dimension of our service of love, and a vital testimony to the value of life in all its stages.

Prison Ministry supports thousands of vulnerable, isolated and marginalised people in every prison and correctional centre in Victoria – 15 in total. In the Archdiocese of Melbourne, under the leadership of Sr Mary O'Shannassy SGS, who has been a prison chaplain for 30 years, and the prison chaplaincy team, they listen, pray and brings hope and courage each day to more than 5000 people across 10 prisons within the region. Religious services, including Reconciliation and Mass, are regularly celebrated in prisons, and chaplains can help people in prison get access to Bibles, religious books and other religious items like rosaries.

Sr Mary points says it's not just those in prison who need support: "There are the needs of the people in prison and the needs of the people

who support them. "However, she says, the role of chaplain is "essentially to build a relationship and to engender hope in the lives of these people". "God's great love, care and forgiveness are eye-opening for many of the residents in prison. As messengers of hope, we help those in prison to feel accepted as people who have dignity. It's really important that they understand that they have dignity as a person – a huge challenge for so many of them. For many, it is the worst time in their life, and so prison chaplains reach out to them, and show that they care," she said."

Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and financial support to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria. Donations to this appeal can be made by using the envelopes available or online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au Or call: 9967 2515

As Advent Approaches – Some Prayful Formation Options

a. Online Advent Retreat: Welcoming God In...

The Spirituality Ministry of the Sisters of St Joseph will be running an online Advent Retreat during the four Tuesdays in Advent, entitled 'Welcoming God in...'. Participants will ponder Mary and Joseph, their *Welcoming God In...* the Incarnation... Jesus as Son of God, Son of Mary... Then and Now... this is an opportunity to ponder, How am I being invited to Welcome Jesus/God anew into my life this Advent Season? Preparing a Welcoming Heart.

- **When:** Tuesdays: 26 November, 3 December, 10 December and 17 December
- **Time:** 9:30am reflective session and 4:30pm prayerful gathering (both approx. 1 hour)
- **Cost:** \$200 or \$60 per day
- **To register and for more information email:** jenny.scally@sosj.org.au

b. Advent Daily Blessings from Jesuit Ignatian Spirituality Australia (JISA)

Running from 1 December to 25 December, JISA is offering their daily online Advent Blessings, entitled, *Join the Flow of Angels*. Each blessing is a sign of the cross and three breaths in the Spirit: Simple. Brief. Transforming. Each blessing is accompanied by a two minute video. There is no charge but donations are accepted at the time of registration. For further information or to register, contact Fr Michael Hansen at: info@jisa.org.au

Theology @ the Pub: Divine Comedy: How Humour can Lead to Heaven

Theology @ the Pub is an opportunity for young people, aged 18-35, of all religious backgrounds, to meet have great conversations over a meal and a drink, and listen to talks by Catholic speakers. This month Jeremy Ambrose, from Staff Ministry at Australian Catholic University, will explore and unpack the great gift of comedy, looking at what makes us laugh and how it can lead to holiness. Jeremy has a passion for evangelisation of culture, through engagement with literature, art and film, believing in author, Dostoyevsky's line that 'beauty will save the world'. No bookings necessary, just come along.

Details:

Date: Monday, 11 November from 6.00 p.m. (dinner); presentation begins at 7.30 p.m.

Venue: Downstairs Cellar Bar at State of Grace, 27 King Street, Melbourne.

Art and Faith

The Benedetto Creatives are back for another 'Evening for Catholic Artists' at St Peter's Parish, Toorak. The evening will include a presentation from Scottish artist Tommy Canning, who has spent a lifetime creating beautiful, sacred art that directs people heavenward. His art seeks to create a bridge between the old and the new and is inspired by great masters like Michelangelo, Raphael and Caravaggio. This free event – part of the Truth, Goodness and Beauty Project – welcomes all Catholic artists and creatives. For further details or to book, contact:

www.armadale.toorak@cam.org.au

Or call: 9068 8600.

Date: Wednesday, 13 November at 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Venue: St Peter's Catholic Church, 581 Torah Road, Toorak.

Online Forum: Advancing Human Security by Pax Christi

Pax Christi Victoria, a Christian movement working for a just and ecologically sustainable peace warmly invites you to an online Zoom Forum, "Advancing Human Security: Pathways to a Liveable Future", with guest speaker, Tim Costello, Baptist minister and respected community leader on social justice issues, leadership and ethics. Invited Organisations will

discuss their approach to human security in the light of their respective missions and current policy priorities, including:

- ICAN Australia
- Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project
- Australian Manufacturing Workers Union Victoria
- Wesley Centre for Theology, Ethics, and Public Policy
- Catholic Social Services Victoria
- Pearls & Irritations
- Islamic Council of Victoria
- Doctors Reform Society
- Medical Association for the Prevention of War
- Australia Palestine Advocacy Network

Date: Tuesday, 12 November from 7.30 p.m. to 9.15 p.m.

To register or for further inquiries, contact: camrita44@gmail.com

Funeral

The life of long-time St Columba parishioner, Giovanna Morgan will be celebrated at St Columba Church on **Tuesday, 12 November at 10.30 a.m.**

Remembrance Month Last weekend we

commemorated the start of Remembrance month by inviting parishioners to remember their loved ones who have gone to God by writing their name on a small paper cross and placing it on a bigger cross. This invitation continues all month, please look for the colourful paper crosses at the back of the church, and when you have noted the names, please bring them up to the baskets under the Cross.

On Monday, 11 November is Remembrance Day, originally known as Armistice Day, marking the end of World War I. It's a day to remember the sacrifices made by many in this war. However, it's also a time to remember all those who died, who lost family and friends, homes and livelihoods across all wars. At this time when wars continue to ravish lives and creation, let us call on the Holy Spirit to bring out a conversion of heart of those who have the power to cease fighting and seek peace, reconciliation and forgiveness.



Safeguarding Commitment

Our Parish supports the recommendations of the Royal Commission and all endeavours to bring healing to and justice for the victims of abuse. Our Parish Leadership & Development Team and Safeguarding Committee work proactively to ensure the safety of all children, young people and vulnerable adults in our community.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 1 Kings 17: 10-16

Responsorial Psalm:

Praise the Lord, my Soul!

Second Reading: Hebrews 9: 24-28

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 12: 38-44

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday 4 Nov – Sunday 10 Nov 2024

Monday: 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community, 101 Grey St St Kilda

Tuesday: 10.30am Funeral Mass for Giovanna Morgan at St Columba Church

2.00pm Funeral Service for Danny at SH

Thursday: 11.00am MASS Sacred Heart Church.

Friday: 9.00am MASS in the Parish House

Saturday: 6.00pm MASS at St Columba Church

Sunday: 9.00am MASS at St Columba Church

11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
(this mass is also live streamed)

Gospel: Mark 13: 24-32

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

16 / 17 Nov: Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

St Columba Welcomes:

6pm Mass:

M: Volunteer

C / L: Meg Taylor, Volunteer needed

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheet, Frances Pititto

C / L: Priscilla No, Tony Lopes

Set up: Trevor, Marcelle Granier & Priscilla No

Hospitality: The Brazilians

Sacred Heart Welcomes:

11am Mass:

M: Christina Siciliano

C / L: Volunteer needed, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalia Setyawan

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy team

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

All Recently Deceased: Michael Cummings, Giovanna Morgan.

1st Anniversaries:

Nicholay Solochen Ko, Daniel Planke, Diane Cist, Sebastian Maximillian Johann Fitzgerald.

2nd Anniversary:

Anniversaries: Ron McColl, Ross

Hargreaves, Bernadette Jennings, Elaine Barker, Anne Hennessy, Immaculate Maio, Bruna Skerl, Mary Fisher, Therese Mannix, Stephen Bolger, Jason Knowles and Jason Currie, Bill Hill, Manny Cassar, Patricia Featherstone, Max Jackson, Malcolm Gerber, Cassie Bricknell, Molly McKay, Tram Champion, Josef Bogner, Nicholas Dobrotwir 3.11, Eric Mousey, Dick Martin, Els Hendricks, Maria Ulehla 7.11, Betty Rogers, Bob Hunter, Denis McCarthy, Maria Rosa Contino, Giuseppina Barnao, Brian Solis, Eric Walter Peters 4.11.2015, Kathleen Redman, Sean Atkinson, Charlie Noble 16.11, Monsignor James Murray, Christopher Gamble Moloney, Sydney Pyster, Domenico Cerasuolo 23.11.03, Ian Stewart 24.11, Gordon Hill 6.11, George Thomson, 5.11, Rachael DeSilva, Luta Skorwider, John Brown 16.11, Carl Hofler 17.11, Sofia Czarnowaj 27.11, Norman Pittari 2.11.52, Maria Rosa Contino 3.11, Kathleen Sullivan 11.11.01, Margaret Upfold 24.11.05, Alberto Dos Santos, Clara Santini-Marcon 5.11.07, Sheila Keogh 26.11.00, Denis Halden 24.11.93, Michael Sylvester Ryan, Guiseppina Ranieri, Gabrielle Ranieri, Giuseppe Lo Piccolo, Concetta Lo Piccolo, Nunziata Panettieri, Francesco Panettieri, Rosario Russo, Antonio Russo, Sonia Battaglia 15.11.09, Amelia, Emma & Aida Carretta, Herbert Summers, Tom Wilczewski, Ella Blumeris, Aileen Palmer, Pasko Lena, Nikola Lena Saindra

Sick: All in or connected with our Parish who are unwell. Giovanna Morgan; Lol Patten (UK), Jackie Pyster, Ramon Lopez, Colin Meanwell, Luke Dennis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Tony Wright (Sydney), Chail and her husband Callum, Patrick McCaffrey, Seamus Quinn, Sue McLennan, Fr Terry Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark Weinberg, Sophia, Ned Connors, Jean Cropley, Rose Fonti, Alexander, Felipe and Anne, Pat Ficcaro, Seamus Quinn, Lyn Crossly.

If you have someone you would like on the sick list please contact Jane at the office.

9531 6120 or jane@shscparish.org.au