



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

25 AUGUST 2024

FIRST READING

Josh 24:1-2, 15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua.

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 33:2-3, 16-23. R. v. 9

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked / to destroy their remembrance from the earth. / The Lord turns his eyes to the just / and his ears to their appeal. **R.**

3. They call and the Lord hears / and rescues them in all their distress. / The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; / those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **R.**

4. Many are the trials of the just man / but from them all the Lord will rescue him. / He will keep guard over all his bones, / not one of his bones shall be broken. **R.**



5. Evil brings death to the wicked; / those who hate the good are doomed. / The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. / Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

■ The word of the Lord.



OUR LADY of MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

21st Sunday Ordinary - 25 August 2024 - Year B

OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL PARISH HILTON

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Separovich
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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 9am – 3pm
Thursday: 9am – 12.30pm

MINISTRY TEAM

Parish Secretary: Tereza Camacho
Safeguarding Officer: Brigette Liddelow 0432 908 980
Avila Retirement Village Secretary: Judy Rowlands 0448 205 283
OLMC Primary School Principal: Jayson Peacock 9269 2000
OLMC Primary School RE: Tracey Marsden
Seton Catholic College Website:
<http://www.seton.wa.edu.au/olmc-parish>

REFLECTION: The Secret. Let me tell you a secret, but for heaven’s sake don’t tell God that I have told you. He is a humble God, but He does have His pride. See I think that God has a broken heart. You know how it is when someone you love is always away and you don’t hear from them and you wish that they would send you word and day after day you keep waiting, but no word comes. Then when finally, that long awaited word comes, and it is simply a postcard that says, “Love Fred”. Or you think you have a relationship with someone and say you “feel free” to tell them the things that really matter to you but after a while you wake up and they are not responding. What happens you wish you had never opened your mouth and also you begin to “close up”. You begin to stop saying the things that are important to you, you begin to doubt your own ability to establish any kind of meaningful relationship. Or you know how it is when you know that someone who is important to you is not telling the truth. You cannot come right out and say to them “why are you lying to me?” so you play along with it, and you will hope it will somehow turn out. I think that is what happens for God all the time. I think that sometimes, no, not sometimes but all the time, that is how He experiences us and that it why He has a broken heart. He tells people

about himself every day and they don’t even hear it, let alone engage in a conversation with Him about it. He longs every day to hear from some of us and yet He does not. When He does it is a “Love Fred” message just like a Christmas card received once in a while. So, what can we do to soothe the heart of God? Well, I can tell Him how much He means to us. We can give Him access to our life by telling Him the simplest of things. Look we can tell Him how you feel about the traffic, about the price of food, the challenges of the children present, your sense of lack of energy in the day, etc, etc. Tell Him about the littlest of things, anything at all. Do everything you can to give God the entrance points into your life. What a wonderful thing it would be when our number is up, and we are greeted by the Father. Perhaps we will hear Him say as He embraces us “you have brought me such comfort. Thank you.”

PRAYERS and CONGRATULATIONS to the CONFIRMANDI: Following Christ to the Cross. Is it possible to be a Christian if we are not prepared to die for Christ? This is clearly a very provocative statement and one which will guarantee to stir up an argument if you were to mention it as dinner conversation. In the Western World we run the risk of seeing Christianity as a lifestyle choice, something which makes my

life even better than it already is. Yet the reality is that for most Christians around the world this question is a daily reality. A recent report claims that every five (5) minutes a Christian is killed for their faith somewhere in the world. If we go back to the witness of the early Church their answer to this question was very clear. To be a Christian meant to follow Christ to the Cross and to be prepared to die with Him and for Him. One of the great early writers of the church, St Ignatius of Antioch was on his way to Rome to be killed in the Colosseum and as he was writing he wrote to the Church in Rome saying he was happy to die saying “so that I may not only be called a Christian but also to be found to be one”. As uncomfortable as this question may be, it is important that we face the reality of what it means to give all for Jesus. If I have heard the call to follow, am I prepared to follow Him all the way? We joyfully give thanks to God that the fifteen young people from our parish have by asking for the gifts of the Holy Spirit conferred in the Sacrament of Confirmation will faithfully respond to the call of following Christ and to be the salt of the earth, a beacon of light and hope to the world. Prayers and congratulations, Fr Michael and your fellow parishioners.



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MASS TIMES WEEKENDS: Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 7.30am & 9am.

MASS TIMES WEEKDAYS: **Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 August: NO MASS - Clergy Retreat. Saturday 31 August: NO MASS - Jubilarian Mass.**

RECONCILIATION - Saturday's: This week only 5.15-5.45pm or by appointment.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Wednesday 5.30 – 6.30pm & Friday 9.30 – 10.30am.

MASS INTENTIONS
Saturday 24 to Saturday 31 August
Saturday 24 August
9am Mass: Souls in Purgatory
6pm Mass: **Sacrament of Confirmation.** Jason Wiseman (Anniversary)
Sunday 25 August
7.30am Mass: Mass for the People
9am Mass: Antonino Capolingua (Anniversary)
Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 August
NO MASS
Clergy Retreat
Saturday 31 August
NO MASS
Jubilarian Mass

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all day long.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS: Christine Rhow, Veronica-Marie, Maria, Consiglia Ciavatta, Martin-Joseph, Irwin Beachell, Isabella Da Cunha, Damien-Ivan, Norma Elliott, Rudi Tassell, Steven, Davina, Zoe-Anne, Elisabetta Paddon, Edward Fortune, Kiara-Eve, Beatrice Fernandez, Lisa Bubb, Romilda Marinelli, Aaron LoCicero, Jacqueline Paul, Lou Collova, Anne & Justine Tonti, Greenville Paul, Christine Schwarten Henry, Fr Joseph Angelo, Fr Anibal Da Cunha, Peter Scanlan, June McGinnity, John Brackovich, Alison, Sofia, Rebecca, Fr Liam Keating SMA, Fr Francis Sundararajan, Fr Greg Carroll, Fr Wilson Donizzetti, Bill Watkins, Daniel DiMarco, Joshua Oorschot, Fr John Piumatti, Fr Don Kettle.

VOTIVE CANDLES: Please be aware that Votive Candles are 30 Cents each. Thank you.

HOLY TRINITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: Monday night's 7-9pm.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: Jesus you are the Good Shepherd who is always mindful of your Church. Watch over those who are Baptised in your name and grant peace and harmony to all families. We ask you to choose from the families of our Parish many priests,

deacons, sisters and brothers who will gladly spend their lives making you known and loved.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Meet every Monday, except for public holidays, between 7 and 8 pm in the first meeting room to the left of the Church. New members are always welcome. Please contact Ian (President) on 0428 121 152 for further information.

STATE OF THE NATION: Dear Parishioners, I wish to update you on church expenses and income ...
 2024 Annual Catholic Church Insurance payable 6 instalments monthly \$2625.47 each.
 2024 Annual Archdiocesan Assessment payable 3 instalments monthly \$1247 each.
 2024 Annual Shire Rates \$1135.17.
 Electricity payable normal term \$1768.
 Water payable annually \$1355.
 Security payable monthly \$240.
 Gardens & Grounds Maintenance payable monthly \$630.
 Altar Bread \$126.50.
 Candles \$211.
 Planned Giving weekly average upto July \$1003.

LOST PROPERTY: Dear Parishioners, please do not leave personal affects unattended during Mass and ensure that you collect all your items before leaving the church building.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

'LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?'

We come to the end of the five weeks with the Gospel of John', chapter 6. As it concludes we could imagine ourselves standing with the disciples complaining that the teaching was too difficult. The Judeans had twice confronted Jesus on this teaching. Now we hear, 'The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.' If it is hard to understand these words, then for some it would be hard to believe, and that is acknowledged by Jesus.

We are affirmed in that, as the narrator advises, Jesus knew from the beginning that some would not believe, and who would betray him. This is a crisis moment. We can remember that in the first part of this chapter, aligned to Passover and with the miracle of the loaves, the crowd was looking for signs. At this point, we can see that the reinterpretation of the Mosaic law caused upset and division. With many disciples leaving, Jesus challenges the Twelve: 'do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter speaks up as leader and representative of the Twelve. Those, called by Jesus, recognise that his words are 'spirit and life.'

What about us? Do we find believing too hard? Or do we line up with Simon Peter affirming our faith and saying 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.' We are in this for the long haul.

Dr Rosemary Canavan