

## TWENTY FIFTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

21st September 2008

### THEME: Matthew 20: 1-16

God's ways are not our ways. We ask God for that largeness of heart and generosity of spirit that Jesus models for us as his followers.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is near to all who call him.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

### FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 23rd September

- Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

Saturday 27th September

- Vincent de Paul, priest

### MERCY WITHOUT MEASURE

If you love surprise endings, today's Gospel is for you. But if you have become accustomed to imagining God in human terms and by human measures, then you will find this Gospel unsettling. Perhaps this is the very reason St Matthew has preserved it in his Gospel. Too often we think of God as party of the first part in a contract (covenant) in which we are party of the second part. In other words, we tend to impose on God the quid pro quo manner with which we do business. Performance deserves its reward, equal measure and in kind.

But as the parable reveals, God cannot be trapped or limited by our imagination. Nor is God merely an employer who doles out what is owed to the deserving. On the contrary, God is loving and generous toward the undeserving.

Just as Jesus welcomed those who came early to him as well as those who were not as quick to lend their allegiance, so the disciples of Jesus are to communicate the mercy of God without measure.

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Anne Ferguson, Doug Murphy, Lionel West, John Hunt, Louise Rowe, Mary Opdam, Francesca Morton, Yvonne Gunton, Rob Deller, Mary McNamara, Ria Stumpe, James Williams, Joan Sullivan, Mary Cooper, Judith Falconer, Wendy Murphy, Stan Sawaski, Frank Smith, Roy Poy, Monette Fealy, Annette Hoffman, Lionel Jansen, Kelly Harty, John McManus, Peter Cairns, Allan Dedrauth, Marjory Stott, Gerri Boldrini, Melda McDonald, Kristi Cassandra, Rosel Free, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods and Marie Cook.

Grant eternal life to:

Ray Muntz, Doreen Irons, Marie Baine, Gary Tyrell, Mary McEneaney (Ireland), Mary Jansen, Helen Saffrey and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Margaret McCormack, Mary Garratt, Mona Hickey and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Lorraine Hill and all our dear ones deceased.

**LORD HEAR US**

**BAPTISMS**

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

**CADE FRANK**

**LUCA DISTEFANO**

**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously last weekend to our Special Collection for Migrants and Refugees. We collected \$1,175.00.

**CHALLENGE 2008**

Through World Youth Day 2008, the hearts of so many have been opened to receive the Word of God, to hear His voice in the *still small whisper*. Now Challenge 2008 gives you the opportunity to listen and be transformed this Friday evening 26th September to Sunday afternoon 28th September. Registrations close Wednesday 24th September.

<http://challenge.christthepriest.com> (follow the link to "Challenge 2008) or call 0409 910 197

**INVITATION**

Our Lady of Fatima Parish, South Wagga, invites you to attend Holy Mass with Rev Emmanuel Sebit, a Sudanese Catholic Priest from Yei Diocese presently in Australia. See the noticeboard for details.

**MEALS ON WHEELS**

St Patrick's Meals on Wheels Team will deliver meals the week commencing Monday 29th September.

**CLIMATE TORCH RELAY**

You are invited to join in Albury-Wodonga's Climate Torch Relay on Friday 26th September 2008. You can walk all or part of the way and take a turn carrying the solar and wind powered torch - you don't need to be fit or fast. You can walk along High Street Wodonga or Dean Street Albury. Wear something red to show you're part of the relay. Prams and strollers are welcome. If you like, you can just meet for a free lunch in Noreuil Park. Professor Nick Klomp will talk about the impacts of climate change in our area.

If you would like to take part in the relay, please contact Lizette - email [lizettejohn@iprimus.com.au](mailto:lizettejohn@iprimus.com.au) or phone (02) 6059 4185 and indicate which leg of the relay you would like to take part in. For further details, please see the noticeboard.

## **TRIVIA NIGHT**

The Rotary Club of Lavington are hosting another Trivia Night on Friday 10th October 2008 at the North Albury Sports Club, Alemein Avenue, North Albury at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The cost is \$12.00 per person (Tables of 8) - includes nibbles. Proceeds go to Guadalupe House, The Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul Society. Please book by phoning Mavis Page on 0402 848 051 or after hours Rick Woods (02) 6040 6868, fax (02) 6040 6862.

## **THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT**

**(in the Gospel of Matthew) - Fr John McKinnon**

Tuesday 7th October at Sacred Heart Parish Wodonga at 1.00-3.30pm and 7.30-9.30pm. You may bring your own bible. Refreshments will be available before and after each seminar. The cost will be a donation of \$5.00 (or as you can afford). Please ring the Woodonga Parish Office on 6024 3366 for bookings.

## **CATHOLIC WEEKLY**

- \* Girls - grown up beyond their tender years - Conversation
- \* Abortion Bill set to unleash a social rage.

## **MARY'S JUNIOR LEAGUE**

Every first Wednesday of the month from 3.30pm-5.00pm for children under 12. Monthly meetings begin with afternoon tea at Veritas Central followed by prayers and a brief talk in St Patrick's Church followed by activities in the parish hall. For details please contact Anna on 6023 3838.

## **YOUNG ADULTS GROUP, 18-35 YRS**

St Patrick's has started a weekly discussion group for 18-35 year olds on Wednesday nights at 7.00pm in the upper room of St Patrick's hall. For more information, contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 or email [mizmim@gmail.com](mailto:mizmim@gmail.com) John Burton 0400 474 958 or Marcus Shaw 0418 463 952.

## **SNIPPET**

As for your conduct toward the poor, may you never take the attitude of merely getting the task done. You must show them affection; serving them from the heart. Louise de Marillac