

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.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

BE GENEROUS

Greed often dominates our world, interactions between global leaders and, sometimes, our own relationships. Today’s Gospel offers a different value system. Generosity is the Gospel standard that should dominate relationships.

This teaching comes in the form of another parable from Jesus. The context would be familiar to Matthew’s audience, in a society dominated by injustice, hierarchy and poverty. In this world, unemployment was rife, as it is today. Workers in Jesus’ day would go to the village or town square to seek employment. In this setting, the landowner comes to the square to hire labourers for his vineyard with a promised day’s wage. The owner repeats the hiring practice at different hours of the day, even into the late afternoon. When it comes time to pay the wages of the labourers, the landowner begins with the last hired and pays them the full day’s wage though they have worked less hours. Those hired first complain that they should have been paid more. The landowner’s response summarises the main teaching point of the parable: ‘Why be envious because I am generous?’

Generosity rather than greed characterises this landowner. It is also a mirror of Jesus’ essential teaching. God is generous, not restrictive or calculating. This challenges a world governed by exactness and tit-for-tat thinking. God and God’s kingdom are characterised by generosity. God is generous toward us – and invites us to be generous toward others.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

20 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v. 18

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day / and praise
your name for ever. / The Lord is great,
highly to be praised, / his greatness cannot be
measured. **R.**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

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

Mt 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

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



Parish Clergy & Staff:

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)

Fr Peter Varengo sdb (Assistant Priest)

Fr John Gandini sdb (Assisting Priest)

Fr Anthony Nguyen sdb (Assisting Priest)

Virginia Carter (Parish office Administrator & Finance Secretary)

Rafelina De Donato (Sacristan & Parish Office Assistant)

Natalia Tawaf Molini (Faith Formation Coordinator)

Jason Vu (Website Content Manager)

Parish Office:

Phone: 03 94817333 | Email: office@olsc.org.au

Website: olsc.org.au | Facebook:

facebook.com/people/Our-Lady-of-the-Southern-Cross/61560645217161/

We welcome any suggestions or comments from our Parishioners.

It helps us to help our Parish.

Church Communities:

St John the Baptist Community

61 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill; Tel: 9481 7333

St Joseph's Catholic Church Community

46 Otter Street, Collingwood;

School: Tel: 9419 4918; Principal: Matthew Shawcross

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

St Heliers Street, Abbotsford Tel: 9417 2909

Pastoral Care:

For a pastoral visit with Fr Cassius, or one of the Salesians of Don Bosco seminarians, we invite you to contact the Parish office.

For Urgent Pastoral Need Call: 0401 887 115

Mass Times:

St John the Baptist Church:

Tuesday to Friday at 9.15am, Saturday at 8.30am.

Sunday at 9:00am (Italian), 11:00am and 5:00pm.

St Joseph's Catholic Church:

Monday to Saturday at 8:30am, Saturday at 6:00pm (Vigil).

Sunday at 9:00am (Vietnamese).

The Chapel of Good Shepherd:

Sunday at 9:30am.

Sacramental Reception:

Baptism: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/sacraments.

St John's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month—12pm.

St Joseph's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month during Sunday

9am Vietnamese mass, or contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/sacraments.

Reconciliation: Fridays 7:15pm—8:00pm except for

1st Friday of the month—Holy Hour 7pm-8pm.

Holy Communion, Reconciliation & Confirmation: Please contact the Parish office.

Envelopes & Loose Collections 12-13 September 2026:

St John's: \$584.20 (includes EFTPOS) | St Joseph's: \$849.90

Thank you for your thanksgiving offerings and donations.

These help sustain and support our Parish gospel mission.

SAFEGUARDING

At the Parish of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our Parish.

<https://melbourne.catholic.org/safeguarding/commitment-to-the-safety-of-children-and-young-people>

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people and offer our respects to the elders past, present and future. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land.

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 19-20 SEPTEMBER YEAR A

For All Those We Remember

Condolences & Anniversaries

We pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:



Rev Fr Francis Harman our much beloved and respected long-time Parish Priest at St John the Baptist Church, Michele Marcantonio, Carmela De Rango, Teresa Puli, and Antonio Iuliano.

May they rejoice in the presence of God's unconditional love.

Prayers for Healing

We pray for those in our Parish who are unwell, and for their carers. May they receive comfort and healing.

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rachel Bartolo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Greg Andrews, Paul Sutherland, Joseph Bonnici, and all those who need prayers for their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

If you are in need, or know of fellow Parishioners who are in need and wish to be included in our prayers, please contact the Parish office.

Teens Youth St John's this Sunday

We welcome you to join us for Mass at 5pm this Sunday 20 September at St John's, then a get together with your peers in faith, fun, friendship and prayer (and of course, with some food to begin!).

If you require more information, please contact Natalia at community@olsc.org.au.

Hope to see you there!

Natalia

A Father and Daughter Baptised



This Sunday 20 September 2026 at St John's, Fr Cassius will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism for a father and his daughter. Please pray for David and Tahlia as they are Baptised together into the Catholic Church, and journey in faith with all their family.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/Psalm	Second Reading/Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful
20 Sep	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Samoa Community	Samoa Community	Samoa Community
5pm	Teens' Group	Teens' Group	Teens' Group
27 Sep	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Chau Nguyen	Claire O'Keeffe	Bill Fitzsimons
5pm	Justin Akkerman	Diana Akkerman	Eliza Manickam

We Celebrate Fr John Gandini sdb

Our Parish honours the remarkable anniversaries of Rev. Fr. John Gandini sdb, our assisting priest, this Sunday 20 September at St John's at 11am.

Please join this joyful celebration with mass celebrated by Fr John, and then a luncheon, to thank him for a lifetime of service to God, His people, and now our Parish.

Dear Fr John, our whole Parish community is grateful to you for your grounding presence and courteous nature,

for your inspiring homilies and bringing us closer to God.

May God always be close to you.



Social Services Sunday, 20 September

From Catholic Services Victoria (CSSV):

This Sunday, 20 September 2026, we give thanks for the thousands of staff and volunteers across Catholic social services who accompany people experiencing poverty, disadvantage and marginalisation throughout Victoria.

As we celebrate Social Services Sunday, we recognise the need for encounter. Passion for connection and meeting others creates the kinship that is imperative in times of hardship and for building strong communities. Through these encounters, we recognise the dignity of every person and stand alongside those who may otherwise go unheard. Catholic social services put this call into practice every day through accompaniment, advocacy, and practical support.



This Social Services Sunday, we are invited not only to give thanks for this work, but to consider our own contribution:

Who is experiencing hardship around us? Who is already walking beside them? How might we strengthen and support that work?

Lord, I ask for your blessing upon our efforts to serve others. May our actions be guided by your love and motivated by a genuine desire to make a difference in the lives of those around us.

In your name, God, we pray for service to the community. May our hands be your hands, our feet be your feet, and our hearts be your hearts, as we seek to serve others in your name. Amen.

For more information on the work of the CSSV, see the church noticeboard, or go to: cssv.org.au/social-services-sunday-20-september-2026/

My Time, Fr John Gandini sdb

I have two reasons to celebrate this month. The first is my 60th year of Religious Profession (13 September 1966) and then my 50th year of Priestly Ordination (25 September 1976).

As I reflect upon these two milestones and as I move into my twilight years I cannot but help noticing the accompanying hand of God with His many Blessings in this time, doors closing and doors opening to the many facets of religious life.

This is not the time to enlist successes and failures but the time to offer thanksgiving to a loving and forgiving Lord over the span of a lifetime. Thanksgiving for the many Blessings very often overlooked and even perhaps taken for granted amid the many chores of day-to-day life.

The loving presence of God like the sound of a gentle breeze has always been there to offer guidance in time of bewilderment and to assure moral strength and encouragement. The soft touch of a hand upon one's head when challenges were encountered and mistakes were made, the carrying of a person when things seemed to go wrong and the daily cross seemed to be intolerable. A presence restoring the joy and peace that only religious life can offer, to those who strive to live the calling and mission faithfully in service to fellow brothers and sisters, especially to the younger generations as they grow into the acceptance and awareness of their faith in their love and service of others.

In my future time, that God willing be granted to me, whether it be long or short, I only hope and pray that He will continue to bestow upon me His Blessings so that I may be ever more closer to Him and ever more faithful to my calling to religious life and the priesthood. The adventurous times of youth have come and gone and as health slowly deteriorates with age, what lies ahead is a greater intimacy with the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving.

May your prayers join with mine in gratitude to God for His goodness to me on this unforgettable occasion.

Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed a dream.

As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.

Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.

For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,

One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,

I looked back at the footprints in the sand.

I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,

especially at the very lowest and saddest times,

there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,

You'd walk with me all the way.

But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life, there was only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why, when I needed You the most,

You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child,

I love you and will never leave you

Never, ever, during your trials and testings.

When you saw only one set of footprints,

it was then that I carried you..."