

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia! / My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; / I know them, and they follow me. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

27 SEPTEMBER 2026

CHANGE OF ATTITUDE

Remaining in the agricultural world from last Sunday and the hiring practice of a landowner, we are now inside the landowner's family and its two sons. The landowner requests both sons to go to work in the vineyard. Such a request would have been unnecessary, given that there would have been hired labourers in the vineyard – information learnt from last Sunday's Gospel.

A deeper intent lies behind the owner's request: Are the sons' committed to the family's enterprise? Perhaps, too, this reflects what is occurring with the Gospel household, the inner relationship and ethical practice of its members. The main issue concerns integrity of word and openness of heart. The first son is asked to work in the vineyard but refuses the request. Later, he thinks about it, changes his mind and goes. The second promises to go the vineyard but doesn't. There is no further comment about the request or change of heart. Jesus asks the religious leaders, 'Which of the two did the father's will?' They respond, 'The first.' This son, at first resistant, changes his mind and responds to the father's request.

The parable is obviously directed to Jesus' audience and religious leaders, to recognise their need to change attitudes that exclude certain types of people. Surprisingly, those judged as social reprobates, the 'tax collectors and prostitutes', are given preferential acceptance into God's Kin-dom. The parable overturns conventional expectations in Matthew's day and in ours!

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Ezek 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24:4-9. R. v. 6

R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / Do not remember the sins of my youth. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

3. The Lord is good and upright / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one



thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.

But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the
underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

■ **The word of the Lord.**



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)
 Rafaelina 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 19-20 September 2026:

St John's: \$835.20 (includes EFTPOS) | St Joseph's: \$664.15

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-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 26-27 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:

Eliseo Buso, Sheila O'Donnell, Sr. Una McAllister, and Giovanni Marinelli.

May they be welcomed at the heavenly banquet prepared for us all.



Prayers for Healing

We pray for all in our parish who are sick, suffering, or facing prolonged distress, and for those who care for them, that they may feel Christ's healing presence.

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.

Holy Hour Friday 2 October 2026



Fr Brian Ahern sdb warmly invites you all to the next adoration hour next Friday at 7pm at St John's the Baptist Church.

This is a time for personal connection to God, silent reflection, and prayer for our loved ones, in the sacred presence of the Holy Eucharist.

Baptism at St John's

Let us pray for Levi who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism from Deacon Silao sdb this Sunday 27 September 2026.

Thank you to the family of Levi for reaching out to the Parish, and to Deacon Silao for preparing the parents and Godparents for this faithful journey.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/Psalm	Second Reading/Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful
27 Sep	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Chau Nguyen	Claire O'Keeffe	Bill Fitzsimons
5pm	Justin Akkerman	Diana Akkerman	Eliza Manickam
4 Oct	TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Lorraine Lipson	High McGinlay	Michael Black
5pm	Giuliana Alviano	Clotilde Berryman	Natalia Molini

A Faith That Makes Room

This Sunday 27 September is the Observance for the **World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2026**. Pope Leo XIV draws our attention to children—the most vulnerable group within the global movements of refugees and migrants—"Before every migrant child, we are called to make an act of humanity and faith, for we are able to welcome and encounter the Lord."

"Even just one of these children' (cf. Mt 18:5), within the horizon of the different religions, reminds us that the vulnerability of the young knows no religious boundaries and unites us in a shared humanitarian and spiritual responsibility."

"Let us entrust migrant and refugee children to the maternal protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary who, together with Saint Joseph and the child Jesus experienced the cruelty of Herod's violence and the tragedy of exile in Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-15)."

"May she accompany their steps and help our communities to become living and credible signs of the Gospel."



One Million Children Praying the Rosary

From 1-7 October, *Aid to the Church in Need* invites you to join with Pope Leo XIV and Catholics worldwide for the **One Million Children Praying the Rosary** prayer campaign, for peace and unity in the world.

Families, parishioners, prayer groups, and schools are all encouraged to register to take part! For free Rosary resources and to register, please visit:

www.acninternational.org/millionchildrenpraying
"When one million children pray the Rosary, the world will change." —Saint Padre Pio.

Footprints

Footprints is the official historical journal of the Archdiocese. An article outlining the history of St John the Baptist Church is the main feature in the latest edition, commemorating our 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundations stone.

Copies of *Footprints* are available for loan at the back of the church.
 John Andrews

Words and Actions Must Align

In 1992, in the U.S., a 73-year-old mother was sued by her son because she refused to pay him for repairing her car. In response, the mother filed a countersuit requesting that he must be spanked - a punishment she had failed to treat him when he was young!

On July 1992, a mechanic filed a lawsuit against his mother, asking the court to order her to pay a \$500 repair bill that she had refused to pay!

In her response to the lawsuit, the mother wrote: "The plaintiff owes the defendant for 40 years of service as a mother, babysitter, housekeeper, cook, laundress, nurse, and counsellor - providing advice, guidance, and comfort. For all these services, the plaintiff has not paid the defendant a single penny." The mother continued:

"As a mother, if the law permitted, I would publicly spank my son - delivering the very strokes he needed but which I failed to treat him when he was small. If the law does not allow a mother to spank her child, I ask the court to appoint a judicial officer to administer the spanking and discipline my son."

This was the anguish of a mother dealing with an unfilial son. He no longer acknowledged her as his mother; instead, he demanded payment just as he asks from any customer. Amidst this pain, the mother regretted not educating her son properly during his childhood.

Perhaps the greatest pain for parents is when their children fail to show obedience and filial piety. The greatest misfortune for parents is having children who are unfilial and rebellious, disregarding the debt of gratitude owed for their upbringing. Our ancestors' wisdom holds true: "Shape the tree while it is young; teach the child while he is small." Children must be taught obedience from an early age; only then is there hope that, as they grow, they will live according to what is right and good. Some parents spoil their children to the point where, instead of guiding them, they constantly yield to their children's whims. Others are too lenient, often overlooking their children's bad habits and faults, mistakenly believing the children will naturally correct themselves as they mature. There are also parents whose words and actions do not align; this inconsistency leads children to adopt the habit of saying one thing while doing another, breaking promises and losing credibility with both their family and society.

Just as parents suffer deeply over their children, so too does God feel anguish regarding humanity. God takes no pleasure in seeing people reject His love. He is deeply saddened when people surrender to base passions, thereby losing their very humanity.

Today, Jesus presents the parable of the two sons. Neither was truly an ideal son. The first son initially defied his parents but later repented and went to work. The second son was the type who merely paid lip service - agreeing readily but failing to actually do the work.

The first son represents those outside the faith. Though they do not follow a specific religion, they lead upright and virtuous lives. They live according to God's law inscribed upon their consciences. They are non-believers who nonetheless "believe in a God above." They do good and avoid evil, believing that "Heaven sees all."

The first son also represents the sinner who receives the grace to return to God. They repent and turn their lives around by living according to and practicing God's commandments.

The second son may well represent us. Although we profess with our lips to be children of God, we fail to live by His teachings. There are those who speak eloquently yet do not put their words into practice. There are others who appear outwardly pious but harbor greed and deceitfulness within their hearts.

Jesus once said that it is not those who cry out "Lord, Lord" who will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but rather those who listen to and act upon God's word who are worthy of it.

May God help us to live truthfully, so that our words and deeds may always be pleasing to Him and to others. Amen.

Fr Anthony Nguyen sdb