

GOSPEL

Mt 22:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son’s wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. “Tell those who have been invited” he said “that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding.” But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants. “The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding.” So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, “How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?” And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Shorter form, Mt 22: 1-10

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

11 OCTOBER 2026

COME TO THE WEDDING!

For the third Sunday, Jesus addresses religious leaders. Again, as last Sunday, it concerns their refusal to accept God’s invitation to join the feast of the Kin-dom. Jesus describes the Kin-dom as a wedding feast hosted by a king for his son.

Those invited fail to turn up for this sumptuous feast. ‘Come to the wedding’ is the invitation, but, according to Matthew’s story, they are ‘not interested’. They have different distractions and interests. Joining the king’s feast is not on their agenda. The invitation is in fact such an annoyance or distraction that the invitees maltreat and even kill the messengers. The king responds punishing them. Clearly, the king’s response is not meant to represent God. It would be unfortunate to make this identification and reinforce the image of a punishing God!

The point of the story is about the attitude of those invited to join the heavenly banquet, an image of the eucharistic celebration, and those who will eventually join the feast. These guests are identified in the Gospel’s last verses: people from the ‘roads’, symbolic of all people on the path of life and the synodal journey. Everyone, ‘bad and good alike’, fill the wedding hall. The Eucharist is not a reward for the perfect but sustenance for the weak – for us. As Pope Francis writes, ‘The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.’ (*The Joy of the Gospel*, n 47).

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people’s shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R. v. 6

**R. I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.**

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing
I shall want. / Fresh and green are the
pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near
restful waters he leads me, / to revive my
drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; / he
is true to his name. / If I should walk in the
valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You
are there with your crook and your staff; /
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the
sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed
with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**



4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow
me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord’s own
house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 4:12-14, 19-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians

I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich
too. I have been through my initiation and now
I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach
or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is
nothing I cannot master with the help of the
One who gives me strength. All the same, it was
good of you to share with me in my hardships.
In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in
Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory
to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Eph 1:17, 18

**Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of
our heart, / that we might see how great
is the hope / to which we are called. /
Alleluia!**



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 3-4 October 2026:

St John's: \$442.30 | **St Joseph's:** \$774.45

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://melbournecatholic.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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 10-11 OCTOBER 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:

Gavan Amarant, Fr Bart San, Charles Utting and Minh Canh Ho on the first anniversary of his passing.

Prayers for Healing

May Christ heal all in our parish who are suffering, sick or facing distress, and for those who care for them.

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.

Looking Ahead to 2027

As we begin planning for 2027, the *Parish Pastoral Council* warmly invites everyone to share ideas for activities, events and initiatives that could enrich our parish community.

We would also love to hear from parishioners who may be willing to offer their time, skills or support—whether regularly or occasionally. Every contribution, large or small, can help make our parish more welcoming, connected and vibrant.

Please contact me, any member of the PPC (names and photos are at the back of the church), or the Parish Office. Thank you for helping shape our parish community in 2027. *Quyen Pham-Nguyen, PPC chair*

Youth Catch-Ups at St John's

For those between the ages 18 to 35 years, please join us this Sunday 11 October for Mass at 5pm at St John's, followed by a social and relaxed gathering.

Sunday 18 October will be our next 5pm Teen Mass.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/Psalm	Second Reading/Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful
11 Oct	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Doriana Penso	Vin Penso	John Salamito
5pm	Salesian Youth Club	Salesian Youth Club	Salesian Youth Club
18 Oct	TWENTY-NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
11am	Samoan Comm	Samoan Comm	Samoan Comm
5pm	Teens Group	Teens Group	Teens Group

Sacrament of Confirmation



With great joy, we celebrate 15 young people from our Parish and St Joseph's Primary School who will be receiving the full gift of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation this Saturday 10 October 2026.

Please join us in praying for each of them, as they continue to live

faith-filled lives with the everlasting love and guidance of Jesus Christ.

Let us also pray for the parents, godparents, and sponsors of the candidates: that they may continue to support these newly confirmed Catholics through their prayers, guidance and faithful example.

Thank you to Jessia Patti, St Joseph's School Religious leader, and Natalia, our parish Faith Formation leader, for faithfully preparing and accompanying the children on the journey to the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We Celebrate Fr Anthony

Our dearest Fr Anthony Quang Nguyen sdb will celebrate 40 years as an ordained priest on Sunday 25 October 2026.

You are warmly invited to join the celebration if you can at the St Joseph's 9am Vietnamese mass.

Baptisms this Sunday

Children Hugo, Hamish and Myles will be baptised this Sunday 11 October at St John's. Let us pray for their joyful faith-life.



Thank you to Deacon Silao for preparing the parents and Godparents for this journey, and celebrating this blessed Sacrament on Sunday.

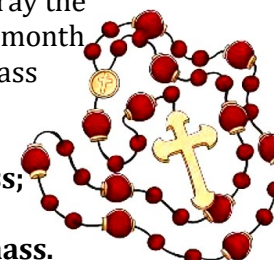
October, Month of the Holy Rosary

You are all warmly invited to pray the Holy Rosary together during the month of October after each morning mass on weekdays:

St John's: Tuesday—Friday
after the 9:15am mass;

St Joseph's: Monday—Friday
after the 8:30am mass.

Please let us come together for this gift of prayer.



You're Invited to a Wedding Banquet

Recently, a couple has invited me to their wedding celebration. I am finding it difficult to respond positively because of a few commitments on their wedding day. It is not that I am looking for excuses to decline their invitation; rather, I am trying to find a way to be there. The reason is simple: they told me that my presence would mean a great deal to them. Knowing my commitments, they are gracious enough not to put any pressure on me.

We know that a wedding invitation is rarely extended to a stranger. When we invite someone to celebrate such a special occasion with us, we genuinely hope that they will accept. An invitation is an expression of love and a desire to share our joy with others. Naturally, we hope that those invited will respond with the same goodwill.

The parable of the Wedding Banquet reminds us of God's desire to welcome everyone into communion with Him and share in the joy of His Kingdom. When the invited guests refuse to attend, the king extends his invitation to everyone. Jesus used this parable to challenge the chief priests and elders of his time, while Matthew reminds the early Christian community that God's invitation to salvation is open to all. The Kingdom of God is portrayed as a magnificent banquet where all are invited to share in His abundant blessings.

Like the couple who invited me to their wedding, **God invites us but never compels us.** The wedding celebration will go ahead even if I cannot attend; others will be there to share the couple's joy. Likewise, God's Kingdom will not be diminished if we decline His invitation. Many others will respond to His call and take their place at His table.

By missing the wedding, I would lose the joy of sharing a special moment with the couple. Likewise, by rejecting God's invitation to communion with Him, we are the ones who lose the most for we miss the fullness of His love and grace. Perhaps God, too, grieves our absence, for He desires that all His children share in the joy of His Kingdom.

The couple who invited me also specified that guests should wear *formal attire*. The instruction is clear: I am expected to dress appropriately for the occasion. This detail brings to mind the wedding garment in the parable, which symbolises *the disposition of heart* required to enter God's Kingdom. For Christians, this means putting on Christ and clothing ourselves in his love, righteousness and holiness. Accepting God's invitation requires not only our presence but also a heart transformed by His grace.

As we reflect on the parable of the Wedding Banquet, two questions invite us to examine our lives: How do we respond to God's invitation to be in communion with Him? And are we ready, clothed in Christ's love and grace, to take our place at His table?

Fr Cassius Correya sdb