

Catholic Parishes Of North Mackay and Farleigh

Parish Priest and Administrator

Fr Stephen Hanly

Associate Pastor

Fr James Ezeocha

Retired Priest

Fr William Busuttin

S E R V I N G T H E C H U R C H C O M M U N I T I E S O F

St Joseph's Church, North Mackay
St Brendan's Church, Bucasia

St Brigid's Church, Farleigh
St Helen's Church, Calen
St Peter's Church, Midge Point
Star of the Sea Church, Seaforth

EMERGENCY CONTACT: for anointing the sick 0400 874 807

P A R I S H O F F I C E S A N D S T A F F

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

21 Grendon Street North Mackay
P O Box 3388, North Mackay, QLD 4740

Phone:4957 4855 Fax: 4957 4208

Email:stjomky@bigpond.com

Parish Manager: Ken Kelly

Parish Secretary: Chris Haines

Secretary Assistant: Sr Lila Galvin

Finance Secretary: Kerry Dempsey

Parish Safeguarding Representative:..... Chris Haines

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 12:00noon

ST BRIGID'S PARISH

961 Bruce Highway, Farleigh, QLD 4741
Bruce Highway Farleigh,
CMB Farleigh, QLD 4741

Phone:49598 213

Email: stbrigid.farleigh@bigpond.com

Parish Secretary: Veronica Tolcher

Finance Secretary: Maria Axiak

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Veronica Tolcher

Office Hours: Thursday 9am—12:00pm

MASS TIMES

Please be aware there are Health directives from Qld Government associated with those who are over the age of 70 or vulnerable or have underlying health issues. **HOWEVER** if you believe that you are of good health and are aware of these directives you are most welcome to join us.

St Joseph's Church North Mackay

Monday: REGISTER AT DOOR 6:30am Mass

Tuesday: REGISTER AT DOOR 6:30am Mass

Wednesday: REGISTER AT DOOR 6:30am Mass

Friday: REGISTER AT DOOR 6:30am Mass

Saturday: BOOK ONLINE 6:00pm Mass

Sunday: BOOK ONLINE 9:00am Mass

St Brendan's Church Bucasia

Sunday: BOOK ONLINE 7:30am Mass

St Brigid's Church Farleigh

Monday: REGISTER AT DOOR Farleigh 6:00pm Mass

Wednesday: REGISTER AT DOOR Farleigh 9:30am Mass

Thursday: REGISTER AT DOOR Farleigh 6:00pm Mass

Saturday: BOOK ONLINE Farleigh 6:00pm Mass

Sunday: REGISTER AT DOOR Seaforth 7:00am Mass

Sunday: REGISTER AT DOOR Calen 9:00am Mass

Sunday: Midge Point **NO MASS**

Reconciliation is available by appointment only, please phone St Joseph's Parish Office 49574855.

Please note when making your booking online, to complete it you will need to click the button that says purchase (the ticket is free) by clicking purchase this will finalise your booking and you will receive confirmation your booking was successful. This confirmation will appear on the page at the end of your booking and also an email from Trybooking saying your booking was successful.

The links for weekend Masses 26th / 27th September

[☛ Bookings open Friday 18th September 10am and will close THURSDAY 24th September 10:00am.](#)

Saturday 26th September, 6:00pm Vigil Mass, St Brigid's Church Farleigh <https://www.trybooking.com/BLOXD>

Saturday 26th September, 6:00pm Vigil Mass, St Joseph's Church North Mackay <https://www.trybooking.com/BLOXE>

Sunday 27th September, 9:00am Mass, St Joseph's Church North Mackay <https://www.trybooking.com/BLOXF>

Sunday 27th September, 7:30am Mass, St Brendan's Church Bucasia <https://www.trybooking.com/BLOXH>

IMPORTANT!!!!

For those who aren't online, you may like to ask a family member to assist, or you can phone the parish office 49574855 and Chris will assist you with an online booking. This service is only available for those who are not online.



PARISH CLUSTER MONSTER RAFFLE

In place of NORFAIR and the Farleigh Christmas Fair we are running a Monster Christmas Raffle. Tickets are available at Weekend Masses, or at the Parish Office. Please support this major fund raiser.

NORTH MACKAY & FARLEIGH CATHOLIC PARISHES
21-23 Grendon Street, North Mackay Q 4740

Monster Christmas Raffle

First Prize: \$ 10,000 Cash
Second Prize: \$ 7,500 Cash
Third Prize: \$ 5,000 Cash
Fourth Prize: \$ 2,500 Cash

Drawn 12 December 2020, Winners will be notified by phone

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR RECENTLY DECEASED:

Patricia Frazer, Allan McGrath, Tim Mulherin, Anne Faisc, Robert Sparks, Valerie Carrol, Quseppi (Joe) D'Anna, Nikki Jane Acton Lazzari.

ANNIVERSARY: Jeff Old.

REMEMBRANCE MASS: Frank Frazer, Veronica (Vera) Chetcuti, Salvatore Zammit, Teresa Zammit, Mary Zammit, Josephine Thurgood, Sam & Doris Sciberras, Rose Vasallo, Peter Chetcuti.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Jacinta Barton (Vella), Sr Lila Galvin, Mary Borg, Raylene Johnson, Adam Robertson, Helen Popp, Bryan Bradshaw, Darryl Dalton, Josephine Blasels, Tess Uriarte, John Mifsud, Lalla Scarpelli, Maria Spiteri, Margaret Agius(Malta), Julie Rowan, Gail Fallis, and all the sick of the Parish.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

Weekly Collection 13/09/2020

Direct Debits:.....\$250.00

Envelopes:.....\$720.50

Loose:.....\$359.30

Total:.....\$1329.80

Holy Land Collection...\$435.00



CATHOLIC MEN'S DINNER

The Catholic Men's Sensational September Dinner is on Monday **28th** at the **Boomerang Bistro** Nebo Rd. Mackay. This is your chance to hear Father William Busuttin tell some of his story. don't miss it, bring a friend. 6:30 for a 7pm start. Please RSVP to Kevin; phone or text 0487747412 by pm **Sunday 27th September.**

DID YOU KNOW?

- ★ In the Greco-Roman world, casual labourers used to gather in the *agora* or town-square waiting for employers to hire them.
- ★ In the early Church, there was sometimes a jealousy between those who had believed from the earliest days in the risen Christ and thus suffered persecution, and those - especially Gentiles—who came to belief later on.

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

The 'vineyard' in the Hebrew Scriptures always referred to Israel, the people of God, while the 'master' was God himself. This parable would have been clearly understood to be about being gathered into God's people and who was welcomed into the kingdom. The unbounded generosity of God is highlighted.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Look for occasions this week to be generous, not only with money, but with time, attention and attitude. Challenge those who lack generosity of spirit. *[The Summit]*

Words of Wisdom - St Thomas Aquinas

"There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship."

PRAYER

*You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people;
Praise God who called you out of darkness
and into his marvellous light. Amen.*

Today's Gospel invites us to reflect that the Lord, who came down from heaven for our sake and for our salvation, calls everyone to work in his vineyard and so enter the kingdom of heaven.

Today's Readings

First Reading Isaiah 55:6-9. ~ Isaiah preaches to the people, urging them to return to the Lord who is rich in forgiving.

Second Reading Philippians 1:20-24.27 ~ The apostle calls us to avoid anything in our everyday lives that would be unworthy of the Gospel.

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16 ~ Even at the eleventh hour the Lord calls people to work in his vineyard. [The Living Word]

The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides by the principles and procedures of Towards Healing. The Diocese is committed to healing for victims by providing a sensitive and compassionate response to complaints. Contact the Diocesan Professional Standards and Safeguarding office: **Response Line on m: 1800 830 113 (free call)** or email: pssso@rok.catholic.net.au

Diocesan Website for more information: www.rok.catholic.net.au

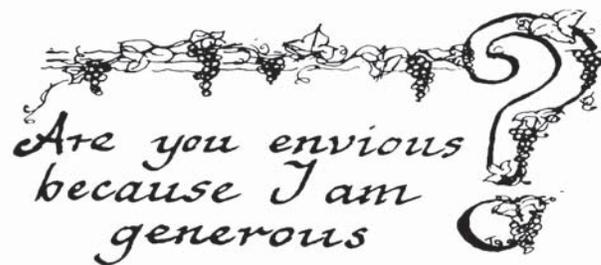
To view the Diocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults commitment statement and Policy: <http://www.rok.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html> **Queensland Professional Standards Office: www.psoqld.catholic.net.au/**

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Sunday 20th September 2020

In our readings for this weekend we are challenged in a profound way by the parable of the vineyard. Jesus is an incredible Teacher. Parables are a consistent and powerful teaching tool. Not only do parables end with a moral twist. They are dramatic challenges to the way that we think. They stretch the minds, the expectations, the hopes and certainties, and they confront the crowds way of thinking who have gathered to listen to the teacher of Nazareth.

They open up new possibilities, new ways of seeing and behaving. They challenge! They point always to the pressing spiritual need for change in every persons life. They cause a conversion of heart.



In today's Gospel Jesus tells a story, a parable, about the way the landowner of a vineyard, chooses to pay his workers. Those who arrive last to work receive exactly the same pay as the first arrivals. They have worked hard and long in the heat of the day and yet receive no more for their efforts than the latecomers. Where are the principles of fairness and justice, the principles that are embrace by Catholic social teaching?

The only way to make sense of this story and the message that it contains is for us to change our way of thinking and seeing: for "the heavens are high above the earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts are above your thoughts", says the Lord in the reading today from the Prophet Isaiah. For Jesus the only reality that matters is that of the kingdom or reign of God. This defines every moment of the ministry of Jesus. The Kingdom must be proclaimed faithfully and fully and without compromise.

The profound kingdom invitation made in and through this parable expressed in those simple words: "Why be envious because I am generous?" it is not for us to limit God's generosity. For us to do so is to completely miss the point of our whole faith and of life itself. It is not only that God chooses to have no favourites but that God has a preferential love towards those who are last, least, or on the edges. God desires that nobody be excluded from the banquet of life, and the mission of Jesus on this earth was to challenge any and evert obstacle to this desire of the Father.

We are left asking today, before God: how generous are we really prepared to be in our Christian lives? The lessons we learn through this parable and in the whole ministry and mission of Jesus focus on being radically inclusive. We are called to be heralds of such a kingdom. St Paul understood what this mean to desire with our whole being to see the work of the kingdom come to fullness and reality in the name of Christ.

We are warned by Jesus not to take the approach of becoming the spiritual elite. It is the religious non-elite who will be welcomed first into the kingdom. How does this leave us feeling? Maybe it leaves us feeling spiritually vulnerable and poor. It is in this state that we open ourselves to the opportunity to learn even more deeply the lesson for which Jesus gave his life on the cross: that it is by the pure graciousness and love of God that we discover and enter into new life with God!

[Fr Stephen]

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Catholic community of North Mackay and Farleigh called by Baptism, strengthened by the Sacraments and nourished by the Word, are committed to witness Christ's mission in the world.

We seek to be an active community that reaches out to the diverse peoples of this region.

Gospel Reflection

On a first reading of this gospel story, the reader is probably struck by the unfairness of the situation. The landowner has employed day labourers at different times throughout the day to work in his vineyard. However, come the end of the day, the landowner pays all the day labourers the same amount. Not surprisingly, the labourers employed at daybreak to work the whole day are upset that those who have only worked the last hour of the day are paid the same amount. The landowner reminds them that he is paying them what they agreed at the start of the day, and yet the reader is left uncomfortable about the whole arrangement.

Of course, this is the purpose of Jesus' story! The key to the story is in the introduction. Most of the kingdom parables told by Jesus begin with a formulaic statement, 'The kingdom is like ...' and this one is no different. What follows is almost always a description of an everyday event that is turned on its head. In all of the kingdom parables recorded in the gospels, Jesus describes a world order in which people respond in unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. His message is that the kingdom, or reign, of God turns expectations upside down. In the kingdom, people who are treated badly in this world are held in great esteem; the balance of power is turned upside down; and the usual order of things is challenged. The landowner's final comment in the parable, 'the last will be first, and the first, last', is a perfect example of the challenging nature of Jesus' kingdom parables. In the kingdom, those who hold themselves to be first in this world will be brought down, and those who are treated as least in this world will be exalted.

Greg Sunter



Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) 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.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



Ezekiel 18:25-28
Ps 24:4-9, R.v.6
Philippians 2:1-11
Matthew 21:28-32

Historical Context – Labourers for hire

Jesus' parable describes a situation that would have been very familiar to his audience. At the time, there were many quite wealthy landowners who controlled large vineyards, orchards and crop fields. They would have employed a certain number of permanent workers but come harvest time there was a need for more workers and, much like today, they sought to employ part time workers for a short period of time until the rush was over. Men looking for work would gather in the marketplace of a village and landowners would select workers and send them to their property to work.

Greg Sunter

Scriptural context – Kingdom parables

A feature of the kingdom parables that Jesus used is a challenging 'shift' to the unexpected. Jesus only ever uses parables to describe what the kingdom is like, and never says exactly what it is or isn't. In each parable he compares the kingdom of God to something that would be familiar to a 1st century audience but then he twists the familiar and makes the challenging shift by making the familiar, unfamiliar. (This 'shift' is sometimes called a 'discombobulating shift'.) Jesus tells us that the kingdom of God disrupts our normal way of thinking, it turns our expectations upside down and it completely challenges our 'normal' relationships.

Greg Sunter

Have you thought? Equality or Equity?

How would you feel if you had done a full day's work and were paid the same as someone who had only worked for one hour? Is the landowner in the parable being unjust? He pays the workers exactly what he promised them – but he promised everyone the same amount, regardless of when they started work. The workers who started at 6.00 am complain. How do you think the workers who started later in the day felt? The landowner claims the right to be generous – is generosity unfair? There is a difference between treating people equally and equitably. What has the landowner done here?

Greg Sunter

Reflection by Artist ~ (Jenny Close)

The Kingdom of heaven is like . . . 'a topsy-turvy environment in which 'the last will be first and the first will be last'. The Kingdom, the way Jesus describes it here, is similar to an optical illusion, where earthly logic is confounded. Some of the values we take for granted are turned upside down and our priorities are rearranged, for example generosity has precedence over equity. This parable would be seriously problematic for labour and capital alike in today's world.

