

WEEKDAY MASS & LITURGY TIMES

Monday 21st September:

12.10pm St Patrick's Church

Tuesday 22nd September:

5.30pm St Mary's church

Wednesday 23rd September:

6.30am St Francis Xavier church

Thursday 24th September:

8.00am Immaculate Conception church, Mirani

9.00am St Michael's church, Sarina

5.30pm St Mary's church

Friday 25th September:

6.30am St Francis Xavier church

9.00am St John's church, Walkerston

9.00am Holy Rosary church, Marian

12.10pm St Patrick's church

Saturday 26th September:

7.00am St Patrick's church



DEVOTIONS

Tuesday 22nd September:

7.00pm Novena, St Patrick's church

Friday 25th September:

11.00am Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, Prayer & Adoration, St Patrick's church



MASS TIMES FOR NEXT SUNDAY

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Saturday 26th September:

5.15pm St John's church, Walkerston

6.00pm St Mary's church

6.00pm St Francis Xavier church

6.30pm Holy Rosary church, Marian

Sunday 27th September:

7.00am St Patrick's church

7.30am Immaculate Conception church, Mirani

9.00am St Francis Xavier church

9.00am St Michael's church, Sarina

11.00am St Patrick's church

6.00pm St Patrick's church

(only Sunday night Mass in Mackay)

Reconciliation: by appointment only. Please phone the Cluster Office during office hours on 4957 4807.

Link for weekend Mass bookings:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BKACF>

If you require assistance to book online, you may like to ask a friend or family member to assist you. Online bookings commence **7.00pm Sunday 20th September** for Masses on the **26th & 27th September**.

Bookings for these Masses will **close midday Friday 25th September**

If you are not online, you can call the numbers listed below. **Please note, this service is only for those who are not online.**

For St Patrick's, St Francis Xavier, St Mary's and St Michael's

0460 423 603 or 4957 4807

from 9.00am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday

MACKAY SOUTHERN CLUSTER

Parish of St Patrick, Mackay (est. 1865)

Parish of St Michael, Sarina (est. 1923)

Parish of St Mary, South Mackay (est. 1936)

Parish of St Francis Xavier, West Mackay (est. 1947)

WALKERSTON & PIONEER VALLEY

Parish of St John, Walkerston (est. 1906)

Parish of Holy Rosary Marian

Parish of St Francis de Sales, Finch Hatton

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

20th September, 2020



God Thoughts are not always Our Thoughts

Some years ago, I was in the Holy Land for study, and the College where I was staying organized a visit to a nearby farm which produced grapes for table wine. It was a beautiful and old vineyard near Bethlehem owned by a Palestinian family, handed down since the time of Jesus. But in recent years, the Israeli government has allowed Jewish settlers to build homes nearby and this has caused many problems. One year the harvest was deliberately disrupted by illegal roadblocks set up by the settlers. At the time I visited the vineyard some 50 or so backpackers from Germany had just arrived to freely help the family in their preparations for the harvest and to help overcome any disruption by the settlers. I learnt that day that the grape harvest in Palestine and Israel happens in September. The harvest is challenging because that is also the rainy season there. The grapes have to be picked quickly by hand, just as they were in the time of Jesus, if the vineyard is to have any chance of making a good wine.

This context throws light on the parable in this Sunday's Gospel. The owner of the vineyard, just like the family I met, would have been eager to get the harvest done as quickly as possible by employing as many workers. There is an urgency about the harvest, and everyone has a part to play in it. Jesus makes a comparison with the kingdom of God, that we all have part to play in it and we are not to be envious of others. In a homily in 2017, Pope Francis said about this parable that *"it helps to explain two aspects of the Kingdom of God: the first is that God wants to call everyone to work for his Kingdom; the second is that, in the end, he wants to give everyone the same reward, that is, salvation, eternal life. With this parable, Jesus wants to open our hearts to the logic of the Father's love which is free and generous. This parable is like many of the parables of Jesus, they do not follow human logic, but if we open our hearts to the message of the parables we will be truly enriched by the "thoughts" and the "ways" of God which, as the Prophet Isaiah in the first reading this week recalls, are not our thoughts and not our ways.*

In the bulletin this week is the third reflection paper from the Bishop's Advisory Panel on the Sanctity of Life. Its focus is on Euthanasia and gives a brief outline on the Church's position and the medical background to our situation here in Queensland. I recommend the paper to you as we discern how we can best promote the Sanctity of Life in our community.....*In Christo*, Fr. Don.

PARISH PASTORS

Fr Don White,

Parish Priest of the Catholic Parishes of the Mackay Southern Cluster

Fr Alex Kannikattu Varghese

Associate Pastor

Fr Sijo George

Associate Pastor

Fr Jayanthi Maddala

Associate Pastor

Fr Pat Mooney

Assisting Priest

Emergency contact: anointing of the sick 0400 874 807

PARISH OFFICES

St Mary's Parish and the Southern Cluster Office:

*p: 4957 4807; email: cluster@smky.catholics.org.au
Morley Street, South Mackay PO Box 5184, MMC, 4741
Office Hours 9.00am -1pm Monday to Friday*

St Patrick's Parish:

*p: 4829 4303; email: cluster@smky.catholics.org.au
River Street, Mackay Office Hours 9am-12pm Mon-Thurs*

St Francis Xavier Parish:

*Office closed until further notice.
Phone or email enquiries to Cluster Office.*

St Michael's Parish: p: 4956 1653;

email: saint.michaels@bigpond.com Range Road, Sarina

Holy Rosary Parish: p: 4954 3242

*Email: hrpmarian1@bigpond.com
Office Hours 9am-12pm Tues-Friday*

St John's Parish: p: 4959 2241

*Email: stjohnswalkerston@hotmail.com
Office Hours: 9am-2.30pm Tuesday and Friday.*

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

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: 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>

www.rok.catholic.net.au/safeguarding-policies.html

Queensland Professional Standards Office:

www.psoqld.catholic.net.au/

PARISH WEBSITE

Web site for Parishes of Mackay Southern and Walkerston /

Pioneer Valley Clusters: www.mackaycatholics.net

Diocesan website: www.rok.catholic.net.au

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER



THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Mark Stevenson, Grace Mifsud, Debbie Jones, Cathy Stevenson Knezvic, Linda Armstrong, Melissa Smith, John Camilleri, Bern Comerford, Pat Holdsworth, Maureen Cash, John Bugeja jnr, Heather Leonard, Ty Smith, Jim Scriha, Carmel Byrne, Natalie Valmadre, Dorothy Robinson, Debbie Hagger, Mary Walsh, Gavin Carter.

(permission of people needed for names to be printed)

THE FAITHFUL RECENTLY DEPARTED

Chris Vella, Tim Mulherin, Pat Fraser, Pat Clegg, Shirley Westcott, Alfredo & Pepito Jao (P'pines), Rita Ann Davis (Venton, Gosford), Eric Busby (Syd), Sr Mary Andrina Ryan RSM (R'ton), Sr Grace Caruana, Noel Connor (R'ton) Ken Cherry, Alastair Mackenzie, Patrick Faust, Bev Crouch (Sydney), Giuseppe (Joe) D'Anna, Sr Mary Julian McKie RSM, Mary Deguara, George Borg, Alfina McClanachan, John Taylor, Jean Formosa, Maureen Barfield, Victor Pappagallo, Gerard Falzon, Jessie Berardi, Nick Azzopardi, Gerard Murphy, John Styles, Maria Tramontana, Peter Ryan (Brisbane), Loreto Galea, Kenneth Denning, Paul Deguara, Carol Ciantar, Hans Ah Chee, Rev Fr John Rasmussen, Salvatore (Sam) Fenech, Vicki Pisani

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Gildo Cittadella 13/9, Margaret Hackett 30/8, Sam Bugeja 28/8, Feonila Carajay 31/8, Josefina Smith 4/9, Ma Dulce Obina 22/8 Carmel Daley 12/9, Conrad Sheedy 25/8, Andy Patroni 25/8, Adrian Grech 21/8, Joseph Scriha 21/8, Patrick Sant 30/8, Chas Bugeja 5/9, Harry (Henry) Dutton 24/7, Tessie (Theresa) Moriarty 21/8, Pauline Dutton 27/8, John Jones-Trifelly 31/8

WE REMEMBER THOSE FOR WHOM MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED

Florencio & Soledad Dumadag, Bob Nash, Francesca Scriha, David Crowley, Dorothy Waterson, Serafin & Antonia Bugeja, Andrew & Carmela Camilleri, Marlene Comin, Ray Patroni, Ann, Harold & Des Hinton, Albert Deguara, Major & Casey Dramon, Angelo Sorbello, Jimmy Galea, Len & Myrtle Butterworth, Alfred & Hellen Miller, Carmel Gauci, Giuseppe & Maria Sorbello, Frank & George Vella, Jim Vella, Rita Bugeja, John Scriha, Pat Leahy, Stephen Camilleri, James Borg, Ron Ahern, Kath Bartolo, Michael Hackett, Gerard Hill, Brian Hill, Ben Faa, Joseph Camilleri, Joseph Mifsud, James Galea, Joseph (Joe) Micallef, Ted Butterworth, Casey Zarb, Bill Daley, Mick Mifsud, Joseph Mifsud, Joe Bartolo, Bradley Micallef, Vince Guinea, Tony & Vera Galea, Louis & Grace Bezzina, Diane Shore, Joan Lanigan, Frank Camilleri, Jack & Mary Camilleri, Pat Phelan, Mary Vella, Fred, Peter, Margaret & John Andrew, Judy Vella, **Deceased members of the Jones-Trifelly, Sorbello, Quinn, Noonan and Lanigan Families.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS



26th Sunday of Year A:

Ezekiel 18:25-28; Psalm 24; Philippians 2:1-11;

Matthew 21:28-32

DIOCESAN NEWS

Dispensation of Obligation to attend Mass on Sundays & Holy Days of Obligations

Bishop Michael's official decree dispensing us from this obligation remains until further notice.

Live streamed mass from St Joseph's Cathedral continues Monday to Friday at 12 noon and Sunday at 9.30am
<https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton>

CLUSTER NEWS

To be **COVID Safe Parishes** we are asked to:

- Maintain social distancing of 1.5 metres; places to sit are clearly marked in each parish church.
- Practice good hygiene— Sanitise our hands on entering and exiting the church; cough into our elbow
- Do Not attend if we are in any way unwell
- To comply with any requests from those assisting with taking names and overseeing seating and social distancing
- Give your name and contact details when registering for a mass— this is a Government Regulation.

THE SAPLING

*Loving God, we thank you for the gift of new growth.
For the people who never give up.
For the ones who look after the sick.
For those who insist that black lives matter.
For those who bring food to those who can't leave home.
They are all like saplings,
small plants that point to a bigger future.
We thank you for the call to new growth in our own lives,
To new commitment, to fresh honesty, to deeper love.
Be with us as we begin to branch out.
Make us stronger.
Amen.*

Michael McGirr, from *Tress Without Masks* (Garratt Publications).

OTHER NOTICES

The Catholic Men's Sensational September Dinner is on Monday 28th 6:30 for a 7.00pm start 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.

Please RSVP to Kevin; phone or text 0487747412 by pm Sunday 27th September.

SEASON OF CREATION

The complaining workers in today's Gospel assumed they were near the top of some unspoken hierarchy. They thought they deserved more than some of their co-workers. If we think of the earth as God's great vineyard, we can see obvious parallels today. Nations can think they deserve more than their less developed neighbours; perhaps because their economies have been industrialised longer. People can assume they are right to own multiple properties while others remain homeless; perhaps because they inherited or worked hard for them.

But we Christians are called to work in the vineyard for its good, and for the good of all, not merely ourselves. "The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and vice versa", declared Pope Benedict XVI in the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, reminding us that justice for others and good stewardship of our world are intimately connected. During this Season of Creation, we might ask ourselves: How can we tend the vineyard into which God has sent us? Do we attend to the needs of our fellow workers, especially refugees and immigrants who have only recently arrived? © Nick Brodie

Nick Brodie is an Australian historian and writer. He is an alumnus of the Australian National University, Flinders University, and the University of Tasmania. His doctorate examined law and social policy in late medieval and early modern England, he is the author of several books on Australian history, and he has written multiple essays and articles on aspects of European, Australasian, and global history for various Australian and international publications and presses. In 2017 he was awarded the Bruce Mansfield Prize for the best article in the *Journal of Religious History*.

First is last and last is first

In the quotation, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways ...", the prophet Isaiah sets the scene for the parable of Jesus that Matthew shares with us in today's gospel. Trade Union leaders would not readily choose the story to promote the cause of equal rights and justice for their workers, yet the owner of the vineyard has honoured the contracts he made and the story reinforces all that Jesus does and teaches.

Jesus is forever seeking out those who have lost out in life or made a mess of their lives and adjusting their perspective and their prospects. Just think of the story of the Prodigal Son or the number of times that Jesus eats and drinks with those whom society has already cast aside. And every time he does this, Jesus calls forth the wrath of the self-righteous.

Many years ago I was introduced to the notion of 'lateral thinking' by a very entertaining speaker, who could tie his audience up in knots by presenting a series of conundrums, to which the answers were obvious but only when he gave them to you! He explained the theory of Dr Edward de Bono, who had realised that we all have a tendency to pigeon-hole our knowledge; filing it in such a way that particular problems lead us instinctively to pull out what we think is the appropriate file for the answer. His theory was that the more creative we are, the more likely we are to be able to look along the files – laterally – and find the correct solution. My point is that, if we are to understand the teaching of Jesus, we need to reorder our files and take Isaiah at his word, realising that God's ways are not our ways.

I would suggest that we can only begin to unlock the mystery when we recall Jesus' warning that we should not judge others, and that we would do well not to try to take the splinter from another's eye until we have removed the plank from our own.

In the parable Jesus leaves us to fill in the gaps. The owner of the vineyard asks those who are still hanging around at the end of the day why they have been idle. We can only surmise why they had not been hired. All that matters in God's topsy-turvy world is that it is never too late for a God of loving compassion and generosity. Long before Jesus came, Isaiah had got the message and was urging the wicked to let the Lord "take pity" on them.

Which of us dare suggest we do not need God's compassion? And once we accept that, we might be able to understand the paradox of the last being first and the first last.

Timothy J Buckley CSsR © Redemptorists 2020



First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: *The Lord is near to all who call him.*

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.

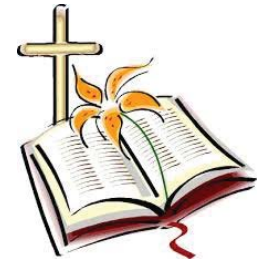
The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured.

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.

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.



Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24. 27 ***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.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

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 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.'