

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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24TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

14-15 SEPTEMBER 2019

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

Secretaries: Millicent (Tuesday - 9am-4pm, Friday, 1pm-5pm)

Corrie (Wed-Thurs, 9am - 3pm)

God's Love: Bigger Than Your Past

Luke 15:11-32



PRODIGAL FATHER, TWO LOST SONS

The fact that Jesus "ate around" with people the authorities considered unclean clearly annoyed those officials. Indeed such behaviour rendered Jesus suspect in their eyes. A careful, Torah-keeping Jew was not expected to share the table with those who did not eat according to the Law's prescriptions.

In defence of his behaviour, Jesus tells parables. Luke lines up three here, each of them intentionally jarring. Jesus compares his table fellowship first with the typical behaviour of a shepherd seeking a lost sheep and

then with a woman looking for a lost coin. In each case, the finding is cause for community celebration. Similarly, Jesus says, the return of repentant sinners is a matter of heavenly joy. Implication: Jesus' table fellowship is the occasion of welcoming the return of sinners, and the Pharisees and scribes refuse to recognize what is happening and to join the celebration of this manifestation of the kingdom of God.

But these two similitudes are simply warm-ups for the full-blown parable that follows, what might be titled "The Two Lost Sons." Here the tax collectors are represented by the runaway wastrel son, who realizes that his greediness has taken him away from his real source of life and security - his father - and he comes home to a surprising welcome.

The Pharisees and scribes are portrayed as the stay-at-home elder son, who is also, in his own way, lost. He was able neither to confront the shameful initiative of his kid brother nor will he join his father's celebration of the runaway's return. He has failed to appreciate that his dad is a father, not a slave master (Luke 15:29), translates literally as, "all these years I slaved for you and never disobeyed one of your commands"). And the father, of course, symbolizes a compassionate God who forgives repentant sinners even as he challenges those who think they have no need to repent.

"There is something good in the worst of us and something bad in the best of us. Perhaps that is why repentance is always the start of good news. Perhaps that is why our song of God's glory so aptly follows the confession of our sins. "*

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*Source: John Kavanaugh, SJ, "Prodigal Love" *The Word Engaged: Meditations on the Sunday Scriptures, Cycle C.*

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY

On this day we are invited to acknowledge and pray for all the Catholic social services agencies across the Archdiocese of Melbourne that offer professional and volunteer services and support to those most needy and marginalised in our society. More information and support possibilities can be found at www.css.org.au

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

"Everything I have is yours." - Luke 15:31

Our heavenly Father gives us everything, including the chance to share in His eternal Kingdom. Yet, like the Prodigal Son we are often lured away by the materialism of our society. Do we really want to turn our back on all the God offers in exchange for a material wealth that has no value?

HERO'S JOURNEY

You are invited to question your own Journey, to discern the presence of the Hero within you. This Day will be held at Heart of Life in Box Hill and facilitated by a qualified Clinical Psychologist/Spiritual Director on Saturday, 21 September from 10 am - 4pm. Cost \$60. Enquiries holsc@bigpond.com or www.heartoflife.melbourne or 03 9890 1101.

PARISH FORUM

**PLANNING TO OFFER SHELTER IN WINTER 2020
TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 6.30 - 8.30PM**

What can parishes do to help rough sleepers?

Venue: Cathedral Room, Cardinal Knox Centre
383 Albert Street, East Melbourne
RSVP: 20 September 2019, Cost: \$20.00*
Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/BEOEB>
Enquiries: Lucia Brick tel: 9287 5566 or
email: lucia.brick@css.org.au

THE CROYDON PARISH PLAYERS

**PROUDLY PRESENTS:
ANYTHING GOES MUSICAL PLAY**

Performances:

4 October: 8pm, 5 October: 2pm & 8pm
10-11 October: 8pm, 12 October: 5pm

Aquinas College, Great Ryrie St, Ringwood

Book tickets online at:

www.CroydonParishPlayers.com

A TIME FOR NOURISHMENT: SVD ANNUAL MISSION DAY 5 OCTOBER 2019

3PM MISSION DAY SEMINAR

*"A Missionary Impulse Capable of Transforming
Everything." - Pope Francis Evangelii Gaudium #27*

PRINCIPAL SPEAKER: Therese D'Orsa

Yarra Theological Union Study Centre
98 Albion Road, Box Hill

6PM MISSION DAY MASS

St. Paschal's Chapel, 98 Albion Road, Box Hill

7PM MULTI-CULTURAL MEAL

followed by Multi-cultural performances with the Divine Word
Missionaries at Dorish Maru College.

ROSTERS:

6:00PM

9:30AM

EUCHARIST MINISTERS

◆ This Week	C. Buchan M. Italiano S. Samarasundera	E. Mendes C. L. Tay A. Benedict
◆ Next week	H. Grealy C. Buchan S. Chen	L. Cigana P. Kawalevski A. Yee

PROCLAIMERS

◆ This Week	C: H. Lobo P: P. Kelly	T. Fernandes T. Yee
◆ Next week	C: R. Grealy P: H. Lobo	Sr Betty K. Barritt

COUNTERS

This Week: Peggy D' Cruz / Kenneth D' Cruz
Next Week: Christine Silvester / Barry Silvester

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Paul Ditchburn, Mrs. Rose,
Esmie Hickman, Douglas Martin,
Maurice Rodrigues,
Paolo Isola, Joseph Biviano.

SACRAMENTS: Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement

- ◆ **Baptism:** 1st Sunday of the Month (9:30 AM Mass)
- ◆ **Reconciliation**
- ◆ **Marriage**
- ◆ **Anointing of the Sick**
- ◆ **Funerals**



2019 FIRST EUCHARIST, RECONCILIATION & CONFIRMATION

- ◆ For children attending St. Timothy's school, preparation for these three sacraments is through the school.
- ◆ For children not attending St. Timothy's school, preparation and enrollment is through the Parish Office every Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday: 1:00 to 5:00 PM

MASS TIMES:

- ◆ Saturday: 6:00 PM
- ◆ Sunday: 9:30 AM
- ◆ Indian Mass: 12:00 NN every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
- ◆ Mass in Vietnamese : 5:00 PM (All Sundays)
- ◆ Adoration 7:30 PM every 1st Friday of the month
- VIETNAMESE ENQUIRIES: AHN LOC 0434 239 212 or ANH TOAN 0422 295 115.

WEEKDAYS:

- ◆ 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:30am (Strathdon)
- ◆ 4th Tuesday of the month, 10:30 am (Livingstone)
- ◆ Wednesday & Thursday, 9:15 am
- ◆ 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am, Anointing Mass
- ◆ Every Friday, 10:00 am



POPE: POVERTY NOT PART OF GOD'S PLAN

God's plan for humanity involves community, mutual support, sharing and caring for each other and for the earth, Pope Francis said during Mass for almost one million people in Madagascar last week.

"As we look around us, how many men and women, young people and children are suffering and in utter need. This is not part of God's plan," he said, celebrating Mass on a dusty, red dirt field on the outskirts of Antananarivo.

Madagascar is one of the world's 10 poorest countries. According to the World Bank, 75 per cent of the population lives on less than \$1.90 a day.

Pope Francis preached about the Gospel call to solidarity and the joy that comes from putting faith before power or possessions. He urged the nation's people "to make your beautiful country a place where the Gospel becomes life and where life is for the greater glory of God."

Pope Francis said that in the Gospel, Jesus was explaining that "bonds of blood or membership in a particular group, clan or particular culture" have no bearing on who is blessed, whose dignity should be honoured or who, finally, will enter heaven. "When 'family' becomes the decisive criterion for what we consider right and good," he said, "we end up justifying and even 'consecrating' practices that lead to the culture of privilege and exclusion: favouritism, patronage and, as a consequence, corruption."

POPE DOES NOT WANT SCHISM- BUT IS NOT AFRAID OF IT

Pope Francis told reporters he hoped and prayed the Catholic Church would not experience a new schism, but human freedom means people always have had and will have the "schism option". Source: CNS.

"I pray that there not be schism, but I am not afraid," Pope Francis told reporters flying from Africa to Rome with him yesterday.

Schisms have occurred throughout Church history, he said, and one thing they all have in common is having such a focus on an ideology that they begin reading Church doctrine through the lens of that fixation. A schism is triggered when "an ideology, perhaps a correct one, infiltrates doctrine and it becomes 'doctrine' in quotation marks, at least for a time," he said.

As an example of ideology, the Pope cited those who say, "The Pope is too communist" because of his criticism of unbridled capitalism and its negative impact on the poor. "The social things I say are the same things John Paul II said. The very same. I copy him."

When ideology takes the place of doctrine, he said, there is the danger of a split in the Christian community.

Pope Francis said small groups of Catholics in the United States are not the only people who criticise him — there are even people in the Roman Curia who do — but he tries to learn from the criticism and to find a way to dialogue with critics who are open.

"Criticism always helps," Pope Francis said. "When one is criticised, the first thing to do is to reflect, 'Is this true, not true, to what extent' is it valid?"

"The criticism is not coming just from America, but a bit from everywhere, including the Curia, but at least those who are doing it have the courage to be public about it. What isn't acceptable is when one 'smiles so much he shows you his teeth,' and then lists criticisms "behind your back."

CARDINAL BUILT BRIDGES BETWEEN CATHOLIC WORLD AND VIETNAM

The head of the Catholic bishops in Vietnam has praised a late Vatican official for his efforts to build bridges between Vietnam and the Catholic world.

Cardinal Roger Marie Elie Etchegaray, president emeritus of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, died on September 4 in Cambo-les-Bains in the Diocese of Bayonne in France. He was 96.

His death is a great loss not only for his relatives and the French Church but also for the College of Cardinals and the universal Church, said Archbishop Joseph Nguyen Chi Linh, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of Vietnam. "Cardinal Etchegaray is a great benefactor for the history of the Church in Vietnam," Archbishop Linh said in a message on September 5.

The archbishop of Hue said the French cardinal was the first top Vatican official to visit the Southeast Asian country after it was reunified under communist rule in 1975. He made a two-week working visit in 1989. "His historic visit was successful. Government officials and all people of God in Vietnam loved him. His mission became a historic bridge between Vietnam and the Catholic world," Archbishop Linh said.

LABOR DEFENDS COALITION FUNDING PACKAGE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Labor has defended the Coalition's \$1.2 billion Catholic and independent school package it formerly labelled a "slush fund" after the Greens revealed a plan to shut it down.

The Guardian Australia reports Labor will not support the Greens' move to disallow the "choice and affordability" fund, with shadow education minister Tanya Plibersek instead welcoming the Morrison Government's restoration of funding for Catholic and independent schools.

Weeks after becoming Prime Minister in September 2018, Scott Morrison announced a 10-year \$4.6 billion funding package to settle a dispute with the Catholic school sector, including the \$1.2 billion fund which was not on the table before Dan Tehan took over from Simon Birmingham as Education Minister.

PLENARY COUNCIL - LISTENING AND DISCERNMENT ONLINE PORTAL LAUNCH

An online portal was launched this week to allow people to submit their discerned response to the Plenary Council for the Listening and Discernment phase, which was also recently opened.

As a part of these developments, people are invited to participate in group discernment on one of the six National Themes for Discernment — a process that can be facilitated by the Listening and Discernment guide, 'Let's Listen and Discern'.

'Let's Listen and Discern', as well as other resources for this new phase, can be accessed on this page of the Plenary Council website: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/listening-and-discernment/>
Additional resources to help people understand the practice of discernment can be found on this page: <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/introduction-to-discernment/>

INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

The Gospel for Sunday is well-remembered, especially the third parable about the father-son split and the sibling rivalry. Parables are delightful to ponder, since there are different angles and possibilities of interpretation. We will know who we are by how comforting or challenging these parables are to us. We are not always the younger son seeking forgiveness after having come to our senses. Sometimes we are the forgiving parent and others the unforgiving and self-righteous sibling. Whoever we are, may we remember that with prayers we will meet Jesus calming us and calling us to receive his welcome.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you raise the dead to life in the Spirit.	Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner.	Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness.	Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.

FIRST READING: *Ex 32: 7-11, 13-14*

The crisis in this reading is Israel's making and worshipping of a golden calf. The God who spoke to Moses is pained by the depravity of the people yet moved to show mercy. God proposes to start all over again with Moses. The reading portrays God's essence of unconditional love for his people.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

Response: I will rise and go to my Father.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. My sacrifice is a contrite spirit; a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. (R.)

SECOND READING: *Tim 1: 12-17*

Paul reflects on his own personal experience and God grace. Paul portrays himself as a model of God's entire outreach to a sinful humanity. Paul's whole mission is energized by this personal discovery of the nature of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia! alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL : *Luke 15: 1-32*

The Gospel parables set up contrasting attitudes of the religious (Pharisees) as well as the sinners (social outcasts). The Gospel points out that there is room at Jesus' table for everyone. All are welcome, but it means accepting Jesus' table companions. Is this too much to ask?

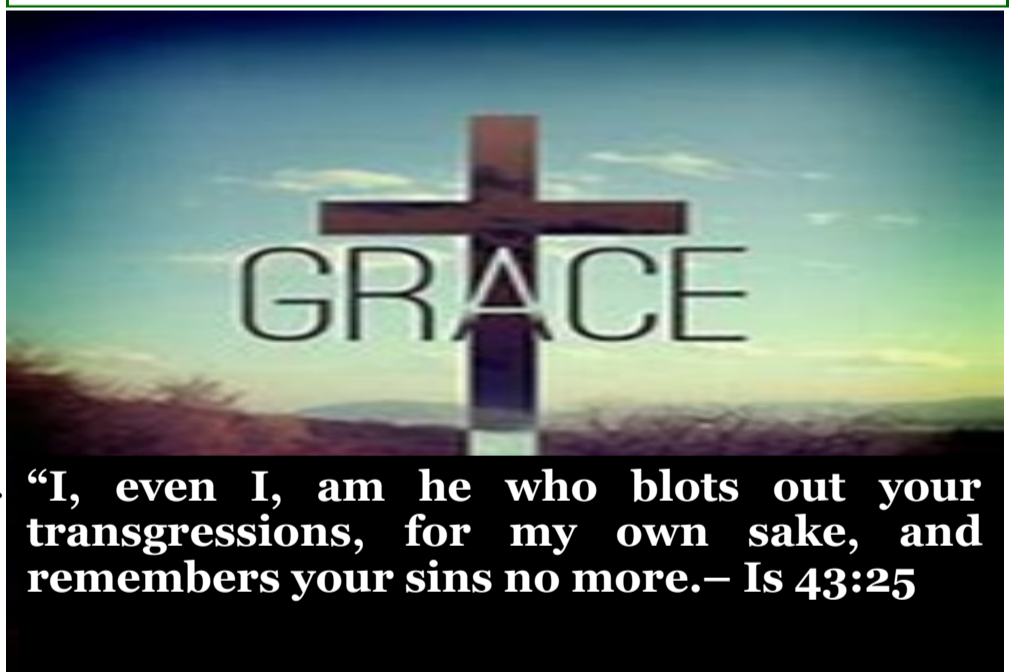
NEXT WEEK: 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - C

First Reading: Amos 8: 4-7; Second Reading: 1Tim 2: 1-8; Gospel: Luke 16: 1-13

MARRIAGE COUNSELLING



**"You forgave him for that last week.
When you forgive and forget,
you're not allowed to forget you forgave."**



"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.— Is 43:25