



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

This is a story of the day labourers of Jesus' time. The 'early birds' contracted for the just wage of one denarius and did the hard work over the course of a long day. They were outraged when latecomers also received a denarius.

This little parable circulated in the Christian community of the first century because there was great antagonism between the Jews who became followers of Jesus and the non-Jews, the 'Gentiles'. Jewish Christians looked at their long history of hardship preparing for the coming of the Messiah. And, now, here were these Gentiles who had done nothing by comparison, and God appeared to be granting them whatever it took to enjoy the 'daily bread' of the Kingdom of God.

Jewish Christians had to be shocked out of *their* idea that God's grace could *not* be lavished on those outside the boundaries of the Chosen People.

We could pause to pray to be taken by happy surprise by those billions of people outside the Church who, by the grace of God, will share with us 'the Bread of Life', given for the salvation of *all* the world.

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.'

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The Living Word

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

20 September 2026

First Reading Is 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

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. 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. (R.)
2. 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. (R.)
3. 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. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 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 See Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Gospel Mt 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

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Office Hours:

Tuesday morning, Wednesday & Friday 10am -3.00pm

Weekday Masses:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday 9am;
 Friday 11am (Mass & Exposition); Tuesday 7.30pm (Mass & Novena)

Sunday Masses:

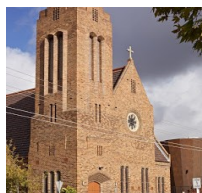
English: Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Chin - Burmese: Sunday 2.30pm; *Tongan:* TBC

Vietnamese: Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm

Confessions:

Saturday 9.30am



MASS INTENTIONS 20 - 26 September 2026

Sat	5.30pm	Biagia Pagliaro RIP Giusesppe Mure RIP
Sun	9.00am	Fr Francis Ryder RIP Sam San Filippo RIP
	10.30am	Giovanna Chiaia RIP Nilo Dioneda RIP
	5.30pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon	9.00am	Fr Francis Ryder RIP
Tues	7.30pm	Parish Intention
Wed	9.00am	All Souls
Thu	9.00am	Tran Thi Thu RIP Maria Vu Thi Hin RIP Giuse Tran Chau Hieu RIP
Fri	11.00am	Parish Intention
Sat	9.00am	Parish Intention

ADORATION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Fridays 12pm - 3pm



Your invitation to come and spend some quiet time with the Lord.

Fr Francis Ryder RIP
PP Our Lady's 1935-1948
Anniversary of death
+21 September 1961
 Builder of our beautiful present day church in 1941.
 Appropriately, *Ryder Place* bears his name.

First and Last: *Scott Hahn Reflects on 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

The house of Israel is the vine of God, who planted and watered it, preparing the Israelites to bear fruits of righteousness. Israel failed to yield good fruits, and the Lord allowed His vineyard, Israel's kingdom, to be overrun by conquerors. But God promised that one day He would replant His vineyard and its shoots would blossom to the ends of the earth.

This is the biblical backdrop to Jesus' parable of salvation history in *today's Gospel*. The landowner is God. The vineyard is the kingdom. The workers hired at dawn are the Israelites, to whom He first offered His covenant. Those hired later in the day are the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, who, until the coming of Christ, were strangers to the covenants of promise. In the Lord's great generosity, the same wages, the same blessings promised to the first-called, the Israelites, will be paid to those called last, the rest of the nations.

This provokes grumbling in today's parable. Doesn't the complaint of those first labourers sound like that of the older brother in Jesus' prodigal son parable? God's ways, however, are far from our ways, as we hear in *today's First Reading*. And today's readings should caution us against the temptation to resent God's lavish mercy.

Like the Gentiles, many will be allowed to enter the kingdom late—after having spent most of their days idling in sin. But even these can call upon Him and find Him near, as we sing in *today's Psalm*. We should rejoice that God has compassion on all whom He has created. This should console us, too, especially if we have loved ones who remain far from the vineyard. Our task is to continue labouring in His vineyard. As Paul says in *today's Second Reading*, let us conduct ourselves worthily, struggling to bring all men and women to the praise of His name.



MEETINGS: Parish Finance Committee - 7pm WEDNESDAY 23 September 2026.
 Parish Pastoral Committee - 7pm THURSDAY 8 October 2026.

Child Safety Reminders: *Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you. Parents please accompany your child if they need to leave the church building. Our parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and the vulnerable.*
Safeguarding Coordinator: James - sunshine@cam.org.au

Week 4	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	M. Boongaling	Althea D'Souza	Omo Sejamitwa/ Tongan Choir	Anitha Kurian
Extraordinary Ministers	Mary Rapa	Geraldine Williams	Anita Mastroianni	Filipino Choir
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Tongan Choir	A. Ramat / Choir
Weekly Counting	John Francis & Michael Payne			

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