



THE SAVING WORD

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

10 NOVEMBER 2024

FIRST READING

1 Kings 17:10-16

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The widow made a little scone from her flour and brought it to Elijah.

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,
jug of oil shall not be emptied,
before the day when the Lord sends
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:7-10. R. v. 2

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, /
who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is
he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord,
who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, /
who raises up those who are bowed down. / It
is the Lord who loves the just, / the Lord, who
protects the stranger. **R.**



3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan /
but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord
will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to
age. **R.**

SECOND READING

Heb 9:24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

*Christ offered himself only once to take the faults of
many on himself.*

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

■ The word of the Lord.

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: R Rodrigues

Lector - Sunday: La Bonne family

Counters: M Beaumont & B Leong

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: S McMillan

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

Upcoming Week's Liturgical Calendar

Mon 11 Nov: St Martin of Tours

Tue 12 Nov: St Josaphat

Sun 17 Nov: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our New Parish Website

Both St Joseph's and Holy Cross Parishes now have their own website.

St Joseph's: www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Holy Cross: www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Although we are partnered parishes, we will for the time being maintain two separate websites. Most information will be replicated. When you visit our website, you can **subscribe** to our weekly News Bulletin via the 'News' tab, or contact the Parish Office.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 87:3)

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 22:1-2)

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill: **Richard Grant, Paulette Dobbin, Eamonn Whelan, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Jenny, John Tempany**

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary & Remembrance: **Vincenzo Scandurra, Graziella Scandurra**

Pastoral Care Appeal: 9 - 10 November

This week's Special Collection is for the Pastoral Care Appeal (previously known as Chaplaincy Appeal), which supports the most vulnerable people in our community. You can also donate using the envelopes available, via www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call 9967 2515.

Communion Service

Instead of 10am Mass, there will be Communion Service at Holy Cross Church on **Thursday, 14th November** as our clergy will be away on a Priests' Retreat.

Thanksgiving Envelopes Ready For Collection

You can now collect your Thanksgiving Envelopes from the Church Foyer if you have registered to receive them. Please note that you will only receive envelopes from November 2024 until end June 2025.

A new batch with dates starting July 2025 will be printed closer to time.



Prayers for World Peace

The Combined Societies of Mary will be hosting the 'Prayers for World Peace' at Holy Cross Church at 1:30pm on Sunday, 10th November with Adoration, Prayers and Holy Mass. Inquiries: Joy Hunt 95092207 or visit www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com.

Fundraiser Dinner Dance at St Anthony's



St Anthony's Fundraising Committee is organising a Dinner Dance on Saturday, 23rd November 2024 at St Anthony's Parish Hall.

Tickets are available at St Anthony's Church foyer or contact the Parish Office. Ticket prices are as follows:

- Adults (15 years+) \$60
- Child (7 to 14 years) \$30
- Child (6 years and under) Free

All proceeds go to St Anthony's Church Maintenance.

Thank You!

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



For those who want to become Catholics, RCIA sessions are held every week on varying days, therefore each week check with our Parish Offices or Newsletter for the updates.

Next session is on this Sunday, 10 November at 7pm at St Joseph's Presbytery, 71 Orrong Rd, Elsternwick.

The Christmas Travelling Crib



What will you pay? Oh Sir, what can a poor man say? The stable's there. At least the beasts their home will share. "Little infant God his will is showing. He would have your poverty knowing!" Now be off! That place will do! What more need people such as you.

There are 7 travelling Cribs seeking a stop-over for two days at the homes of families in the parishes and schools of St Joseph's, Holy Cross and St Anthony's, commencing 1 December until Christmas Eve.

Enrol now using the clipboard placed next to the displayed Crib or contact Fr Pat.

Advent Scripture Reflection

'Advent Scripture Reflection' sessions will be held on four consecutive Mondays at St Anthony's Church, commencing on 25th November 2024 from 7pm to 8pm.

The Sessions will be conducted by Fr Pat and team. All welcome!



Invitation to the Archdiocesan Celebration

Archbishop Peter Comensoli is inviting representatives from each parish to attend the Archdiocesan Celebration on Sunday, 24th November 2024, 11am Solemn Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral.

The representatives will be commissioned to return to the communities with joyful proclamation of the upcoming Year of Jubilee.

The Mass will be followed by a Festival in the Cathedral Grounds which will mark "One Year to Go" until **Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF)** to be held in Melbourne next year.

Please let the Parish Office or Frs know if you are able to represent the Parish at this celebration.

See the Invitation on our Notice Boards.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Generous Widows

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus

Today's first reading and the Gospel appreciate quality-giving over quantity-giving. Two widows are shown there as exemplary givers; one from the Old Testament (OT) and the other from the New Testament (NT). Both proved to be generous and selfless when it came to 'giving'. We would think, unless we have plenty in stock, we cannot be generous givers. The two widows of today's readings have proved that even when we are poor we can be rich in generosity.

If God loves a generous giver, then God himself is generous in the first place. Yes, that's true. God proved to be miraculously generous to both the widows. In the case of the OT widow, the vessel of flour and the bottle of oil could never be emptied. The NT widow was also greatly rewarded for her act of generosity by the fact that Jesus praised her. Today she is being talked about throughout the world, and year after year.

Our contribution, be it much or little, in the form of money, kind, talents, time, good will or work, in whatever form, is always valued and rewarded by the all knowing God. It may escape the notice of people, but God sees and rewards them all. We people are easily impressed by the 'generosity' of the rich, for we look at the amount and easily overlook the sacrifices of the poor, but God reads our hearts and says 'blessed are the poor'.

Why did Jesus value the offering of the widow and did not value the large offerings of the scribes and the Pharisees? Could it be that big offerings are not welcome? If our intentions are good then our offerings are acceptable, little or much does not matter.

Johnny was in grade 3. His teacher was taking a class on the importance of giving away in charity. At the end of the class the teacher asked her students, "Suppose you had a million dollars in your pocket, would you happily give it away in charity?" Everyone including Johnny said, "No problem, we would happily give it away." Teacher continued, "Suppose you had 1000 dollars in your pocket would you give it away in charity?" Everyone including Johnny said, "Yes, we will." "Suppose you had 100 dollars in your pocket, would you give it away?" Everyone including Johnny said, "Yes, surely". "Suppose you had just one dollar in your pocket, would you happily give it away in charity?" Everyone else, except Johnny, said, "Yes, we will happily give the 1 dollar away." Teacher was surprised that Johnny was silent. She asked Johnny, "Why are you so silent this time?" Johnny answered, "Because I actually have a dollar in my pocket."

God loves a cheerful giver - 2 Corinthians 9:7

God bless everyone!

I don't want to brag, but I finished the puzzle in less than a month, while on the box it said 2-4 years.



St Vincent de Paul Society
CAULFIELD SOUTH & ELSTERNWICK *good works*

Now available for sale after weekend masses:

2025 Columban Calendars: \$10.00 each

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 12:38-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

This poor widow has put in more than all who contributed.

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

GIVING ALL

The high cost of living is a constant lament today, but being poor seems a timeless condition. Despite efforts over thousands of years, poverty has never been eradicated. Yet our readings today speak of great generosity that emerges out of poverty. Our first reading tells of Elijah asking a widow for a little water and a scrap of bread. He asks this of one with so little: a handful of meal and a little oil. Her willingness to share brings about a miracle.

This widow is paired with another unnamed widow in today's Gospel. The term 'widow' could describe a woman without a husband, father, or male relative. As such, she had no means of financial support. These widows are among the poorest of the poor. At the treasury, this widow is observed as most generous. We are invited to see what Jesus sees as he sits opposite – rich people putting in large contributions and one widow putting in two small coins, translated in Greek as two *lepta*, but understood as two bronze mites of Judea that are the smallest denomination. In Australia there is no longer a one cent coin but that might be a fair comparison.

The point is that these two mites are all the widow has. She does not hold back; she gives all. She gives her whole life and is a model for the disciples. Jesus is moving toward his passion and death where he will give everything, and his disciples are being asked to do the same, trusting in God. What about us?

Dr Rosemary Canavan