



SUNDAY 30TH MARCH, 2025. 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT. YEAR C

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL (LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32)

Unfailing forgiveness and arms open to welcome back wayward sons and daughters is a key motif in today's Gospel story. There is no room in the hearts of Jesus' critics for such forgiveness: upright law-abiding people should exclude "sinners" from their company.

In a first-century Jewish context, it was easy enough to be a sinner. Whole groups of people, depending on their occupation, fell into that category simply because they failed to observe one or more of the 618 prescriptions of the law. Jesus' response to critics is the story of a parent whose adult children lose their way.

One son finds his way back to the centre of family life and the support of the wider community while the other more law-abiding son seems to place himself outside the family circle, holding on to the resentment he feels at his sibling's return.

We need to attend to the gaps in the story: there may be daughters as well as sons in the family; there is surely another parent, a mother who shares the heartache of her husband when their younger son requests his share of the estate. To make such a request in this context is tantamount to wishing his parents dead.

The older brother is not disadvantaged: he is assured of a two-thirds share according to the law as well as the ongoing love and support of his family, as his father makes clear.

The contrast between the young man's acquisitive nature and his parents' capacity to relinquish substantial property in the interests of relationship is striking. No motive is offered for the son's readiness to break all his ties and get as far away as he can. In the distant country, he squanders both his inheritance and his identity.

A "severe famine" becomes the catalyst for his change of direction. Famine in any age means devastation of the earth that can lead to displacement, to broken relationships and even to global conflicts.

In turning back, the young man shows no real interest in a restored relationship with his family or ancestral lands.

Rather, he devises a plan that will put food in his belly. He composes a speech about having sinned against his father and against God and about being prepared to share the status of the servants.

Thanks to the expansive heart of an extraordinarily compassionate parent, he does not have to deliver the speech he has prepared. Famine becomes feast.

So it is with our merciful God. We abandon, even betray. We waste the bounty of Earth. Our motives for returning to the sources of love and community are very mixed, and yet our merciful God is ever ready, with our cooperation, to turn famine into feast. For that to happen in our times, we must turn away from our acquisitive, wasteful ways and respond as one to the pain of our planetary home.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Gerardine Larkins and Roger Blair** who died recently;
and for **June Rodgers, Rita Mallia and Francesca Librizzi** whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

Joseph's Corner has a craft stall, **after the 5pm and 9.30 am Masses at St. Augustine's this weekend.** All proceeds from the sale of hand-made items on display will support free counselling sessions for those in need.

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Isaiah 66:10-11
Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 33:2-7. R. v. 9**(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
Let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.**Gospel Acclamation:** Luke 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me". So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

**The Gospel of the Lord.
(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Communion Antiphon: Luke 15: 32

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead
and has come to life; He was lost and is found.

SEASON OF LENT

LIGHT IN THE DESERT: Lenten program

We encourage you to be part of a weekly group
**reflection this Thursday 3rd April at 7pm in the
Presbytery at St. Augustine's.**

Each week includes –

- an excerpt from the next Sunday's Gospel,
- a short reflection
- questions to prompt deeper thought.

The program is designed to bring people together in
prayer and conversation.

WILL ALSO HELP STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross

- at **St. Augustine's on Tuesday evenings
after the 6pm Mass.**
- at **Corpus Christi on Friday evenings at 6pm
in Vietnamese.**

JOSEPH'S CORNER HIGH TEA

Celebrating 25 years of Joseph's Corner's vital work in
the west on **Sunday 4 May 2025, from 2.00pm- 5.00pm**
at Mount St. Joseph Girls' College Maidstone Street,
Altona 3018. Ticket price: \$40 per person. For table
bookings of 10 or any dietary requirements, please
contact Ann Hudson on 0409 901 899.

There will be a selection of classic High Tea savouries
and sweets; tea and coffee service; silent auction and
main room auction; raffle; guest speaker and insights
into the impact of addiction on families.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your support to the church and the clergy.
In line with recommendations of the Priests Retirement
Foundation and Guidelines of the Archdiocese of
Melbourne, the Parish Finance Committee has decided
to revert to 2 distinct collections during Sunday Masses
starting on **5th May 2025.**

THE FIRST COLLECTION will be for the PRESBYTERY.

- goes to the support of the priest
- support for sick and retired priests
- support for priests on special duty
- support for the Archbishop

SECOND COLLECTION – ENVELOPES – for the CHURCH

Support of local Parish, Administration,

Daily running of the Parish and Pastoral outreach.

Our new envelopes will be single envelopes for the
support of the Parish.

Now is an opportunity for people to register as
parishioners and sign up to commit to regular giving.

With the cost of printing envelopes, we are encouraging
people to set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank
accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, using the
account details below.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S YARRAVILLE PARISH

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:

BSB 083 347 Account No. 638052213

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery Account:

BSB 083 347 Account No. 638051413

CORPUS CHRISTI KINGSVILLE & ANNUNCIATION PARISH

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account

BSB 083 347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account: BSB 083 347 Account No. 638051413

We suggest **monthly** to be the most efficient way to
contribute. This can be done separately for Church and
Presbytery accounts. Thank you for your support to our
Parish. It is appreciated. Fr. Werner.

SAFEGUARDING MEETING

Wednesday **2nd April at 6pm** in the Presbytery.

Thank you to the volunteers who have completed and
provided the Parish with all the requirements mandated
by the Archdiocese.

SAVE WITH CDF COMMUNITY FUND

By opening a savings account or Term Investment, not
only will you receive a competitive financial return, but
your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms,
hospital wings, aged care homes and social service
facilities. With competitive interest rates available across
a range of savings accounts, including 5.10% p.a.* on a 6-
month Term investment, it's a way to save while doing
good. To find out more, visit
www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer
or speak to us on 1800 134 135

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Werner Utri

Mobile No. 0401 158 113

Parish Website:

www.melbcatholic.org/yarraville

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Pat Mc Laughlin

patmac766@gmail.com

PARISH CHURCHES

ST AUGUSTINE'S

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

(03) 9314 7710

yarraville@cam.org.au

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

(03) 9314 5613

kingsville@cam.org.au

LITURGY TIMES

TUESDAY MASS

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation....8.00 am

St Augustine's...9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAYS after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

Thursday April 3rd at

11am at St. Augustine's

PARISH NEWSLETTER

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code below and fill in your details.



PROJECT COMPASSION

You can support Project Compassion through the **boxes or envelopes** or **by calling: 1800 024 413 or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion** or by scanning the QR code on the envelope.

CELEBRITY ORGAN RECITAL –

JOHANN VEXO

Friday 4 April 2025 from 6pm- 7.15pm at **St. Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place East Melbourne.** Johann Vexo (former organist at Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris) is joined by accomplished musician, Damien Rivière.

JUBILEE OF YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

Monday 21 July 2025 – Tuesday 5 August 2025. This pilgrimage is open to Catholics aged between 18 and 30 years. The journey will take in the towns and cities of Italy, culminating in Rome to participate in the Jubilee celebrations. Registrations will close on Friday 11 April 2025.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office. www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTERS FOR THIS WEEK

(29th & 30th March)

4th Sunday of Lent Time C

READERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm Nic Fusca

9.30am Andrea Wilberger

Sam Polzella

Counting..... Les Vella

READERS: Corpus Christi

11.00am Imelda Gibson

Natasha Fernandes

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm..... Frank Galea

9.30am..... Pat Mc Laughlin

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am..... Hong Nguyen

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK

(5th & 6th April)

5th Sunday of Lent C

READERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm Krystyna Biront

9.30am Gerald Bain-King

Anna Messina

Counting..... Krystyna Biront

READERS: Corpus Christi

11.00am Julianna Barr

Mandy Rodrigues

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm..... Joseph De Bono

9.30am..... Agnes Hopmans

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am..... Imelda Gibson

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Baskets are left in the churches for regular donations of non-perishable food for St. Vincent de Paul throughout the year.

Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta sauce, washing powder/liquid, baked beans, spaghetti, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and tooth brushes are always needed.

Many thanks for your generous support.