

The last will be first, and the first will be last.

Mt 20:16



Welcome to

Kangaroo Island Catholic Community

(Part of the Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island Cluster of Catholic Parishes)

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Vol 8 : No 44

KANGAROO ISLAND CATHOLIC PARISH

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NOARLUNGA DOWNS CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY

Phone: 8382 1717

PARISH TEAM CONTACTS

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Josy Sebastian (8382 1717; in emergency - 0452 524 169)

Fr Prathap Katta (A/Priest - 8382 1717)

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mr Peter Clark (8559 5131)

FINANCE

Mrs Helen Mumford (0408 367 009 or kimumford@bigpond.com)

PARISH NEWSLETTER

Mr Peter Clark (8559 5131, paclark@muckra.com.au)

(All items for the newsletter must be received no later than Tuesday evening.)

SPONSORSHIP

KANGAROO ISLAND TRANSFERS (0427 887 575) generously donate transport for our visiting Priests.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection Unit 8210 8159

WEEKEND MASSES

This weekend Mass will be held at Kingscote at 9.30am.

With the introduction of Level 3 restrictions (1 person per 2sq.m) we are permitted up to 78 people in our Church, so there will be no need to book in ahead.



FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

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

The Lord is near to all who call him.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

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

Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

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.

(Continued page 4)

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Greg Turner, Roy Gatton, Josh Semler.

September anniversaries: Frank Berden, Mary Bowery, Gwen Caldicott, Audrey Carslake, Peg Dow, Thomas Drane, Bernadette Florance, Christopher Glynn, Loretta Hartley, Catherine Hughes, Patrick Hughes, Pearl Malycha, Elvie Meaney, Dean Larcombe, Julia Martienses, Eeileen Morris, Reginald Pahl, Maise Rooney, Vera Shannon, James Smith and all the faithful departed.

May all our sick parishioners, relatives and friends know the healing love of Christ through our actions and His healing presence.

ROSTERS

Reader	Prayers	Cleaning
20/9 K Hammat	L Grant	K Williams

COLLECTIONS DIRECT PAYMENTS

If you would like to organise your Church donations via scheduled bank or Archdiocesan transfers and need some help, please contact Helen Mumford or Peter Clark.

PARISH MASSES

With the introduction of Level 3 restrictions (1 person per 2sq.m) we are permitted up to 78 people in our Church, so there will be no need to book in ahead.

However, we are still required to:

- Sign-in on entering the Church
- Continue using hand sanitiser
- Continue regularly wiping surfaces and cleaning our Church
- Encourage those who are unwell or vulnerable to stay home
Avoid physical greetings: hugs, kisses and handshakes.

COVID MARSHALS

From 21 August all Mass centres must have an appropriately-trained COVID Marshal in attendance during services, ceremonies and events. The COVID Marshal counts the number of people on site to ensure the Church capacity limit is not exceeded, ensures that parishioners sign on as they enter the Church and that hand sanitiser is readily available. They will also be reminding people to maintain 1.5 metres physical distance.

September is Catholic Charities month

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Putting Compassion Into Action

Making a difference to the lives of South Australians since 1941. Please support the Catholic Charities 2020 Appeal – pick up a brochure from parishes in September or make a donation online at www.adelaide.catholic.org.au or via Catholic Charities Appeal, Reply Paid 912, Adelaide SA 5001.

For more information please call Annie O'Neill, Manager Catholic Charities on 08 8210 8157 or visit Catholic Charities pages on the website: www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/charity-and-giving/catholic-charities/about-catholic-charities- Donations of more than \$2 are tax deductible.

STOP MODERN SLAVERY SA PETITION

To generate interest and support for the "Stop modern slavery SA" campaign, an online petition has been started. It is another way for people to add their support for the campaign. Click on link to view petition <https://www.megaphone.org.au/p/stopmodernslaverySA>.

After you've signed the petition, please also take a moment to share it with others.

OUTDOOR MASS - CELEBRATING THE SEASON OF CREATION

Join Archbishop Patrick O'Regan and the Catholic Council for Integral Ecology for an Outdoor Mass to celebrate the 'Jubilee of the Earth' in this Season of Creation. Set to take place in Mercy Grove, the Catholic Garden within the picturesque Belair National Park, the Mass will take place at 2pm on Thursday September 24. Bookings are essential to comply with National Park capacity limits. Go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BLLHO> to register your place.

For full details (including map) see attached [flyer](#). Please note: the Mass will take place in an off-road section of the park and terrain is not level or landscaped. There is some walking required to get to the location and flat, covered walking shoes are required. Further enquiries, please contact Sarah Moffatt at the Catholic Diocesan Centre (8210 8210).

HEART FOR HIRE

RCIA Catholics often report that they feel somehow inferior to cradle Catholics. Having come to the church as adults, they don't share the parochial-school history and enculturated Catholic memories that veteran members of the church have. In the same way, younger people feel left out of the pre-Vatican II storehouse of comparisons that the post-conciliar crowd is always using as a reference point. Latecomers in any arena can feel that their presence and commitment is less authentic. They don't have the battle scars to compete for acceptance.

Jesus doesn't hire by the years or the scars, happily, but by the heart. Having heard Mass in Latin doesn't make one more genuinely Catholic and wearing a plaid uniform for eight years in not a certificate of authentic faith. Punching the clock doesn't make us disciples, but rather answering the call. The vineyard needs labourers. The only labourers who count are the ones whose hearts are for hire, and not just their time.

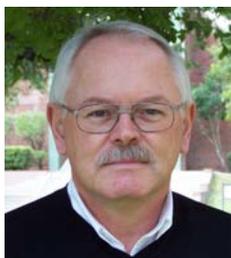
How long have you been a member of the church?

How much of that time have you been authentically invested in a life of faith?
GPBS eNews

POINTLESS SIGNS

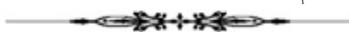


- *Whoever called them 'dentures' really missed an opportunity to call them 'substitooths'.*



Ron Rolheiser column

Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He is a community-builder, lecturer and writer. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world and his weekly column is carried by more than sixty newspapers worldwide



MOVING BEYOND MISTAKES AND WEAKNESSES

The excusable doesn't need to be excused and the inexcusable cannot be excused.

Michael Buckley wrote those words and they contain an important challenge. We're forever trying to make excuses for things we need not make excuses for and are forever trying to excuse the inexcusable. Neither is necessary. Or helpful.

We can learn a lesson from how Jesus dealt with those who betrayed him. A prime example is the apostle Peter, specially chosen and named the very rock of the apostolic community. Peter was an honest man with a childlike sincerity, a deep faith, and he, more than most others, grasped the deeper meaning of who Jesus was and what his teaching meant. Indeed, it was he who in response to Jesus' question (Who do you say I am?) replied, "You are the Christ, the son of the Living God." Yet minutes after that confession Jesus had to correct Peter's false conception of what that meant and then rebuke him for trying to deflect him from his very mission. More seriously, it was Peter who, within hours of an arrogant boast that though all others would betray Jesus, he alone would remain faithful, betrayed Jesus three times, and this in Jesus' most needy hour.

Later we are privy to the conversation Jesus has with Peter vis-à-vis those betrayals. What's significant is that he doesn't ask Peter to explain himself, doesn't excuse Peter, and doesn't say things like: "You weren't really yourself! I can understand how anyone might be very frightened in that situation! I can empathize, I know what fear can do to you!" None of that. The excusable doesn't need to be

excused and the inexcusable cannot be excused. In Peter's betrayal, as in our own betrayals, there's invariably some of both, the excusable and the inexcusable.

So what does Jesus do with Peter? He doesn't ask for an explanation, doesn't ask for an apology, doesn't tell Peter that it is okay, doesn't offer excuses for Peter, and doesn't even tell Peter that he loves him. Instead he asks Peter: "Do you love me?" Peter answers yes – and everything moves forward from there.

Everything moves forward from there. Everything can move forward following a confession of love, not least an honest confession of love in the wake of a betrayal. Apologies are necessary (because that's taking ownership of the fault and the weakness so as to lift it completely off the soul of the one who was betrayed) but excuses are not helpful. If the action was not a betrayal, no excuse is necessary; if it was, no excuse absolves it. An excuse or an attempt at one serves two purposes, neither of them good. First, it serves to rationalize and justify, none of which is helpful to the betrayed or the betrayer. Second, it weakens the apology and makes it less than clean and full, thus not lifting the betrayal completely off the soul of the one who has been betrayed; and, because of that, is not as helpful an expression of love as is a clear, honest acknowledgement of our betrayal and an apology which attempts no excuse for its weakness and betrayal.

What love asks of us when we are weak is an honest, non-rationalized, admission of our weakness along with a statement from the heart: "I love you!" Things can move forward from there. The past and our betrayal are not expunged, nor excused; but, in love, we can live beyond them. To

expunge, excuse, or rationalize is to not live in the truth; it is unfair to the one betrayed since he or she bears the consequences and scars.

Only love can move us beyond weakness and betrayal and this is an important principle not just for those instances in life when we betray and hurt a loved one, but for our understanding of life in general. We're human, not divine, and as such are beset, congenitally, body and mind, with weaknesses and inadequacies of every sort. None of us, as St. Paul graphically says in his Epistle to the Romans, ever quite measure up. The good we want to do, we end up not doing, and the evil we want to avoid, we habitually end up doing. Some of this, of course, is understandable, excusable, just as some of it is inexcusable, save for the fact that we're humans and partially a mystery to ourselves. Either way, at the end of the day, no justification or excuses are asked for (or helpful). We don't move forward in relationship by telling either God or someone we have hurt: "You have to understand! In that situation, what else was I to do too? I didn't mean to hurt you, I was just too weak to resist!" That's neither helpful, nor called for. Things move forward when we, without excuses, admit weakness, and apologize for betrayal. Like Peter when asked three times by Jesus: "Do you love me?" from our hearts we need to say: "You know everything, you know that I love you."

You can read, or download, Ron Rolheiser's weekly columns from his website at: www.ronrolheiser.com

COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS

(The following conditions apply for the time being)

- Attendance for mass is dependent on the 1 in 2 sq.m rule restriction.
- This number also applies for funerals and weddings.
- Except for families and household groups, people should socially distance.
- There should be no physical contact outside one's family or household group.
- There should be no shaking of hands or holding hands during the Mass.
- Every gathering must record contact details. Logs are located at the entrance to the Church.
- Hand sanitizer is to be available at church entrances.
- Precious Blood will not be distributed.
- No collection plates or hymn books are to be passed around.
- Communion is given only in hands.
- Holy Water is not available at the doors of churches.
- All surfaces should be cleaned at least daily, with special attention given to frequently touched surfaces.
- Sick and high risk/vulnerable people should be encouraged not to attend.
- Collection plates will not be passed around but a single drop point is provided at the churches.
- Offertory procession will be omitted.
- Care should be taking at the dismissal and on leaving the church to minimise social contact.
- The obligation for Sunday Mass for the laity HAS NOT BEEN RE-INVOKED at this stage.

KANGAROO ISLAND PARISH

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(www.willungaparish.org.au)

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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.'

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the Greco-Roman world, casual labourers used to gather in the agora or town-square waiting for employers to hire them.
- In the early Church there was sometimes a jealousy between those who had believed in the risen Christ from the earliest days and thus suffered persecution for their faith and those, especially Gentiles, who came to belief later on.

EXPLORING THE WORD

This gospel offers yet another challenge to human ideas about what is just and reveals the generosity of God. The Master makes a point of having those who came last, paid first. One must imagine the queue, with the newly arrived workers at the head and those tired from a full day's labour watching as the late-comers are paid in full. In many ways, the audience is drawn into sharing their disappointment and indignation. If those employed early had been at the head of the queue, they would have gone off happy with their contracted wage.

The problem arises only when they see the late-comers reaping the same reward. This is an indication of a problem which has arisen in Matthew's community. Those Jewish Christians who have risked all and believed from the beginning, are now seeing the new-comers to faith being offered the same reward. Jesus' answer is simple: the kingdom is God's. God can do as he likes and what God chooses is to welcome all and offer reward to all who come to belief, no matter at what stage.

LIVING THE WORD

The 'vineyard' in the Hebrew Scriptures always referred to Israel, the people of God, while the 'master' was God himself. This parable would have been clearly understood to be about being gathered into God's people and who was welcomed into the kingdom. The unbounded generosity of God is highlighted.

- In what ways are we able to offer generosity to new-comers in our parish or local area?
- What welcoming ministries exist in our parish for those who move into the area or for new migrants?
- Who are the people in our society who are in need of generosity and welcome?

THIS WEEK'S READINGS (21 - 27 September)

- **Monday, 21:** St Matthew (Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13)
- **Tuesday, 22:** Weekday, Ord Time 25 (Prov 21:1-6, 10-13; Lk 8:19-21)
- **Wednesday, 23:** St Pius of Pietrelcina (Prov 30:5-9; Lk 9:1-06)
- **Thursday, 24:** Weekday, Ord Time 25 (Eccl 1:2-11; Lk 9:7-9)
- **Friday, 25:** Weekday, Ord Time 25 (Eccl 3:1-11; Lk 9:18-22)
- **Saturday, 26:** Weekday, Ord Time 25 (Eccl 11:9 - 12:8; Lk 9:43-35)
- **Sunday 27:** 26th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (Ezek 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11; Mt 21:28-32)

PASTORAL CARE

If you need a Priest for anointing of the sick or last rites contact: Noarlunga/Seaford (8382 1717), Willunga (0488 287 552), Victor Harbor/Goolwa (8552 1084), Kangaroo Island (0418 819 078).