

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 15: 26-27

Alleluia, alleluia! / The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, / and you also will be my witnesses. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 10: 26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

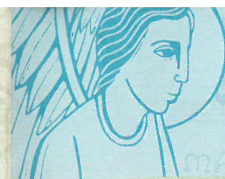
'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Reflections on the Gospel



THE SAVING WORD

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 JUNE 2017

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THOSE WHO KILL THE BODY

Today's Gospel is part of Jesus' mission-sending discourse. Jesus tells his disciples, now functioning as apostles, that the mission is not for the fainthearted. Some people will reject them; others may even try to have them killed. But they should not be afraid of those who kill the body; they cannot kill the soul.

In this saying, we may have a glimpse of the Greek distinction between the immortal soul and mortal body. But it is perhaps better to see 'body' and 'soul/life' as two aspects of the one human being, not two parts. The saying is thus interpreted: human beings cannot kill life itself – real life, that is. Only God can destroy the body and the life given it. The 'one who can destroy' refers to God and to no one else, not even the devil. The Jewish rabbis would put it thus: the killing by a king of flesh and blood is not an eternal killing, but the killing performed by the King of all kings is; he kills, for this age and the age to come.

Matthew shares the latter Jewish notion – espoused in the books of Daniel, Maccabees, Wisdom – that the end of the body is not the end of life, because God will give a new body which will live in God's kingdom. The interest here is not the depiction of the state after death, but to call men and women to be without fear in this life, because there is only one who deserves to be feared: God himself. 'Fear of God,' however, is not an anxiety which is often irrational. Fear is a rational avoidance of what can really cause harm – a loss of trust and devotion to God and in Jesus, his Son.

Fr Gil Alinsangan SSP

FIRST READING

20: 10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:

I hear so many disparaging me,
'"Terror from every side!"
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!'

But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be
theirs.

But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with
justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on
them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM Ps 68: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R. v. 14

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, / that shame covers my face, / that I have become a stranger to my brothers, / an alien to my own mother's sons. / I burn with zeal for your house / and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**

2. This is my prayer to you, / my prayer for your favour. / In your great love, answer me, O God, / with your help that never fails: / Lord, answer, for your love is kind; / in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**



3. The poor when they see it will be glad / and God-seeking hearts will revive; / for the Lord listens to the needy; / and does not spurn his servants in their chains. / Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, / the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5: 12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

St MALACHY'S PARISH

APSLEY * EDENHOPE * GOROKE * MINIMAY

25 June 2017, 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Michael Gibbs, Molly Flynn, Grace Egan, John Mulraney, Doreen Fahey, Maria Szeremenda, Thelma Burgess, John Arthur-Bourke, Jimmy Munn

Next weekend 2/7/2017

9am Mass

Naracoorte Mass times (see notice board)

Church Collections from 18.5.2017

Priests Fund: \$309.00

Goroke: \$61.00

Planned Giving: \$35.00

Total for this PG Financial year: \$11, 806.00

Available in Foyer: please take a copy of:

- This week's Bulletin

Parish Diary.

Sun June 18

11am Mass

Thu June 22

Hostel Mass

Sun June 25

5pm Mass

Sun July 2

9am Mass

Sun July 9

10:30 SAWC

Edenhope:

This weekend 25/6/17

Readers

K Neall

Prayers/Psalm

G Clarke

Gifts

K Neall family

Ministers

C McFarlane

Cleaning

B McCarthy, C Heenan

Linen

C McFarlane

Lawns

A Wait

Collection

D Brook, T Heenan

Edenhope:

Next weekend 2/7/17

SAWC

Reader

A Wait

Prayers/Psalm

G Griffin

Gifts

A Wait family

Ministers

D Brook, P Clarke

Cleaning

Linen

B McCarthy

Lawns

D McCann

Collection

A Mahoney

This week at St Malachy's

Monday: Year 6s performing their 'Drum Beat' routine at assembly. Parent invited.

Tuesday: Parents Association meeting 3.30

Friday: early finish (2.20)

Thank you to all Parishioners who take up the collection each week. Thank you also to those who take charge of the funds, record the information and deposit the money in the Bank. We appreciate your confidence, reliability and diligence in this important ministry.

Fr John's Corner

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS: All our parish websites contain a series of documents relating to the new Child Safe Standards which became Victorian state law at the beginning of 2017. Hopefully parishioners have had a chance to read these on the Internet and/or review the hard copies of the same documents in the bright coloured folders stored in the back of all our churches. Someone will be talking further on this matter on a Sunday in July.

The World Council of Churches publishes a periodical newsletter on Victorian Child Safe Standards. Copies of the February and May Editions are available on the parish website. Again – much useful advice. The diocese has provided this information for all parishioners. The question we're obliged to ask is, "Are we, the parishioners of St Malachy's, aware of our new responsibilities in Child Safety?" Perhaps the most important item is the flow chart displayed in the church porches: – "IF YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT CONCERNS YOU SAYSOMETHING."

– John Donegan, Parish Safeguarding Officer for the Western Ministry District.

Thank you to each member for stepping up to this important leadership role in our Parish. The PPC has an important role in shaping pastoral activities that enable our Parish to be active and engaged.