



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

18 OCTOBER 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me.

Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 95:1, 3-5, 7-10. R. v. 7

R. Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, / sing to the Lord all the earth. / Tell among the nations his glory / and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, / to be feared above all gods; / the gods of the heathens are naught. / It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**

3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, / give the Lord glory and power, / give the Lord the glory of his name. / Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**



4. Worship the Lord in his temple. / O earth, tremble before him. / Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' / He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia! / Shine on the world like bright stars; / you are offering it the word of life. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

WHO IS OUR GOD?

Homilists today may be tempted to use this Gospel as an encouragement to honour taxation: every citizen contributes to the common good, and perhaps parishioners might even be urged to contribute a little more to the parish coffers. After all, Jesus does say, 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar!' While we certainly have a responsibility to support those social structures that advance the common good, and to assist those who struggle, something more troubling is at work in this Gospel.

The setting is the Temple Mount, where Matthew presents Jesus undergoing a theological trial before religious leaders and guardians of orthodoxy. It is a scene repeated in every generation of Jesus' followers: the attempt by theological rigorists to indict those whom they regard as out of step with orthodox teaching. Jesus refuses the premise of their question. Instead, he asks them to produce the coin used to pay the tax and to identify the figure and inscription upon it. 'Caesar's,' they reply.

Here lies the real issue. These religious leaders publicly champion the Torah's fundamental confession that there is only one God. Yet, in Israel's most sacred place, the Temple, they carry an image of the god-king Caesar. Their actions contradict the faith they claim to defend. Thus, today's Gospel is not primarily about the lawfulness of taxation. It is about fidelity to the Divine One. Beneath the question of what belongs to Caesar lies the more searching question: Who is our God, the One to whom our ultimate love, allegiance and obedience belong?

Fr Michael Trainor

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!

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"To grow in discipleship of Jesus and go make disciples"

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Or: safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au



Ordinary Time

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday Vigil – 6.00pm @ Sacred Heart

Sunday – 7.30am @ Our Lady of Good Counsel, Chidlow
– 9.30am @ Sacred Heart

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday 8.30am

Wednesday 8.00am

Thursday 8.30am

7.00pm Men's prayer group

1st & 3rd wk of the month

Friday 8.30am

9.00am Adoration, Confession

Saturday 8.30am

9.00am Rosary & Cenacle

Reconciliation:

Friday 9.00am (Sacred Heart)

Saturday 9.00am (Sacred Heart)

1st Wednesday of the month 12-1.00pm

(Our Lady of Good Counsel, Chidlow)

Or any time by request

Parish Cuppa:

Mundaring: 1st Weekend of the Month

Chidlow: Following each Sunday morning

Mass ALL WELCOME!

For information about Baptism or other sacraments please visit our website, email or phone the parish.

Upcoming Weekday Mass Feasts:

Saturday Votive Mass BVM, p2224

Is Halloween a Pagan Holiday? Should We Boycott It?

Joe Heschmeyer from Catholic Answers is clear, All Hallows E'en is Christian and the accusations of it being a pagan holiday don't stack up on a historical level. Which is often the tired accusation that gets levelled at all Christian feasts, even Christmas and Easter. Search the above title, or scan the code here to watch the full explanation.



Do you know someone who is unable to be at Mass but would like to? As well as exploring transport or arranging to bring Holy Communion, a visit for the sacrament of Confession or perhaps the Anointing of the Sick can also be arranged.

PARISH ACCOUNT DETAILS:

1st Collection: Priest upkeep

'The Roman Catholic Archbishop'

BSB: 086006

A/C #: 985196641

2nd Collection: Parish upkeep

'The Roman Catholic Archbishop'

BSB: 086006

A/C #: 673418807



SCAN ME

You can head to our website and securely donate online. Simple and easy.



Card facilities at the back of the Church for your convenience.

PRAYER CORNER

Prayer Intentions for the sick

Trevor Clark

Eric Nordberg

Bonnie Brown

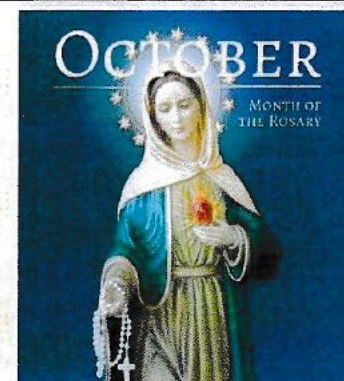
Helen Ball

Nancy Dawes

Andrew Azzaro

Tess Howden

Bill Makely



Take up the Rosary!

NEWS, EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

A GREAT IDEA FOR NOVEMBER MASS INTENTIONS:

Would you like a Mass or a series of Masses offered in memory of a loved one? Would you like to support missionary priests in persecuted communities to continue the work of the God's Kingdom in places like Syria, Iraq, Mozambique?

You can send an intention along with a stipend in gratitude for their ministry, which is also a practical way to unite yourself to the sacrificial nature of the Mass.



SCAN ME

Flyers are in the foyers, but you can simply scan the above QR or head to their website:

<https://aidtochurch.org/ways-to-give/mass-offerings>

"We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the House of the Lord." - St Ambrose

(Early Christian bishop and mentor to St Augustine)

Help one of the 40000+ poor priests and their needy missionary communities



- OCTOBER 31st FAMILY EVENT. Evening Vigil of All Hallows or All Saints.** You are invited to bring a plate to share. After dinner, a short film on St Therese will be shown, and a chance to learn about All Hallows Traditions and kids can take home a Saint-themed loot bag! To assist catering, especially for children, please RSVP to: mundaring@perthcatholic.org.au

- TEENS INVITED TO JOIN FOR DINNER AND A PLANNING EVENT on Friday 23rd October at 630pm** at the Church. A chance to come together, have some fun, pack some Saint-themed loot bags and help plan a fun night for Saturday 31st. Pizza supper provided.

Jesus often used to teach by cautionary parables, like the rich man and Lazarus: *let's not be like that rich man, we learned!*

Well: have you heard of *Stingy Jack*? Of *Jack of the Lantern* fame? This was an entertaining but cautionary Christian tale of vice and virtue, of which Stingy Jack similarly shows us to avoid hardening our hearts against charity.

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION gathering at 1045, after the 930am Sunday Mass:

How do we live the faith? How do the 10 commandments protect how we love God and neighbour? All are welcome to come discuss and learn, and your participation is a concrete support and aid in the work of evangelisation.

From One Seed, a World of Hope

Your Invitation to Mission in 2026



CATHOLIC MISSION ANNUAL APPEAL W'END

Distinct from Caritas and Project Compassion, **Catholic Mission is the Pope's international Mission agency for both Australia and beyond.** While assisting in some humanitarian projects, Catholic Mission importantly contributes funding and project support to critical Church-run initiatives involving children, communities, church leaders and formation for mission. Let us support Catholic Mission generously.

Envelopes on the pew can be placed into the collection basket.

Would you like the Pilgrim Statue of Mary to visit your home? Please contact the parish or Fr Stephen if you would like to have our parish pilgrim statue visit your home.