

The Living Word

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

25 August 2024

First Reading Jos 24:1-2, 15-18

We will serve the Lord God, because he is our God.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-3, 16-23, 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. The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from
the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. (R.)
3. They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R.)
4. Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)
5. Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be
condemned. (R.)

Second Reading Eph 5:21-32

This is the great mystery, it applies to Christ and the Church.

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and

sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!*

Gospel Jn 6:60-69

Lord, whom shall we go to? You have the words of everlasting life.

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.
The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.'

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

I remember seeing a James Bond film in which the Voodoo priest could summon the Living Dead – called Zombies – people hovering between life in the grave and life above ground level, but ultimately trapped as human beings living a grave-dominated existence.

There are billions of the Living Dead around the world. People, apparently like you and me, but in fact living with the belief that the grave will mark the extinction of their life.

But our ears are attuned to pick up words which sound the possibility of a different destiny, a different reality. We have heard a voice which speaks the truth, a voice which speaks of a more beautiful reality. That voice says that you and I, individually, personally, are star dust with a marvellous destiny: a destiny that will see our ensouled bodies transformed, transfigured, translucent with Divine Light and energy.

The voice is that of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We hear that voice from within the Church, which has transmitted the tradition of 'The Voice' for twenty centuries.

Heeding that Voice, I move from the company of the Living Dead to the companionship of the Conqueror of Death. I am no longer a 'Dead Man Walking' but a man alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

That is why when I hear the challenge: 'Do you also wish to go away?' I enter into that tradition and answer with St Peter, I answer in the company of billions of others over twenty centuries: 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.'

We could pause for a moment and pray that, living in the tradition of the Church, I may hear the Word in the Gospel and take that Word within myself in Holy Communion so that I might be no longer a 'Dead Man Walking', but a human being alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

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Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 85:1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Communion Antiphon: Cf John 6:54

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.
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GOULBURN MISSION

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday ----- 5pm SPP Goulburn
5pm Taralga

Sunday ----- 8am (OLOF), 10 am (SPP)
9am (Crookwell)

Binda -10.30am (1st Sunday)

Marulan - 8.30am (2nd Sun)

Tarago - 8.30am (3rd Sun)

Tuena - Nil until further notice

Bungonia St Michael's: 7pm, Thurs Rosary

CONFESSIONS

SPP: 11.30 -12 (Wed /Thurs/Fri), Sat 4.15pm

OLOF: Sat. 9.30am -10am

Taralga: 4.30pm (1st Sat)

Crookwell: 8.30am (2nd Sun)

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

SPP 11am Fridays

Holy Hour: 2nd & 4th Tuesday 5.30pm OLOF

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday - 5pm (OLOF),

Wed, Thurs, Fri - 12md (SPP)

Sat - 9am (OLOF)

VIGIL MASS: Parishioners!

Next week has the LAST

WEEKEND in winter for 2024. As of Saturday 7th of September the Vigil mass time will revert to 6pm at Christ the King Taralga and St Peter and Paul's Goulburn.



Recently Deceased: Sue Hall, Dianne Conner, Petrina Elliott, Kay Tapper, Jennifer Stewart, Rex Bryant, Pauline Grech, Ronald Jeffrey, Gloria Downey, Michael Carlon, Ron Sykes, Betty Woods, Eddie Hennessey, Peter Whittle, Annamma Jacob, Fr Peter Gannon, Kevin Rudd,

Anniversaries: Daphne Byron, Sally Barrett, Geoff O'Brien, O'Brien and MacIntosh families, Marjorie Ellen Mackay, Phyllis Corby, Reg Bower, John McQuaid, Paul Collins, Sr Marie Jeanne, Keith G Mackay, Maxine Probert, Gregory McIntosh, Christine Mary McCormack, Winifred G Conroy, Des Thistleton, Donna Hogan, Peter Freebody, June Maloney, Bert Steenbergen, Theresia & Alec Orchard, Anna & Antonia Peplowska, Agnes & Ernest Woodward, John and Kim Woodward

Prayers: John Hall, Leslie King, Dulcie Elliott, Dorothy Brewer, Elizabeth, Orchard family, C Steenbergen, Fr Tierney (60th Ordination), Peter Seidel,

DATES FOR THE DIARY

AUG 28: RCIA information evening SPP Pres, 6.30pm

AUG 28: Ex Students St Joseph's morning tea K&GZ 15SEP

SEP 01: RETIRING COLLECTION Father's day appeal

SEP 01: Children's Liturgy St Brigid's.

SEP 7: Women's morning Tea Station room {Workers}10 am

SEP 11: Crookwell Morning Tea 10.30 am

SEP 7: Saturday Vigil mass reverts to 6pm

SEP 28: St Michaels Bungonia Mass 10am

OCT 12: Men's Breakfast 7.30am-9am Tatts

OCT 19: Reunion of orphanages Sat 19th Oct 11am-3pm

OCT 27: Marian Procession Goulburn 10-3

Final Reunion of St John's and St Joseph's

RSVP- phil.merrigan@outlook.com

October 19th 11am-3pm

Kenmore (St Joseph's) Taralga RD

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Gospel Reflection Group Join us to pray the Sunday Gospel every Tuesday from 10-11a.m. SPP presbytery.

Women's Morning Tea

The monthly Women's morning tea returns to the station room at the Workers club, on September the 7th, at 10.am. A guest Speaker will entertain.

27th October 10am - 3pm Marian Procession ,

Volunteer rosters for the annual Marian procession are being filled. Please pop your name on a sheet, or let the office know in what capacity you wish to serve. Many thanks to those of you already assisting this endeavour.

RCIA Information Evening 6.30pm 28th August

Men's Breakfast: 7.30am-9am Saturday 12th October. Guest speaker Fr Michael Lim will discourse on his new book "Who am I in God?" addressing your true Christian identity. Please contact Michael Lamarra to reserve your seat.

WORKING BEE Taralga. Working bee to be held on Sunday 8th September commencing at 10am. Come along and assist, in preparation for the anniversary.

BUNGONIA: St Michael's Church Mass September 28th