



The shrine of St John Paul II

The Communities of St Patrick's East Gosford, St Francis of Assisi Somersby & Holy Trinity Spencer Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.



St Patrick's Gosford
Year of

DISCIPLESHIP

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY

BY BRENDAN BYRNE SJ

Uniting the readings this week is the issue of Christian responsibility to the state.

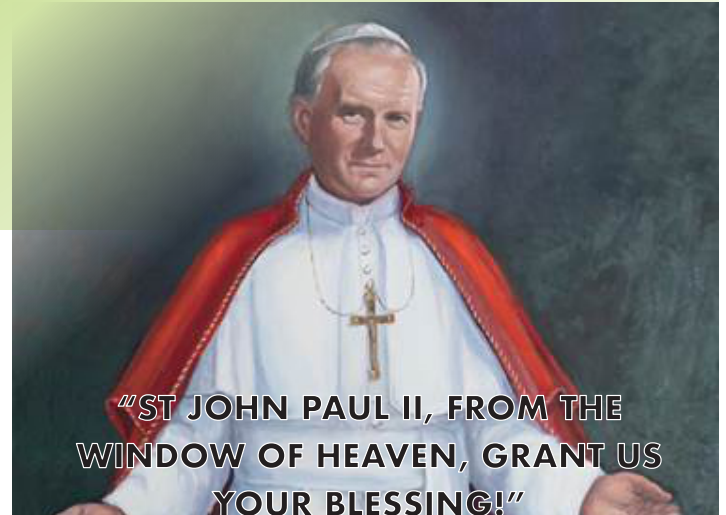
This issue, emerging from the Gospel, has presumably prompted the choice for the First Reading, Isaiah 45:1, 4-6, where the non-Israelite ruler, Cyrus of Persia, is portrayed as God's chosen instrument for the liberation of Israel from exile in Babylon.

Granted the attitude to foreign rulers normally displayed in the Old Testament, this presentation of Cyrus is really quite striking. Just before this passage (44:28) he has actually been called 'my shepherd', a title and a role otherwise reserved for Israel's own kings. What the prophet wants to bring out is that, while Cyrus, as conqueror of Israel's Babylonian captors, is her liberator on a political and military level, at a deeper level he is merely the instrument of Israel's God, now understood to be sole God of the entire universe. Israel's real liberator from her Babylonian Exile, as from her former Egyptian slavery, is the Lord her God.

While this is the what the text principally asserts, implied is also the significant – and for its time, novel – truth that behind foreign rulers, as behind Israelite ones, stands the power and authority of God. This not simply the case in a punitive sense, as when such rulers become instruments of divine chastisement, but also in a saving sense, as is the case here with Cyrus. The positive portrayal of a non-Israelite ruler in this text paves the way for the episode related in the Gospel.

Traditionally, the question put to Jesus in the Gospel, Matthew 22:15-21, concerning the legitimacy of paying of taxes to the Roman Emperor has been the occasion for addressing Christian responsibility to the state. Taken in itself, however, the main point is not to present Jesus giving an instruction on this issue. We are at a point in the Gospel where Jesus, having entered Jerusalem as its messianic king, is engaged in a power struggle with representatives of various groups who, under the overall control of the Romans, currently wield authority in the city. They, rightly, perceive the threat posed by Jesus to their hold upon the people and seek to bring him down. They want to portray him as dangerous to the Romans and also to lessen his authority with the people by getting the better of him in public dispute.

The tax question offers a perfect stratagem to achieve these ends. It proceeds from an unlikely alliance between Pharisees (who, in general, would be hostile to paying



"ST JOHN PAUL II, FROM THE WINDOW OF HEAVEN, GRANT US YOUR BLESSING!"

taxes to Rome) and the Herodians (who, on the contrary, represent the chief collaborators and instruments of the Roman occupation). If Jesus supports the payment of the highly unpopular poll tax, he will lose standing with the people. If he rejects payment, he runs the risk of being identified with groups (such as those later known as Zealots) who were in more or less perpetual rebellion against Rome, and so of appearing as a significant threat to peace and public order.

Jesus' majestic response not only frees him from the dilemma but actually goes onto the offensive against his adversaries. By calling for them to produce a coin with Caesar's image on it he shows them up as people who carry around the offensive coinage, something he does not himself do. In this sense they are revealed as already collaborating whereas his own position is not disclosed.

Then his dual 'Render' instruction throws back the dilemma upon them. They had set the issue simply in terms of obligation to Rome; they had not brought God into the equation at all – though they would claim to be religious authorities. Jesus takes possession of the religious and moral high ground by setting responsibility to the civil power (which he does not deny) within the broader and higher framework of obedience to God.

It is difficult to derive from Jesus' response any clear indication of his attitude to the Roman military occupation. Certainly, he distanced himself from the kind of Zealot fundamentalism that required absolute theocracy in the name of God – a religious attitude all too resurgent in our world today. His followers, especially as portrayed by Luke (Gospel and Acts), would commend a peaceful and loyal existence within the Roman Empire so long as allegiance to Christ Jesus and the Rule of God had priority (Acts 5:29). The later Christian sense of the separation of Church and State has its origins here, along with the recognition that believers have responsibilities in both realms that oblige in conscience before God. – © Brendan Byrne SJ

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention



for October

For the Synod.

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.



FR. FRANCIS JORDAN

I am glad I see a little fire in you – because then the good God still has good things in store for you.

MM Letters , 1899/01/19



ST PATRICK'S PARISH GOSFORD

UNDER THE PASTORAL CARE OF SALVATORIANS
Society of the Divine Saviour
<http://www.sds.org.au>

PARISH PRIEST Fr Grzegorz (Greg) Skulski SDS

ASSISTANT PRIEST Fr Bronislaw (Bronek) Pietruszewicz SDS

PARISH OFFICE
Mon – Thurs: 8:30am – 4:30pm
Friday: 8:30am – 1:00pm
Phone: (02) 4325 1042

PARISH SECRETARY Colleen Kirk
EMAIL: patsgos@acs.net.au

ST POPE JOHN PAUL II PASTORAL CENTRE

EMAIL: JP.II.Centre@bbcatholic.org.au

PASTORAL CENTRE & FORMATION, INCLUDING YOUTH MINISTRY

COORDINATOR Jaimi-Lee Andrews
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ST JOSEPHS Sophie Holliday
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PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON Scott Beattie

PARISH OPERATIONS Eunice Dal Busco

EVANGELISATION Amanda Eades

COMMUNITY Diane Dankwah

DISCIPLESHIP Maisie Tenev

LITURGY Jon Kealy

EX OFFICIO PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS St Patrick's -

St Joseph's - Tony McCudden

St Edwards - Mark Bonnici

PASTORAL CTR INCLUDING YOUTH MINISTRY Jaimi Andrews

FINANCE COMMITTEE Maria Andrzejewska

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER Hilary Pope



If you see any activities involving children or vulnerable adults that concerns you, please email Hilary Pope, our Safeguarding Officer.

EMAIL: hilary.p1@optusnet.com.au

SENIORS MINISTRY: Barb: 4322 0250,
Eunice: 043-827-2141

CHURCH OPEN DAILY 8:30AM – 4:30PM.

STANDARD WEEKDAY MASSES

GOSFORD, 76 YORK STREET EAST GOSFORD

Mon: 9:00am
Tue: 9:00am

Wed: 11:30am
Thu: 9:00am

Fri: 12:00pm
Sat: 9:00am
Devotion to St JP II after Mass

Adoration and Confession 30 minutes before each weekday Mass.

Mass live stream: <https://www.youtube.com/@stpatrickscatholicchurch-g5766/streams>

WEEKEND MASSES INCL CONFESSION 30 MIN BEFORE

GOSFORD, 76 YORK STREET EAST GOSFORD

Sat Vigil: 5:00pm

Sun: 7:30am, 9:30am & 6:00pm

Filipino Mass:

2nd Sunday of each month: 12:00pm

SOMERSBY, 30 LUTANA RD

Sat Vigil: 5:30pm

SPENCER, 4200 WISEMANS FERRY RD

4:00pm 2nd Sat of Month

ADORATION IN OUR CHURCH

BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Mon 8:30 - 9:00am

Wed 11:00 - 11:30am

Fri 12:30 - 3:00pm

Tue 8:30 - 9:00am

Thu 8:30 - 9:00am

Sat 8:30 - 9:00am

ROSARY - PLUS ON LINE DAILY AT 9:00 PM

Mon, & Thu

8:05 am to 8:25 am

Tuesday

8:05 am to 8:25 am: "Right to Life"

Wednesday

10:35 am to 10:55 am

Fridays

11:35 am to 11:55 pm

Saturday

8:05am until 8:25am: 1st Priests & Religious
2nd Mothers & Babies
3rd Persecuted Christians

Sunday

7:05 am to 7:25 am

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

Mon to Thu:

8:30am to 3:30pm

Fri:

9:00am to 3:30pm

ACTIVE GROUPS IN OUR COMMUNITY OF ST PATRICK'S

Cancer Prayer Group

After 9:00am Mass, 4th Tuesday of the Month, in the Jordan room.

Craft Group

9:00am to 12:00pm Every Friday in the Jordan Room

Grief & Loss Support

Please contact Margaret on 0439257817..

Womens Faith Circle

2nd and 4th Friday of the Month in the Primary Learning And Resource Centre 6:00 pm to 7:45 am

MenAlive

7:00pm 1st Tuesday of the month. Mass followed by meeting in the Jordan room.

Seniors Ministry

Meet 1st Tuesday of the month. Enquiries:

Monday Morning Prayer Groups

Prayer Group DVDs 1st Monday of the Month

9:30 am after Mass

Prayer & Bible Discussion 2nd, 4th and 5th Monday of the Month

Prayers for Christian Unity 3rd Monday of the Month

Bible Study - Monday night

7:00pm to 9:00pm Monday, in the Jordan Room, all are welcome!

Divine Will Prayer Group

6:00pm to 7:15pm every Wednesday in the Jordan Room.

Salvatorian Collaborators

3:00pm, 1st Saturday of the month, in the Jordan room.

Paddies - Youth

Years 3 & 4 students, meet every Wednesday during school terms in the Hall 3:00 to 4:30 pm.

Arise - Youth Group

Years 5 & 6 students, meet every Friday during school terms, in the school Library 6:00pm.

Ascend - Youth Group

Years 7 to 12 meet every Sunday night during school terms, after 6:00 pm Youth Mass

Awake - Young Adults Group

18 to 35 year olds meet the last Saturday of each month 7:00 pm in the Jordan Room

NATIONAL CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP STANDARDS

Committed leadership, governance & culture

Key Elements of Standard 1:

- † A Commitment to Safeguarding
- † Promoting a Safeguarding Culture
- † Safeguarding Policies
- † Code of Conduct



UPCOMING EVENTS

*For normal Mass Times see opposite on Page 2
Any exceptions will be listed below.*

Date	Time	Event
Sun 22/10/23	All Masses	Feast Day of St John Paul 1 st Anniversary of the Shrine of St John Paul II See Page 4 for details.
Fri 27/10/23	6:00 pm	Arise Youth in St Patrick's Hall.
Fri 27/10/23	6:00 pm	Korean Mass plus supper in Jordan Room.
28/10/23	9:45 am	Blessing of Animals after 9:00am Mass [9:45am] in front of the Jordan Room.
29/10/23	9:30 am	Family Mass
01/11/23	11:30 am	All Saints Mass
	7:00 pm	at St Patrick's.
	6:00 pm	At St Francis of Assisi Somersby

WE WELCOME BISHOP ROBERT MCGUCKIN

BISHOP EMERITUS OF TOOWOOMBAH

Who will be Concelebrating Mass for the Anniversary of the Shrine of jpii. Please make him feel welcome in the usual way we do at St Patrick's.

NOVEMBER THE MONTH OF ALL SOULS

Prayer for the dead is an essential part of every single offering of the Sacrifice of the Mass. The deceased members of our Church and of our family may be taken from us physically, but our relationship does not cease upon their death. Let us join together to pray for our deceased loved ones who are counting on our prayers on their behalf.

In preparation for November All Souls month, at St Patrick's, you are welcomed to fill in the intentions envelopes available in the Foyer. The names of those souls will be place in front of the Altar during the month of November and intentions for those will be read during each Mass throughout the month.



ROSARIES BEFORE WEEKEND MASSES

DURING OCTOBER

At St Patrick's church we will be saying the Rosary 20 minutes before every weekend Mass. [Saturday 4:40pm, Sunday 7:10 am, 9:10 am and 5:40 pm]

We will of course continue with our Rosary at 9:00 pm.

FR GREG HAS APPOINTED JOHN FRENCH AS THE NEW MEDIA COORDINATOR.

Following Tom Croll's resignation, we are delighted to have John join the team at St Patrick's. John is one of the brothers to Fr Sam French and Seminarian Mathew French.

John has photography, video and live streaming experience plus a lifetime involved in the Catholic church. Tom and John will work together over the coming weeks to ensure a smooth transition of the responsibility to John. Please make John welcome in his new role.

VOLUNTEER'S MASS AND SUPPER

WILL BE HELD ON 7/12/23

Fr Greg invites volunteers to a thank you Mass and supper. All volunteers welcome. Mass will begin at 6:30pm. Supper will be served in St Patrick's hall following Mass.

THANK YOU

JPII CENTRE

Thank Jaimi, our JPII Pastoral Centre Coord, Chris Galea, Ron Begg & the O'Connor family for their work preparing JPII Centre.

VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for all volunteers for taking on their roles today, and all who donated cakes for our after Mass celebration.

ALL THOSE WHO CLEANED THE CHURCH

WE THANK all those who came to clean the church last Tuesday in preparation for the anniversary of the installation of the JPII Shrine. Our church is really sparkling, and to Pam & John McCrae who provided the delicious morning tea that followed. We mention especially, Paul Galea, who came back to clean all the louvre windows on the east and west walls of the church which is a huge job! We have such special people in this parish who are always willing to put up their hand.

WELCOME BACK FR BRONEK

We welcome back Fr Bronek from his holiday. While he was away, he attended a friends' Episcopal Ordination in the Diocese of Los Angeles. We hope that he has returned refreshed and ready to serve our parish.

UPDATING OUR DATABASE

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS

We have been remiss in not recording all years of commencement for our many, many volunteers, some of whom have been volunteering for 50 years! We ask you to please email/contact the office before November 6 with the year [or nearest approximation] you commenced in your ministry/service so that we may update our records. Thank you.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Many people celebrate St. Francis' feast day by having their pets blessed. All are invited to bring their animals, pets, and four legged friends to be blessed on the 28th October, following the 9am Mass.



ALL SAINTS DAY MASS

Mass will be celebrated for All Saints Day on the 1st November. Mass will be celebrated at 11:30am and 7pm for Gosford, and 6pm for Somersby. All are welcome.

REMEMBRANCE MASS & MEMORIAL

REMEMBRANCE MASS

On the 9th of November, at 11am, Fr Greg will celebrate Mass at Point Clare in remembrance of those in our parish that have gone before us.

BLESSING AT MEMORIAL WALL

On the 3rd of November, there will be a blessing of the Memorial Wall on the Northern face of the church in memory of loved ones. The blessing will take place at 12:30pm after Mass.

1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHRINE OF ST JOHN PAUL II

THE FEAST DAY OF ST JOHN PAUL II

22ND OCTOBER

EVENTS AT SHRINE

9:30AM | MASS W/ BP EMERITUS MOST REV ROBERT MCGUKIN

10:45 AM | ROSARY - JOYFUL MYSTERIES

11:30AM | PRAISE AND WORSHIP SESSION #1

12:00PM | ANGELUS

12:10PM | ROSARY - SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

1:00PM | REFLECTION ON ST JOHN PAUL II

2:00PM | ROSARY - GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

3:00PM | DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

3:30PM | STATIONS OF THE CROSS

4:30PM | ROSARY - LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

5:00PM | LITANY OF ALL SAINTS

5:15PM | PRAISE AND WORSHIP SESSION #2

5:45PM | LITANY OF JP II

6:00PM | YOUTH MASS

AFTER MASS 10:30AM-12PM

BBQ | HOSPITALITY | LIVE MUSIC | MARKET STALLS |
PRAYER STATIONS

COFFEE, TEA, REFRESHMENTS ALL DAY



INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE

THE FEAST DAY OF ST JOHN PAUL II

ON THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY
OF THE GOSFORD SHRINE

EVENTS OCCURRING ALL DAY
9:30AM - 6PM

22ND OCTOBER

MAIN CELEBRATION: MASS @9:30AM W/
BP EMERITUS MOST REV ROBERT M MCGUCKIN



Register via the QR Code

MASS
VENERATION OF RELICS
PRAYER
MARKET STALLS
BBQ
HOSPITALITY
MUSIC

PILGRIMAGE FOR 2025

Mark Your Calendars as Fr Greg is Planning a Parish Pilgrimage!
Following in the Footsteps of St John Paul II - Poland & Italy



During the last two weeks of May, 2025 - Rome's Jubilee Year

ALTAR SERVERS END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

To thank our junior altar servers for their help in serving our parish, they will be attending the annual celebration at Clip n' Climb on 29/10 at 11:45am.

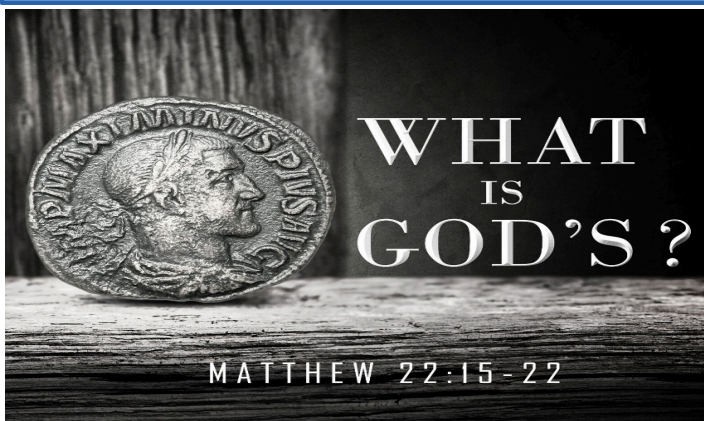


SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE SHOP

AFTER 9:00 AM MASS

IN THE

JORDAN ROOM



JPII CENTRE

DISPLAY ROOM NOW OPEN

Over the last few weeks, our volunteers have been working hard to present for the parish a display room which features the history of the life of St John Paul II. All are invited to visit the room which can be found in the JPII centre.

A special thank you to our volunteers, Jaimi Andrews, Chris Galea, and the O'Connor family.

NEW SALVATORIAN SEMINARIANS DESTINED FOR PRIESTHOOD IN AUSTRALIA

We have two new Seminarians from East Timor who have joined the Salvatorian seminary in the Philippines. Following their seminary studies, they are expected to carry out their priesthood in Australia. We ask you to pray for them during this time of formation.



EVANGELISATION BROKEN BAY

ALL ARE INVITED TO GATHER FOR A WYD REUNION CELEBRATION!

Everyone is invited and all are welcome to attend the upcoming WYD23 gathering celebration, 3 November starting at 6.30p.m. at St Agatha's School Hall, Pennant Hills. Please see attached flyer.



We will have prayer, adoration, music, and food to celebrate the amazing success of our WYD23 pilgrimage. You will be able to gather with your new and old WYD23 friends and reflect on the joy, Magnify - Journey with the Saints has brought to your life.

Please RSVP via the following link

<https://forms.office.com/r/ixhjkczuFd>

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CATHOLIC CARE'S HOMELESSNESS WEEK FUNDRAISER IN AUGUST

CatholicCare
Diocese of Broken Bay

COMBATING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER



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PASTORAL WORKS

WHO DOES PASTORAL WORKS BROKEN BAY SUPPORT?

Donations to Pastoral Works Broken Bay (PWBB) support two key Diocesan ministries. They are the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) and Hospital Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Program. PWBB also supports St Lucy's School and St Edmund's College for students with disabilities and the Ephpheta Centre which supports the deaf community.

PWBB Total to be Raised by Gosford Parish	
60,319	<p>APPEAL 2023/2024 FINANCIAL YEAR</p> <p><i>Our allotted target this year is:</i> \$60,319 to be collected by June 30, 2024.</p> <p><i>Around \$9,667 collected so far. Thank you so much for your generosity to date.</i></p> <p>A long way to go!</p>
60,000	
Collected to Date \$9,667	
Balance Owing \$50,652	
25,000	
20,000	
15,000	

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine
Catechists taking the gospel to State school students.

Hospital Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Practitioners
Helping those who are vulnerable, experiencing loneliness or sick in hospital.

St Lucy's School
Serving year K-12 students with disabilities.

St Edmund's College
Serving year 7-12 students with disabilities.

Ephpheta Centre
Pastoral care, sacraments, and advocacy for the deaf community.

Every gift makes a difference to someone in hospital, school, a parish or the wider community.

GOSPEL PRAYER

Our loving God,
we thank you for protecting us in our daily lives by providing an ordered and peaceful existence. Help us to obey and respect the governing authorities.
But above all, lead us to honour and obey you, our Lord, and to serve you with all that you have given us.
Amen.

GIVE TO CAESAR THE THINGS THAT BELONG TO CAESAR AND TO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf PSALM 16:6,8

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words.

Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 45:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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

This 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.

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.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

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.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

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.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

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.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

SECOND READING

1 THESSALONIANS 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

PHILIPPIANS 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 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.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf PSALM 32:18-19

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

THIS WEEK

Mon Weekday, in Ordinary Time 29

Mass at St Patrick's 9:00 am

Tue Weekday, in Ordinary Time 29

Mass Service @ St Patrick's 9:00 am

Wed Weekday, in Ordinary Time 29

Mass at St Patrick's 11:30 am

Thu Weekday, in Ordinary Time 29

Mass at St Patrick's 9:00 am

Fri Weekday, in Ordinary Time 29

Mass 12:00 noon

Sat Sts Simon and Jude, apostles

Mass at St Patrick's 9:00 am

Sat Vigil 30th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

at St Pat's 5:00 pm

at Somersby 5:30 pm

Sun 30th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Mass at St Patrick's 7:30 am

Mass at St Patrick's 9:30 am*

Mass at St Patrick's 6:00 pm

* Designates Mass is Live-streamed

NEXT WEEKS READINGS

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st: Ex 22:20-26

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51

2nd: 1 Thess 1:5-10

Gos: Mt 22:34-40

GOSPEL COMMENTARY

Traditionally, the question put to Jesus in the Gospel, Matthew 22:15-21, concerning the legitimacy of paying of taxes to the Roman Emperor has been the occasion for addressing Christian responsibility to the state. Taken in itself, however, the main point is not to present Jesus giving an instruction on this issue. We are at a point in the Gospel where Jesus, having entered Jerusalem as its messianic king, is engaged in a power struggle with representatives of various groups who, under the overall control of the Romans, currently wield authority in the city. They, rightly, perceive the threat posed by Jesus to their hold upon the people and seek to bring him down. They want to portray him as dangerous to the Romans and also to lessen his authority with the people by getting the better of him in public dispute.

The tax question offers a perfect stratagem to achieve these ends. It proceeds from an unlikely alliance

between Pharisees (who, in general, would be hostile to paying taxes to Rome) and the Herodians (who, on the contrary, represent the chief collaborators and instruments of the Roman occupation). If Jesus supports the payment of the highly unpopular poll tax, he will lose standing with the people. If he rejects payment, he

runs the risk of being identified with groups (such as those later known as Zealots) who were in more or less perpetual rebellion against Rome, and so of appearing as a significant threat to peace and public order.

Jesus' majestic response not only frees him from the dilemma but actually goes onto the offensive against his adversaries. By calling for them to produce a coin with Caesar's image on it he shows them up as people who carry around the offensive coinage, something he does not himself do. In this sense they are revealed as already collaborating whereas his own position is not disclosed.

Then his dual 'Render' instruction throws back the dilemma upon them. They had set the issue simply in terms of obligation to Rome; they had not brought God into the equation at all - though they would claim to be religious authorities. Jesus takes possession of the religious and moral high ground by setting responsibility to the civil power (which he does not deny) within the broader and higher framework of obedience to God.

It is difficult to derive from Jesus' response any clear indication of his attitude to the Roman military occupation. Certainly, he distanced himself from the kind of Zealot fundamentalism that required absolute theocracy in the name of God - a religious attitude all too resurgent in our world today. His followers, especially as portrayed by Luke (Gospel and Acts), would commend a peaceful and loyal existence within the Roman Empire so long as allegiance to Christ Jesus and the Rule of God had priority (Acts 5:29). The later Christian sense of the separation of Church and State has its origins here, along with the recognition that believers have responsibilities in both realms that oblige in conscience before God



ROSTER — OCTOBER 29, 30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

MASS	VIGIL 5:00	7:30 AM	9:30 AM	6:00 PM	SOMERSBY - 5:30 PM	
DATE	28/10/23	29/10/23	29/10/23	29/10/23	FUNCTION	28/10/23
Audio / Visual	Jackie Wilks	Peter McLean	Tom Croll	Elliot O'Connor	Audio / Visual	MATTHEW XUEREB
Acolytes	Peter Young	Huy Tran	Peter Julius	Mark Bennett	Altar Society	NAI HERFORD
	Hilary Pope	Alan Pont	Tim Dasan	Huy Tran		
Commentator	Maisie Tenev	Eunice Dal Busco	Liz Malik	Kevin O'Donnell	Commentator	MARK BIGENI
Lectors	Megan Neale	Eunice Dal Busco	Joan Vella-Critien	Joseph French	Lectors	ANTOINETTE XUEREB
	Maisie Tenev	Margaret Eadie	Carol Bailey	Peter Forbes		MARISSA XUEREB
Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist	Patricia Anderson	Sheila Evans	Keith Quinn	Rick Llige	Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist	PETER CHIN
Altar Servers	Dominic Chehade		Cara Eades	Veronica Chechelska	Cleaning	
	Christopher Chehade		Alexander Warner	Evana Jose	Altar Servers	MIA XUEREB
	Amin Chehade		Jamie Nardi	Gabriel Guirguis		
			Montana Nardi	Reagan Gomez		
			Victoria Bennett		Flowers	ROSEANNE DOMINELLO
COUNTERS 30/10/23 Trudi Hiep Ron Begg Victoria Milanovic 6/11/23 Trudie Hiep Neryl Tyrrell David Slingsby	ALTAR LINEN P/Up 23/10/23 Aimee Sands Ret'n by 27/10/23 COFFEE SHOP 28/10 Hilary Pope Jan Stinson Cathy James	ALTAR SOCIETY Fri 27/10/23 Helen Moore Colleen Kirk Margaret Dibben	CHILDREN'S LITURGY 29/10/23 Raelene O'Connor Katie Moss	PARISH BUS 29/10/23 Driver Aaron Huckle Helper Helper needed	FRIDAY HOSPITAL 27/10/23 Patricia Mccaskie John Mccrae Bigi Kongola Coleen Martin Denise Nicholson Andrea Petith Joan Vella-Critien Gary Wills	SUNDAY HOSPITAL 29/10/23 John McCrae Nora Koleszar

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SERIOUSLY ILL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY:

Fran Thompson, Cathy Low, Fran Williamson, Emma Wright, Patricia Kociela, Caroline Galea, Brian Connell, Jadwiga Skulska, Maria Ines Ramirez, Alfredo Osorio, Derek Melia, Judith Vale, Paul Jones, Cath Goudie, Jim Smith, Aaron Burke, Cheryl Barany, Margaret Gunnulson, John Bendkowski, Marie Allman, Christine Mary Page, Margaret Eadie, Peter Glow, Robert Clark, Ranjan Fernando, Michael Ludemann, Marie Nolan, Caterina Erbeni, Philip Soady, Sheryl Rogers, Bernadette Humphries, Megan McGowan, Mery-Anne Bonnici, Ross Sayer, Teresa Davar, Susan Milne, Maura Garvey, Anne Holohan, Angela Gibbs, Peter Allman, Pam O'Malley-Jones, Judith Wennerbom.

RECENTLY DECEASED:

Daniel Laskey, Denis Watt, Tamworth plane crash victims: Raphael, Evita, Philomena & Peter Sandra Hassan, Richard Casey, Sr Joanne McCrae, Michael Morris.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Thelma Tate, Connie Mae Vaughn, All souls, Francis Ng Yat Kong, Rhonda Pritchard, Rosa Pirrottina, Melita Waters, Olga Quinn & Sydney Van Ross, Nela & Robert Zdun, Jim Middleton.

REMEMBRANCES

Franciszka Andrzejewska, Fr Patrick McManus, John McManus, Philomena Knapman, Esther Levy, Bryson Dimoviski, Richard Skulski, Skulski & Lucki Families, Tim Keogh, Michael Kokegei.

CONDOLENCES:

Sincere condolences to those who have recently lost loved ones. May the Lord keep them in his loving arms.



MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Mass	Intention	Date	Mass	Intention
Sat 21/10	9:00am Gosford	JPII INTERCESSIONS	Tue 24/10	9:00am Gosford	PRIVATE INTENTION [Fr G]
Sat 21/10	5:00pm Gosford	Healing & Recovery CATHY LOW	Wed 25/10	11:30am Gosford	+ Remembrance FR PATRICK McMANUS JOHN McMANUS & PHILOMENA KNAPMAN
Sat 21/10	5:30pm Somersby	PRIVATE INTENTION [KF]	Thu 26/10	9:30am Gosford	RECENTLY DECEASED DENIS WATT
Sun 22/10	7:30am Gosford	PRIVATE INTENTION [JB]	Fri 27/10	12:00pm Gosford	RECENTLY DECEASED DANIEL LASKEY
Sun 22/10	9:30am Gosford	1. PARISH INTENTIONS 2. + Remembrance FRANCISZKA ANDRZEJEWSKA 3. + Remembrance FR PATRICK McMANUS JOHN McMANUS & PHILOMENA KNAPMAN	Sat 28/10	9:00am Gosford	JPII INTERCESSIONS
Sun 22/10	6:00pm Gosford	Recently Deceased TAMWORTH PLANE CRASH VICTIMS RAPHAEL, EVITA, PHILOMENA & PET	Sat 28/10	5:00pm Gosford	PRIVATE INTENTION [KF]
Mon 23/10	9:00am Gosford	PRIVATE INTENTIONS [JB]	Sat 28/10	5:30pm Somersby	ALL SOULS
			Sun 29/10	7:30am Gosford	+ ANNIVERSARY FRANCIS NG YAT KONG
			Sun 29/10	9:30am Gosford	PARISH INTENTIONS
			Sun 29/10	6:00pm Gosford	+ REMEMBRANCE FRANCISZKA ANDRZEJEWSKA

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