

Diocese of Broken Bay Under the Pastoral Care of the Discalced Carmelites since 2008

11 September 2022, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Mass Times:
Monday to Friday: 9am
Saturday: 9am, 6pm (vigil)
Sunday: 8am, 10am, 6pm
Public Holidays: 9am
Rock Mass: Once a term

Baptism: Third Sunday of each month by appointment
Wedding: Contact Parish Office at least 6 months prior notice
Morning Prayer: Monday - Friday: 8:30am
Anointing of Sick: 2nd Thursday of the month at 9am or by request
Eucharistic Adoration: Saturday 9:30 – 10am concluding with Benediction
Reconciliation: Saturday 9:30am
Rosary: Immediately after weekday Mass and Saturday (8:35am)



Every Friday (during term time)

Lectio Divina facilitated by Fr Greg on Zoom

Second Thursday of Every Month

Anointing of the Sick —9am

First Friday of Every Month

Exposition/Adoration at 7pm followed by Mass at 7:30pm

Tuesday 13 September

Parish Finance Cte Meeting

Thursday 15 September

Parish Social Craft Group
Parish Hall - 10:30am

Carmelite Conversations

Held on a Thursday approximately every two weeks during term time. To find out more please contact Maggie Rodely - 0408 944 050



Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I know longer deserve to be called you son. (Gospel)

Dear Parishioners

Our readings this Sunday are a handbook for learning about God.

We read the words which, in the different contexts of the Old and New Testament stories, seem to say the same things: God is merciful! Our reflection starts with a very well known story about the people of Israel. Their action in replacing the Covenant of Love with worship of a golden calf shows both human weaknesses and the endless patience of God. Despite the chosen people disappointing their leader, Moses, by offending God, God is patient and does not bring on them any punishment. Similarly, what we learn in the responsorial psalm is that God is kind and forgiving. He can purify our hearts and make them his own again. There is even more reassurance about the extent of God's forgiveness for us, who have been sinners, in the letter of Saint Paul to Timothy. The parables in today's Gospel also highlight the mercy of God who searches for all who are lost until they are found. The focus in this story is not how they came to be lost but on God who celebrates their return and shows even more clearly that his love is unconditional and endless. What if the focus in our week to come will be to mirror in some small way God's attitude? What if, this week, we try to find something good in every person we meet, despite our natural reaction to their wrongdoings? What if, this week, we try to be a little more merciful to ourselves? What if...?

May God bless you, Fr Greg Chee, OCD

CONTACT DETAILS

263 Mona Vale Road, St Ives
Phone: 9144 6998
Email: office@corpuschristi.com.au
In an emergency call 9144 6998
Web: www.bbcatholic.org.au/stives
Facebook: Corpus Christi Catholic Church

PARISH OFFICE TEAM

Fr Greg Chee, OCD, Parish Priest
Ed Wales, Parish Finance
Michelle Miles, Office Manager
Jennifer Perrott, Faith Facilitator
Gerri Hadwen, Sacramental Co-Ordinator
Natalie Yeung, Youth Minister

HALL BOOKINGS

Garry McIntosh
0418 162 756 *
Please leave a message if no answer

Corpus Christi Parish School
Phone: 9988 3135, 9988 3136

17 Link Road, St Ives NSW 2075
Web: www.ccsi@dbb.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Jayne Wheen
Email: ccsi@dbb.catholic.edu.au



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 2022/23

Corpus Christi Parish would like to invite you to this year's RCIA program. It is an opportunity for everyone, Catholic and Non-Catholic, to review the formation of the Catholic Faith in the 21st Century. Ever wondered what is the value in being a practising Catholic in today's Church?

In previous years, almost everyone who has attended the sessions has thoroughly enjoyed the interactive lecture experience and the discussion between members. The sessions, run for about 1 to 1.5 hours each week, finishing with tea or coffee and an open discussion. There are about 25 sessions in all and we are hoping to start in mid-September. We take breaks during Christmas and school holidays. The whole course is scheduled to be completed before Easter 2023.

If you are interested, please contact the Halina Pazniewski by phone 0401 319 568. We will respond with dates, agenda and possible session times. **There are no costs involved.**



YOUNG FAMILY GROUP

We are hoping to build up community between the families of young children in our parish. Please join us at our next Pray and Play, on Sunday 18 September, after the 10am Mass. We will share an early lunch together while the children play and adults chat.

If you'd like to find out more, please contact Edith Chan (underscribe@gmail.com) or Charmaine Lubbe (charmaine.lubbe1@gmail.com) for more details.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and show our respect to the Elders past and present . We also wish to pay our respects to all Aboriginal people.

World Youth Day 2023 is a global gathering of Catholic Youth – and it is just one year away! Bishop Anthony Randazzo is inviting you to join him on a pilgrimage to Italy and onto Lisbon, Portugal where thousands of young people will gather for this amazing event.

Register at <https://bbwyd.org.au>



SERRA VOCATIONS MASS AND DINNER MEETING

Father Ed Travers Resident Chaplain to the Benedictine Abbey at Jamberoo and previously External Spiritual Director of the Good Shepherd Seminary Homebush will be celebrating Mass for Serra at Sacred Heart Church Pymble on Thursday 22nd September 2022.

The evening commences with Mass at **6.00 PM** followed by a light meal and a short meeting. **Following the meeting Father Ed will be speaking to us; his topic is "The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist".**

Everyone is welcome. Please "Come and See". Please remember to pray **every day** for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, the consecrated life, ecclesial women, all seminarians, novices, and diaconate aspirants and for the perseverance of existing vocations. Please telephone: Terry Scanlan on **0438 887 295** or email terry_scanlan@bigpond.com if you would like to attend.

FATHER'S DAY MORNING TEA

WAS A GREAT SUCCESS:

Thank you to:

- The Hospitality Committee who arranged the Father's Day morning Tea.
- Michelle in the office for her help.
- The volunteers who helped to set up and brought along food to share and those who assisted some of our older parishioners to mass and morning tea.
- The children who distributed the gifts to the Dads, Grandad's and Father figures.
- Everyone who came to join in, to share food and time with one another.



Social Justice Corner

Aboriginal Catholics and Reconciliation Address

The Justice and Peace Office on behalf of the Archbishop of Sydney, Anthony Fisher OP, invite you to hear the address, 'Aboriginal Catholics and Reconciliation' by *Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann*.

As a leading Catholic educator, pastoral carer and cross-cultural relationship builder, Dr Miriam Rose Ungunmerr Baumann has spent decades sharing her unique knowledge and wisdom about how to live in and relate to this country.

We are fortunate to have Miriam as a Critical Friend of the Reconciliation Action Planning process for the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney. Now Miriam has an opportunity to share with us her reflections on her experience as Senior Indigenous Australian of the Year in 2021, and how she sees the journey of Reconciliation for us all.

Date: Friday, 7th of October 2022

Time: 5:30 To 7:30pm

Venue: St Mary's Cathedral School Hall, 2 St Mary's Rd, Sydney

To register, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aboriginal-catholics-and-reconciliation-tickets-409446334007>

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

St Ives Youth Group is undergoing some changes and will be postponed until Term 4. Stay tuned though, as we kick off in Term 4 for a re-vamp and re-boot! Interested in what this means? Contact the Parish at youth@corpuschristi.com.au to register your child's interest in coming to youth group in Term 4!

POSITIONS VACANT - O.L.D. CHATSWOOD

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Parish, Chatswood is seeking to recruit the following vacant positions:

Business Manager
Parish Services Officer
Administration Assistant
Director of Music
Casual Housekeeper

For more information including on how to apply please visit the **Positions Vacant** page on the Diocese of Broken Bay's website (<https://www.bbcatholic.org.au/contact-us/positions-vacant>) or email recruitment@bbcatholic.org.au

Prayer Zone



Please pray for the ill:

Nicolette Harris; Marshall O'Brien; Helen McCarthy; Quentin Stewart; Rob Sanders; Anne Jardane; Naomi Upton; Vanessa Park; Rebecca Davies; Denise Carmody; Grace Cheah; Elizabeth Walsh; Rebecca Anderson; Maria Garcia; Jose Mestres; Meacheal; Estelle Sok; Thi Nguyen; Victoria; Carmel Hadley; Carmel Hurrell, Mary Sanzone, Fergus O'Brien, Michelle Soumier, Jane Donnelly, Gracie Spencer, Brendan Stone

If you know of anyone who can no longer attend mass due to illness; or if you have noticed one of our parishioners is no longer attending mass, could you please let the office know.

FEAST DAYS— SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 13th, St John Chrysostom, bishop, doctor
Wednesday 14th, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Thursday 15th, Our Lady of Sorrows
Friday 16th, Sts Cornelius, pope, martyr, and Cyprian, bishop, martyr
Tuesday 20th, Sts Andrew Kim TaW-gon, priest, martyr, Paul Chong Ha-sang & companions, martyrs.
Wednesday 21st, St Matthew, apostle, evangelist
Friday 23rd, St Pius of Pietrelcina, priest



PARISH SOCIAL CRAFT GROUP:

A happy group for a relaxing morning every fortnight - bring your own craft or handiwork if you wish. Next get together **Thursday 15 September 2022** @ 10.30am in the Parish Hall. Enq.: Angela 0405 507 982

PARISH BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

First Collection EFT Details

Account Name: Disalced Carmelites
BSB: 012 403 **Account Number:** 300503777
Reference: Your Name

Second Collection EFT Details

Account Name: St Ives Catholic Parish
BSB: 062 784 **Account Number:** 100001798
Reference: SC + Your Name

If you would like to swap to monthly Credit Card giving, please collect a form in the foyer of the church.

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH
REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Dear Parishioners

As with the previous year this year to June 2022 has been another challenging one for our priests, our parish and our parishioners. We are grateful for the wonderful support of our parishioners, many of whom work behind the scenes to assist with the day to day running of the parish. We are also grateful to our office staff who work hard to provide the support services needed to keep the parish going.

Parishioners were advised last year that the diocese intended selling Murphy house, which is the priory occupied by our parish priests. The sale was completed on 10 December 2021, subject to a lease back arrangement until December 2023. This lease back allows the parish time to build a new presbytery and allows our Carmelite priests to remain in residence. The full amount of the lease is being paid for by the diocese. We are grateful to the diocese for this arrangement. As a result, your finance committee together with the help of suitably qualified parishioners formed a sub-committee to work on a plan to rehouse our parish priests in a suitable presbytery. The first meeting of this sub-committee took place in July 2021. A land survey was carried out and plans were drawn up. A full briefing was presented to parishioners on 25 and 28 August.

We were very fortunate to have received two substantial donations towards the building of the new presbytery. One was an amount of \$10,000 from the estate of the late Robert Simpson who was the lead architect on the project. We received another donation of \$100,000 from an anonymous donor and we are most grateful for both those donations. ***If you would like to donate to the building project please contact Fr Greg, Michelle Miles (in the parish office on 9144 6998) or Ed Wales (our finance officer on 0412 626 258).***

On the finance side we suffered a slight deficit that would have been greater but for the generosity of our parishioners. We are pleased to report that the loan taken out for the roof repair and the hall renovations is now paid off, so we have no outstanding liabilities at present. We received two grants from the NSW Government because of the decline in our revenue. This helped reduce our deficit for the year. Our Mothers' Day cake stall raised \$3,660 and we are grateful to Kit Ling Chow and her helpers for organising this. We also thank Kit for arranging the sale of various second hand and used items donated by our generous parishioners and friends. If you have any usable but no longer required items please consider donating them to the parish who can then sell or give the items away to those who are needy.

During the year we said goodbye to Belinda, our office manager, and thank her very much for the contribution she has made to the parish. Michelle has taken over the role and we thank her for taking on this responsibility.

Parishioners will have noticed that a new banner has been put up on the Mona Vale Road side of the church advertising the hall for hire. This has led to several bookings being taken for various events, such as children's birthday parties and other family events. The pandemic has unfortunately severely curtailed our ability to hold social and fund-raising events. Now with very few restrictions in place we are looking forward to holding parish events over the coming year. Parishioners will be advised of all upcoming events as they are organised.

In order to be able to better plan and budget our finances we are slowly phasing out our envelope collection and requesting parishioners to donate by way of a direct debit or by monthly or annual credit card donations. We understand that not all parishioners are comfortable with direct debit arrangements so we will not phase out envelopes completely, but we do ask that if you can and have not already, please consider a direct debit or credit card donation for the second collection. It is this second collection that we rely on for the maintenance of the parish and the growth of our pastoral activities. There is a form at the back of the church for this purpose that can be completed and handed to the parish office.

Our parish continues to follow its mission of seeking to "Evangelise, celebrate our faith, foster community and serve God and each other." Our goal is Missionary Discipleship. We are moving from a maintenance church to a missionary one in keeping with Jesus' great commission: "Go make disciples of all nations, baptise them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teach them to obey all I have commanded you" (Mt 28). In February we were pleased to appoint a parish youth minister, Natalie Yeung, to assist in revitalising our youth. We wish her well in this role. Our mission depends on our parishioners' support and we thank you for your contributions over the last twelve months.

Sacramental programme - The Children's Sacramental Programme is a three stage process that is delivered over a twelve month period. The first sacrament in this programme is Confirmation, followed by Reconciliation and is completed with First Holy Communion, when the children become fully initiated into the Church.

Our thanks go to Gerri Hadwen, our Sacramental Co-Ordinator, for the wonderful work she has done in working with the families to prepare the children for the sacraments. Over the year we had 83 children through the programme, 42 for confirmation and 41 for first Reconciliation. The children came from both our local Corpus Christi Parish School and the state schools in our area.

Catechists - Our catechists, led by Jennifer Perrot, put a lot of work into preparing lessons, activities of significance and attending professional development opportunities. Our catechists bring the Word of God to children in state schools in our area and assist in preparing those children to receive the Sacraments. Due to COVID we are struggling to get catechists and would welcome further volunteers for this very important ministry. Please contact Jen Perrott at the parish office on 9144 6998 if you can assist.

Significant Parish Statistics - Sacraments and services:

Baptisms	22
Weddings	0
Funerals	18

Parish Team and staff - Our thanks to Belinda Camilleri and Michelle Miles for their efficient running of the Parish Office. Our thanks to our Carmelite priests who do a significant amount of pastoral work, including home visits and anointing of the sick.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO PROVIDE VITAL AND NECESSARY SERVICES NOT PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED

Parish Pastoral Council	11
<i>(8 parishioners and 3 ex-officio representing the schools and the diocese)</i>	
Parish Finance Committee	6
Hall booking co-ordinator	1
Weekly counters of Parish and Charities Collections	not active due to Covid
Wardens who organise the collection and support parishioners	3
Altar Society	3
Altar linen	6
Lectors at weekly and Sunday masses	50
Music ministry	35
Acolytes, senior and junior servers	15
Communion to the sick, elderly and housebound	20
Welcoming and hospitality	not active due to Covid
Morning tea	not active due to Covid
Liturgy Committee	4
Childrens' Liturgy	0
Adult and young adult Lectio groups	16
Floral arrangers	9
Social Justice Group	8
Piety stall	not active due to Covid
Catechists	20
RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)	2
All our volunteers who contribute without acknowledgement.	Numerous

In addition to the above we have an active St Vincent de Paul team who provide vital services in our parish. We also have an organised roster for providing food to Youth off the Streets. Our priests are very active serving our spiritual needs and those of patients at the San and Hornsby hospitals and Neringah Hospice. They conduct spiritual services to residents at BUPA and Fernbank. In addition, they run study groups examining the gospels. As you can see there are many ways to become involved in the work of the Parish. If you are not yet a part of one or more of the Ministries and are able to help please contact the Parish Office as it would help share the load with those already involved. As the current lockdown restrictions are over we particularly need volunteers for the catechist and children's liturgy ministries. As mentioned before we depend on our parishioners for their various contributions. Without your help we would not be able to function. As baptised disciples of Christ we have the privilege and responsibility of being Christ's presence and action in the world both within and outside the church structure. To live this discipleship out of love for Christ in a way that cares for others, facilitates the effective running of this parish and influences, for the better, the world around us. Let us help each other to grow in this discipleship together.

Thank you for helping our community. Fr Greg Chee and the Parish Finance Committee

CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH, ST IVES
Income & Expenditure
For the period from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

	ACTUAL \$ 30-Jun-22	ACTUAL\$ 30-Jun-21	ACTUAL \$ 30-Jun-20
INCOME			
Planned Giving Credit Cards and Envelopes	142,766	149,386	151,683
Loose Second Collection	17,447	20,601	42,251
Tap & Go	21,690	30,120	2,390
Donations	3,942	5,033	1,860
Pastoral Activities, Piety store & other income	18,845	22,811	10,579
Bulletin Advertising	2,652	7,013	1,560
Alpha	-	1,931	12,236
Discipleship	195	2,920	620
Formation	6,320	-	-
Interest Received	673	1,256	4,042
Building donations	100	100	4,348
Job Keeper Subsidy	-	54,000	24,000
Cash Boost Stimulus	-	10,000	10,000
Fund raising income -Mothers Day Raffle	3,660	3,709	-
Total Income	218,290	308,880	265,568
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Church Requisites	8,349	6,691	8,354
Employment Expenses including on-costs	127,963	125,137	111,366
Job Keeper Expense	-	32,377	32,736
Insurance	22,323	20,357	21,101
Utilities, Rates and Taxes	14,025	16,368	17,335
Office Expenses	6,655	11,880	16,268
Pastoral programmes, Admin. & other exp.	4,180	8,545	15,538
Alpha Program	3,581	3,742	12,658
Discipleship Program	1,323	3,069	1,944
Formation	1,962	-	-
Repairs and maintenance	34,188	39,879	30,959
Clergy Car Expenses	8,959	8,566	7,992
Interest repayment on Roof Loan	133	1,271	3,249
Total Operating Expenses	233,642	277,882	279,499
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	(15,351)	30,998	(13,931)
Non Operating Income			
Specific Sponsorship	-	1,910	-
NSW Business Grant	7,500	-	-
NSW Jobsaver Grant	18,000	-	-
Building Donations - Presbytery	2,120	-	-
Fundraising - New Presbytery	892	-	-
Total Non -Operating Income	28,512	1,910	
Total Non -recurring expenses		(16,333)	(9,393)
Roof Repayments to 30 June 2022	(13,321)	(33,401)	(33,401)
Surplus / (Deficit) after roof repayments	(\$160)	(\$16,825)	(\$56,725)

Parish Presbytery Briefing - Update

As advertised in recent weeks, information sessions outlining the progress of planning carried out by the Sub-Committee, appointed by the Parish Finance Committee (PFC), have now been provided to parishioners. The content included the details of the proposed new Presbytery and refurbishment of the existing Presbytery/Office building. This content was presented to parishioners on both Thursday evening 25 August and Sunday morning after the 10am mass 28 August.

We are pleased to report that the proposed Presbytery design and concept was well received by parishioners (approximate total of 76) who attended these sessions. PFC Chairperson, Claude Jugmans, informed attendees that during recent meetings with representatives of the Diocesan Office, verbal approval of the design concepts was received. Encouraging support was also shown for the Presbytery project currently being undertaken.

Importantly, it was good to see participants of both sessions, become very involved in the questioning, suggestions and discussion surrounding this matter. The PFC thanks those who were able to attend for their interest and input.

To assist the process of informing the broader parish community, details of the proposed Presbytery design are currently being added to the Parish website and should be available on the website early next week. Additionally, large copies of the design are being prepared for posting on the windows adjacent to the Church entrance.

The next step(s) in this project will be to:

- Complete a formal application to the Diocese for project approval
- Apply for funding via the Catholic Development Fund (CDF)
- Apply to Council for a DA
- Obtain indicative quotes

While these steps are being undertaken (3-6 months), a fund raising committee is to be formed to encourage and co-ordinate all efforts to raise funds for the project. No doubt, parishioners will hear more about this in coming months.

As detailed during the above information sessions, no commitment has been made as to the funding of this project apart from expenses involved to progress this matter to Council for a Development Application.

The PFC will advise parishioners of any future developments via the e-News, Parish Bulletin and the website.

Further questions

Further questions relating to this project and/or proposed design should be directed to **Ian Gibson** (email ian.gibson51@gmail.com) who will respond to you as soon as possible. If required he will direct you to someone who is best qualified to provide the information you seek.

Corpus Christi Parish Finance Committee



**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER
INTENTION
FOR SEPTEMBER**

Abolition of the Death Penalty

We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person,, may be legally abolished in every country.

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**Monica Fletcher
0419 484 377**

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For further information phone
President - Malcolm McEwen 0409 329 707
Secretary - David Conoulty 0412 267 538

The Word

Sunday 11 September 2022, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

From the book of Exodus Ex 32:7-11. 13-14
The Lord relented and did not send the evil he had threatened.

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostatised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried, "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.' But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.
The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-4. 12-13. 17. 19. R.
Lk 15:18

(R.) I will rise and go to my father.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. My sacrifice is a contrite spirit; a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn. (R.)

Second Reading

From the letter of St Paul to Timothy 1 Tm 1:12-17
Christ came to save sinners.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.
The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel

From the holy Gospel according to Luke Lk 15:1-30

There will be joy in heaven over one sinner who does penance.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance. 'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

He also said, 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

The Gospel of the Lord.