

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Such was said to your ancestors; but I say to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court;

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 5:17-37

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 FEBRUARY 2023

CHOICES

Choices are a part of the human experience. Some are minor and of little consequence, others will shape our futures and have lasting ramifications for our lives. Ecclesiasticus places a choice before us: we have the power to choose life or death, that is, whether we will follow the living God or not. While many people are fearful of God's judgement the point of the first reading is that any judgement on God's part is only a consequence of our own (cf. John 3:17.12:47).

Jesus invited his hearers to make a decision about the standard they used to live their life of faith. They had grown up with the Jewish law but now the invitation is made to choose a new set of criteria. In the next few weeks, the excerpts from the Sermon on the Mount invite us to choose once again the values that Jesus places before us. Today the challenge is made in terms of our attitude regarding violence, sexual morality and the quality of our speech.

Paul places a choice before the Corinthians – to model their lives on the wisdom of the cross. In Paul's time, the mystery cults abounded and such groups considered themselves as having been initiated into the elect, those who had knowledge and power denied to those around them. He knew they had been given the gift of the Spirit and wisdom, but it was the misunderstood and paradoxical wisdom of the cross.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Sirach

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34. R. v. 1
R. Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, / who follow God's law! / They are happy those who do his will, / seeking him with all their hearts. **R.**
2. You have laid down your precepts / to be obeyed with care. / May my footsteps be firm / to obey your statutes. **R.**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live / and obey your word. / Open my eyes that I may consider / the wonders of your law. **R.**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes / and I will keep them to the end. / Train me to observe your law, / to keep it with my heart. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 2:6-10

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

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden



wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.

These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;

you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

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Welcome to
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6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection:

We Christians are called to a different way of living, in our relations to each other and then to the world. We seek reconciliation where there is anger and alienation. We tame our desires despite the license of the world around us. We are faithful to one another and so, when we make promises, we keep them.

So we ask ourselves:

- As I come to church today, do I bear any bitterness against someone?
- What can I do to be reconciled with them?

Ash Wednesday Masses 22 February

St Dominic's Innaloo at 9am, 11.30am & 7pm.

OLGC Karrinyup at 2pm.

Children's Liturgy

All children are welcome to attend the Children's Liturgy at St Dominic's 9.30am Mass every Sunday beginning next Sunday 19 February.

MASS THIS WEEKEND

The Rosary will be prayed 20 minutes before weekend Masses

Sat 11 Feb 6pm St Dom
 Sun 12 Feb 8am OLGC
 Sun 12 Feb 9.30am St Dom

MASS DURING THE WEEK

Tues 14 Feb 7pm St Dom
 Wed 15 Feb 9am St Dom
 Thurs 16 Feb 9am OLGC
 Fri 17 Feb 9am St Dom
 Sat 18 Feb 9am OLGC

MASS NEXT WEEKEND

Sat 18 Feb 6pm St Dom
 Sun 19 Feb 8am OLGC
 Sun 19 Feb 9.30am St Dom

Reconciliation celebrated after every Saturday morning Mass and before every weekend Mass. Contact Fr Bernard 9245 3899 or Maureen Smith 0409 912 359 to receive Communion at home if you can't attend Mass.

Senior's Group

Our next get-together is on Tuesday 14 February from 10am –12noon at St Dominic's parish hall.

Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Turkey and Syria, leaving thousands of people dead with this number expected to rise dramatically. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. Your generous donation means our partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

Safeguarding Officers

St Dominic's - Isabelle Brewer 0459 537 045
 OLGC - Dr Rina Cercarelli (PhD) 0413 835 852

Upcoming Events

Parish AGM: 19 February after 9.30am Mass in St Dominic's parish hall.

Rosters this weekend	11 Feb 6pm St Dom	12 Feb 8am OLGC	12 Feb 9.30am St Dom
Readers	Youth Group	E Gomm	C Pilot
Acolyte	D O'Sullivan		I Baviah
Offertory Procession		W McC E Jeffery	
Altar Society		K Wear E Jeffery	
Morning Tea		L Howell D D'Souza	

Rosters next weekend	18 Feb 6pm St Dom	19 Feb 8am OLGC	19 Feb 9.30am St Dom
Readers	M Phillip	D D'Souza	Ramona
Acolyte	P Wall		D Ee
Offertory Procession		C & R Zampagna	
Altar Society		M Farmer	
Morning Tea		B Gascoigne M Tester	

Parish Twilight Golf Social Group

Knowing our parish has several keen golfers, we are looking for expressions of interest to form a social group to play fortnightly over the next few months. The initial tee off will be at Hamersley Golf Course on Sunday 19 February followed by a BBQ. Those who don't golf can join us for the BBQ. This is a great way to get to know our fellow parishioners. Contact: Pat Wall 0401 686 140 or Father 9446 1666 or email bernard.lanarolle@perthcatholic.org.au