

Alleluia, alleluia! / The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, / and you also will be my witnesses. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 10: 26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Do not fear those who can kill the body.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

25 JUNE 2023

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

St Anselm defined theology as faith seeking understanding. As people of faith, we seek to understand and respond to how God's plan is unfolding in our own lives. One of the most difficult hurdles for a person of faith to overcome is coming to terms with the fact that proclaiming the will of God can lead to persecution and suffering. The first reading and the Gospel address this challenge calling us to be steadfast and faithful in times of persecution and rejection. Jeremiah's natural response to persecution was calling on God to intervene and avenge him in the present. When Jesus commissioned the disciples, they were invited to respond in a different way. Disciples of every age are called to trust that our present faithfulness in times of persecution will not be forgotten or go unrewarded.

One of the tasks that faced Paul was teasing out and explaining to his contemporaries how Jesus' suffering and rejection fitted into God's saving plan. What looked like disaster and failure he had come to see as the dawn of a new age. Comparing Jesus to Adam provided Paul with the means to share his understanding that what had been lost by Adam's sin had now finally been regained, and more than regained, through the death of Jesus. God did not avenge Jesus' death but transformed a moment of violence into the most extraordinary moment of grace. Disciples are called to not only understand this mystery but let it penetrate our lives in times of suffering and rejection.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Jer 20: 10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of those who are evil.

Jeremiah said:

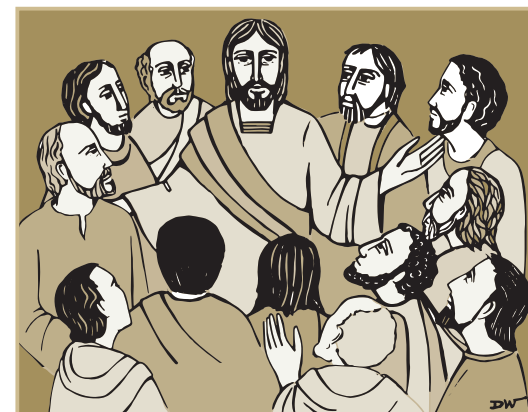
I hear so many disparaging me,
 ' "Terror from every side!"
 Denounce him! Let us denounce him!
 All those who used to be my friends
 watched for my downfall,
 'Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
 Then we will master him
 and take our revenge!
 But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
 my opponents will stumble, mastered,
 confounded by their failure;
 everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.
 But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,
 who scrutinise the loins and heart,
 let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
 for I have committed my cause to you.
 Sing to the Lord,
 praise the Lord,
 for he has delivered the soul of the needy
 from the hands of evil men.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESP PSALM Ps 68: 8-10, 14, 17, 33-35. R. v. 14

R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, / that shame covers my face, / that I have become a stranger to my brothers, / an alien to my own mother's sons. / I burn with zeal for your house / and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**
2. This is my prayer to you, / my prayer for your favour. / In your great love, answer me, O God, / with your help that never fails: / Lord, answer, for your love is kind; / in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**



3. The poor when they see it will be glad / and God-seeking hearts will revive; / for the Lord listens to the needy; / and does not spurn his servants in their chains. / Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, / the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5: 12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

God's gift to us is nothing like our sin against him.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

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Welcome to
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12th Sunday in Ordinary time

Reflection:

Can you identify with Jeremiah?

Do you feel overburdened by responsibilities, or that your good deeds are misunderstood even by those closest to you? Do you sometimes want to shake your fist at God and shout, "What have you gotten me Into?!" If you do, Jeremiah will stand with you and encourage you because that's the way he felt. However, he has more to say. Notice how his lament shifts---he turns to the God, who called him and to whom Jeremiah first said, "Yes." He prays a prayer of thanksgiving. How bold he is! He is anticipating God's coming to help him even before he has proof of it. That's "Jeremiah-faith."

So we ask ourselves:

- Have you ever prayed a prayer of complaint to God because of what was happening in your life?
- How did it feel to pray so boldly? And how did you feel after you prayed that way?

Pilgrimage with Fr Bernard

Walk in the Footsteps of St Francis in Assisi on this pilgrimage to Spectacular Italy. Pray at Shrine of Padre Pio at San Giovanni Rotondo. Be awed by the Sistine Chapel and spectacular Vatican City and magnificent sights of Rome. From 11th to 25th April 2024. Expressions of interest to Fr by end of July. 9245 3899 or bernard.lanarolle@perthcatholic.org.au

MASS THIS WEEKEND

The Rosary will be prayed 20 minutes before weekend Masses

Sat 24 June 6pm St Dom
 Sun 25 June 8am OLG
 Sun 25 June 9.30am St Dom

MASS DURING THE WEEK

Tues 27 June 7pm St Dom
 Wed 28 June 9am St Dom
 Thurs 29 June 9am OLG
 Fri 30 June 9am St Dom
 Sat 1 July 9am St Dom

Healing Mass

MASS NEXT WEEKEND

Sat 1 July 6pm St Dom
 Sun 2 July 8am OLG
 Sun 2 July 9.30am St Dom

Winter Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society Winter Appeal has started and runs until the end of August. We welcome support from the Parish Community in any of the following ways. Non perishable food items can be left in the Vinnies basket at the rear of either Church. Envelopes are in the Church foyer for donations. Unwanted blankets can also be left in the rear of the Church for collection. Thank you to everyone for supporting people in need through our Winter Appeal. All enquiries to Barbara, M 0488100799.

Parish Funerals

We extend our deepest sympathies to the De Rizzo and Leonard families on the loss of their loved ones.

The Funeral Mass of Giovanni De Rizzo will be celebrated on 27th June at St Dominic's, 10am.

The Funeral Mass for Phillip Leonard will be celebrated on 5th July, 10am at St Dominic's.

Rosary at St Dominic's on July 4th, 6.30pm.

We ask the Lord to grant Giovanni De Rizzo and Phillip Leonard eternal rest and the families peace and consolation.

Upcoming Events

OLGC Feast Day Mass: 29 June, 9am
 PPC: 19 July, 6pm at Karrinyup

Rosters next weekend	24 June 6pm St Dom	25 June 8am OLG	25 June 9.30am St Dom
Readers		K Wear	
Acolyte			
Offertory Procession		B Croxford M Tester	
Altar Society	Group 3	I Rodriguez	

Rosters next weekend	1 July 6pm St Dom	2 July 8am OLG	2 July 9.30am St Dom
Readers	K Italiano	M Smith	J Jones
Acolyte	P Wall		D Ee
Offertory Procession		S Cummins A Dhayma	
Altar Society	Group 1	K Wear E Jeffery	

Saturday Soup Nights in Winter

Please join us after the 6pm St Dominic's Mass for a shared meal of soup and bread in the parish centre.

Safeguarding Officers

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