Reflection by Greg Sunter

We would normally hear or read the second half of this week’s gospel as a stand alone example of generosity and faith – often without the section that immediately precedes it. Whilst the actions of the widow are certainly worthy of comment, when we read it in the context of the condemnation that immediately precedes it, the widow’s offering is placed in a different light. Jesus condemns the scribes who parade their wealth and seek trappings of earthly power and glory: being recognised and greeted as they walk the streets; taking the front seats in synagogue; and expecting to be seated in the place of honour at banquets. Whilst parading their wealth and feasting at banquets, they are also swallowing up the property of widows – taking advantage of those in need. We often hear widows and orphans named in the scriptures as those in need. Widows and orphans (and strangers in the land) are marked out for special attention in the Torah. They are named as deserving of special care – the lost and broken of society. So despite holding a special place in Jewish Law and tradition, the widows are being taken advantage of by the scribes, who are taking over their property for their own gain. One of the duties of the scribes was to administer the proper payment of Temple taxes. The treasury referred to in the passage is the Temple treasury. Rather than a great act of generosity, we can now see the widow’s payment of Temple tax as a burdensome, heart-wrenching obligation to pay the very last coins she had to a corrupt, uncaring system. We usually read praise into Jesus’ comments about the widow’s offering, but it can also be read as moral outrage at the system that demands this woman pay all that she possesses to the Temple.
Looking Ahead

Monday 12 November
- 7.00pm Italian Prayer Group – Church
- 7.00pm PFC Meeting - Library

Tuesday 13 November
- 9.30am Scripture Group – Library
- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality Area

Wednesday 14 November
- 10.00am SSC Grad Practice – Church
- 10.30am BED Scripture Group – Library
- 6.00pm OLOG Diners – Pacific Golf Club
- 7.00pm Legion of Mary – Library

Thursday 15 November
- 9.30am Playgroup – Hospitality Area
- 5.30pm SSC Graduation Mass – Church

Let us remember in prayer all those who are sick and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: Joseph Lee, Mark Roff, Annamaria Pizzica, Rosaria Grasso, Leonada (Diana) Gangemi and the recently deceased Dorothy Forster, Verna Bowen.

Daily Mass and Ordo 2019
This week is your last chance to order the Daily Mass books, the Ordo and Break Open the Word for 2019. Daily Mass Books and Break Open the Word are $24.10 and Ordos are $12. If you would like a copy, please contact the parish office on 3398 2977 to order and pay before 15 November.

Compulsory Music Workshop – Advent
All musicians are expected to attend this compulsory workshop to help prepare for Advent. It will be held on Saturday 17 November from 9am – 12pm. Anyone who might be interested in joining the music ministry or if you belong to another ministry in church and wish to come along, you are most welcome.

Social Justice – Domestic Violence Weekend
Today the Parish Social Justice Group is asking our parish community to focus on the issue of Family & Domestic Violence. Do you know the signs often subtle that can suggest someone is a victim of Family & Domestic Violence? They can be, but are not always physical. There can also be things such as withdrawing access to money, threatening the victim with the loss of their children, stopping victims from seeing family and friends and always checking up on what the victim is doing. The eradication of Family & Domestic Violence is everyone’s responsibilities and as Catholics we are called to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable in our communities. Do not forget that organisations such as Centacare Family and Relationship Service (CFRS) are able to assist. Remember always the rallying call to help stamp out the problem of Family & Domestic Violence. NOT NOW NOT EVER

November is the Month of Remembrance
If you would like a weekday Mass said for the intentions of your departed loved one, November Mass offering envelopes available at the church entrance. You can also write the names of your departed loved ones in the book of remembrance on the sanctuary.
Message to ALL Volunteers for 2019

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your dedication, contribution and continued support to the Parish this year. Your commitment and service is invaluable, and all of us here in the office are really fortunate to have such a committed group of volunteers.

As 2019 nears at a rapid rate, and we are counting down the days to Advent/Christmas (Christmas decorations are already in stores), we are now aware that there are people who may not wish to continue with their ministry next year due to other commitments or you simply wish to retire.

So we ask everyone to consider your current commitment in your ministry, and whether or not you can continue.

As we are approaching the Christmas holidays many of you will be heading off on vacation. We ask if you could please let us know if you are unable to come to your allocated Mass during this holiday season so that we can have a bit of a head start knowing where we are going to be missing volunteers.

However, if you wish to volunteer here, refer to the below to see where we are in need for ministries:

- Data Projector Operator
- Ministers of Communion
- Readers
- Musicians
- Altar Servers
- Communion to the Sick

We are also looking for volunteers to help clean the purifiers and wash cloths for mass. This is a one month commitment for the year.

These ministries are so easy and only require a once a month commitment. Contact the parish office for more info.

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**CATHOLIC MISSION**

‘How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news...’ Isaiah 52:7

In Hakha, a remote town in the mountainous north of Myanmar, St John’s School is educating local children with a child-centred methodology. Three of the teachers at St John’s have been trained through the Pyinya Sanyae Institute of Education (PSIE) in Yangon, and have been posted to this school to help local children learn in a modern way that maximises their potential. Your support through Catholic Mission can enable PSIE to continue training teachers and help improve education across the country. You can also help St John’s School add grades to ensure continuity of education, and become economically sustainable. You will have an opportunity to become an integral part of this inspiring work by joining as a monthly giving partner. This regular contribution will directly support education in Myanmar.

Freecall: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au/Myanmar

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**CATHOLIC LEADER**

The Catholic Leader is available at the back of the church for $2.
- Brisbane archdiocese remember recently deceased priest Fr Ray Kearney
- Exiled Australian nun Sr Patricia Fox fights to return to the Philippines
- St Vincent de Paul’s Society’s Cornerstone program helps Gold Coast’s homeless off the streets
- Nobel Prize recipient and Mercy Sister Denise Coghlan encourages young people to ‘see the world through the eyes of God’
- Caritas helps rebuild lives in Indonesia after last month’s 7.5 magnitude earthquake and tsunami
- Aid agencies and Catholic officials are sounding the alarm on Yemen’s spiralling humanitarian crisis
- Staff at Holy Spirit Primary School, Bray Park encourages students to spend time with Jesus in adoration
- How handcrafted saint pegs are bringing mothers across Australia together and empowering them as first educators of the Gospel in their homes.
- The Catholic Leader journalist Mark Bowling shares insights into recent trip to the Holy Lands
- Queensland couple thankful for 70 years of marriage

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**SOMETHING FUNNY**

Do you agree?

All men should make coffee for their women.

It says it right in the Bible... *HEBREW*.
Become a part of the parish Planned Giving Program to help your Parish grow.

We thank, sincerely, all Parishioners who contribute to Planned Giving. Your ongoing commitment and contribution assists the parish to budget for operating expenses (wages, rates, electricity, phones, maintenance etc) as well as parish pastoral planning (faith education, sacramental preparation, resources etc). To obtain Planned Giving Envelopes or to contribute by direct debit, complete this form and place on the plate, or contact the Parish Office. Planned Giving contributions are not Tax Deductable.

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