



**26TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME YEAR B**

**Migrant & Refugee Sunday
26 September 2021**

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

Father,

On Migrant and Refugee Sunday we pray
to work together so that
there will be no more walls that separate us,
no longer others, but only a single 'we',
encompassing all of humanity.
Amen.

FIRST READING: A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, 'Look', he said, 'Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.' Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, 'My Lord Moses, stop them!' Moses answered him, 'Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

2. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. (R.)

3. So in them your servant finds instructions;
great reward is in their keeping.

But who can detect all his errors?
From hidden faults acquit me. (R.)

4. From presumption restrain your servant
and let it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless,
clean from grave sin. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of St James

An answer for the rich. Start crying, weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting, your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them – listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word, O Lord, is truth:
make us holy in the truth.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.'

'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'



**REFLECTION ON TOWARDS AN EVER WIDER “WE”
by Archbishop Christopher.**

Pope Francis' Message for the 107th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2021 is that we ought to work 'Towards an ever wider “WE”'. He writes: 'We are all in the same boat and called to work together so that there will be no more walls that separate us, no longer others, but only a single “we”, encompassing all of humanity.' He goes on to say: "...we find many migrants and refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking, to whom the Lord wants his love to be manifested and his salvation

preached."

Reflecting on this, I recall one of the initial shocks I received as a newly ordained priest. I started to visit parishioners extensively in their homes. The shock was to realise how many had not become real friends with their neighbours. It seemed that life for them was simply themselves and their 8 visiting families and friends. It did not really include in a significant way their neighbours. It was an "I" rather than a "we" mindset. This fact became embarrassing when it became clear that one of the people on our parish social justice group was in this category. Yet the issues of this group included migrants and refugees policies in Australia. We can take a national and international perspective on migrants and refugees. This is good. Yet, if our concerns do not start with our neighbours, so many of whom are migrants and refugees in Australia, then something is very wrong. I have always appreciated the saying: "Think globally, act locally." Perhaps our contributions globally are limited. However, there is surely no limits to what we can do in our

neighbourhoods. No doubt, the needs are great. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated a huge reduction on migrants and refugees intake into Australia. I hope that former levels will return and be increased as soon as it is safe to do so. At the same time, so many people residing in Australia whose families live overseas are worried about their loved ones too often living in very dangerous COVID hot spots. Let us be encouraged by Pope Francis' message and show neighbourhood closeness to them in their vulnerabilities. Simple practical kindnesses can generate the "we" of our concern for them. May they not feel simply the "I" of facing their difficulties alone. As Pope Francis prays in his Message: "Bless each act of welcome and outreach that draws those in exile into the 'we' of community and of the Church, so that our earth may truly become what you yourself created it to be: the common home of all our brothers and sisters. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For our Church: inspired by Pope Francis, may we be faithful to the catholic and inclusive vision of God's diverse family. Let us pray together in hope:

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of our world: may they widen their tents to embrace all who are suffering, and all who seek a safe place of shelter. Let us pray together in hope:

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For those who live on the peripheries of our societies: may we become real friends with our neighbours and mutually share our gifts with each other. Let us pray together in hope:

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For our local communities: may we discover an ever-wider 'we', as we think no longer in terms of 'them' and 'those', but only 'us'. Let us pray together in hope:

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, including Norma Flack, Karen Sutor, Bob Haigh, Teonie McMahon, Jeremy Nelson, Helen Campbell-Davys, Ian Vardanega, John Shiels, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermet, Val Biggers and Celia Roach; that they will unite their suffering with that of Christ Let us pray together in hope:

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

For all who have died, including Geoff Hassell and Sr. Heather Roberts and all refugees and migrants who have died far from home and family. May they enter the new Jerusalem where all peoples are united in peace and harmony. Let us pray together in hope:

Gracious God, hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING PRAYER FOR AFGANISTAN

Dear Father in heaven, we pray today for the people of Afghanistan.

Lord, you know each one by name. We bring before you the vulnerable, the poor, the displaced. We ask you to be near to them with your presence and your protection.

Be peace to those engaged in conflict and those who live within its shadow.

Give us eyes to see how we can be part of the solution.

Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and to speak boldly to those in power.

We pray the hearts of our leaders would be moved with compassion to respond in a just way.

May your kingdom come and your will be done in this crisis.

Amen.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Technology is wonderful when it works but last Sunday we had problems connecting to YouTube. I spoke of the 'amawim', a beautiful Hebrew word which describes the 'poor ones' who remained faithful to God in times of great difficulty and acknowledged those people of our time who can be described as amawim. It's too easy to make excuses and walk other paths.

This week I escaped to Braidwood to view progress on the roof of the church. It was great to catch up with Br. Brian and meet Helen, Phil, Felix and Gary engaged in a working bee to fix cracks inside the church. Gary was on a dangerous scaffold about seven metres off the floor and I prayed all the way back to Bungendore he wouldn't fall. I had no idea of how massive the task was to repair the roof and the amount of timber needing replacement for the slate. Terry Roach is confident we will receive the first payment from Heritage early November.

My first appointment as a priest was to the Cathedral and in the early 70's it was packed at most Masses. One Sunday I blasted the French who were doing nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll; I didn't hold back. When I returned to the sacristy I was followed by the French Ambassador and his wife who took offence at what I said but I stood my ground. I was reminded of that encounter this week and need to check if we have French parishioners before I comment about the cancellation of the submarines.

One of the most difficult things a priest has to do is move from parish to parish. In all of my appointments over many years, I have been blessed with wonderful friends and it is hard not to return when they die. This week I have had two great friends who have died and all I can do is pray they will be embraced by our loving God.

Please stay safe and pray for our communities in these times of isolation.

Yours in Christ,

Mick Burke

The church will be closed to the public for the duration of the NSW lockdown. All other groups and meetings are also cancelled until further notice. September markets will also be cancelled.

Here is the link to the YouTube channel for our Sunday 10.30am "Mass with Mick" –
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-d0_CGVn2p4-BsNiAwSLdA/

To avoid technical difficulties, the service will be recorded and then uploaded so will be available from 10.30am Sunday. This link will not change from week to week.

Pray the rosary with Archbishop Christopher - Every Wednesday and Friday at 4 pm sharp!

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85022458332?pwd=MDZ4ODFhNjlvdnFkd21aVDQzWnAydz09>

Or enter in the details below after opening the Zoom app. **Meeting ID:** 850 2245 8332

Passcode: 543675

Don't forget you can watch the Cathedral Masses 11am on Sundays and weekdays at 12.15pm

Online Link: <https://catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online>

COVID-19 Links for information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Readings for 27th Sunday: 1st: Gen. 2:18-24. 2nd Hebrews 2:9-11. Gospel: Mark 10:2-16.

1st Collection: BSB: 062-786

Account: 0000029248

Account Name: St Bedes Braidwood

Reference: BRAIDWOOD & SURNAME

For 2nd collection: BSB: 062-786

Account No: 00017755

Name: St Bedes Parish Braidwood.

Reference: name or giving number if you have one.

Take care, keep safe and look out for each other,
Helen Hart