



St Patrick's Parish Cooma

St Columbkille's Parish Jindabyne



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

17 August 2025

First Reading Jer 38:4-6, 8-10

You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank.

Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry. (R.)

2. He drew me from the deadly pit,
from the miry clay.
He set my feet upon a rock
and made my footsteps firm. (R.)
3. He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.
Many shall see and fear
and shall trust in the Lord. (R.)
4. As for me, wretched and poor,
the Lord thinks of me.
You are my rescuer, my help,
O God, do not delay! (R.)

Second Reading Heb 12:1-4

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shamefulness of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.



Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's short and sharp gospel brings to mind two popular sayings (sometimes regarded as blessings, and sometimes regarded as curses). The first is fictitiously ascribed as an ancient Chinese saying, 'May you live in interesting times!' The inference of the blessing/curse is that 'interesting times' equate to disturbing, tumultuous times or times of rapid change. Some people thrive on such change and upheaval, while others dread the thought of change.

The second blessing/curse is, 'May the peace of Christ disturb you!' It occasionally turns up around Christmas or Easter and is sometimes provocatively used by those who advocate for justice and peace. The saying cuts to the heart of what Jesus says in today's gospel: the message he brings is not a cosy, complacent peace, but rather a message that confronts and challenges, even turning loved ones against each other.

Jesus reminds us that if we take on his message of compassion, hospitality and table fellowship then it can set us apart from those who have not accepted the message – even family members. It's a challenging message that even love and loyalty within a family can be disrupted by seeking to authentically live the model of Jesus. If we authentically place the needs of the lowly and the outcast ahead of our own and ahead of our family, then this can be very confronting and very disrupting. What are the consequences for family gatherings? What might the gathering at Christmas dinner look like if we take this message seriously? Jesus says that the normal obligations to family have to take second place to acting on his message and bringing about the kingdom of God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

***My sheep listen to my voice,
says the Lord;***

I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 12:49-53

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

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