

Catholic Parish of the Nambucca Valley

Corpus Christi, Bowraville

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Nambucca Heads

St. Patrick's Macksville

Christ the King, Taylors Arm

30TH SUNDAY IN OT
YEAR C
26TH OCT 2025



Administrator: Fr. Peter Rebello OCD

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The good and the bad

As church-people, we may think we know what it means to worship God. After all, we go to church, say some prayers, pay our dues, and try to live a decent life. Indeed, all this is well and good. But God asks something more of us. Do we think the good things we do in life arise from our own virtue? Do we find ourselves somewhat judgmental and intolerant of those who don't quite live up to our standards? We are confronted with these kinds of questions by Jesus' story of the publican (or tax collector) and the Pharisee. A modern-day version might contrast a good church-going Catholic lawyer with a less than scrupulous property developer. One day the Catholic lawyer decides to make an extra visit to the church to praise and thank God for all the good things he does in life (including the pro bono work he does for the church). But his prayer drifts especially when, to his surprise, he sees the low-life property developer standing at the back of the church. He especially thanks God he is not like that! What we note about our property developer is that he hardly dares enter the church and, when he does, keeps his eyes downcast. Being neither fancy with words nor knowing how to pray, all he says is (repeatedly): "God forgive me". Jesus praises the property developer while suggesting our lawyer was not really worshipping – or "at rights with" – God. In the original parable, Jesus finishes with the saying: 'those who exalt themselves will be humbled; but those who humble themselves will be exalted'. Humility in prayer, linked to God's 'option for the poor', is also a central feature in today's other readings: the Lord hears the cry of the poor, is close to the broken-hearted, answers the prayer of orphans, widows and victims of injustice, and rescues those in distress. Indeed, it is 'the humble person's prayer that pierces the clouds'; and 'the humble shall hear and be glad'. What is interesting in the life of Jesus is that he not only told stories that confronted people's attitudes and beliefs. He acted those stories out by befriending the poor, healing the disabled, 'eating with tax collectors and sinners'. However, unlike our 'self-referential' lawyer friend, Jesus' ministry does not focus on himself, the good he does or the choices he makes, but on the love and mercy of an all-forgiving God. The property developer in our story reaches a similar point in his own life whereby his entire focus becomes God-centered. Popes Francis and Leo have been saying something similar about the kind of church they understand God is calling us to be, namely, a church of the poor, a church that reaches out to touch all people, especially those on the margins of life, with the message of God's mercy and compassion. For this to occur, the church needs to become less like our lawyer in the story, and more like our property developer.

Gerard Hall SM

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Entrance Antiphon.

Cf Psalm 104:3-4

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

First Reading

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages. He shows no respect of personages to the detriment of a poor man, he listens to the plea of the injured party. He does not ignore the orphan's supplication, nor the widow's as she pours out her story. The man who with his whole heart serves God will be accepted; his petitions will carry to the clouds. The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds, until it arrives, he is inconsolable, nor will he desist until the Most High takes notice of him, acquits the virtuous and delivers judgement. And the Lord will not be slow, nor will he be dilatory on their behalf.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:2-3. 17-19. 23. R. v.7

(R.) The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The just call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. (R.)
3. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R.)

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The first time I had to present my defence, there was not a single witness to support me. Every one of them deserted me – may they not be held accountable for it. But the Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.
Alleluia!

2 Corinthians 5:19

Gospel
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else, ‘Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, “I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get.” The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.” This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.’

Communion Antiphon
We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

Psalms 19:6

Special collection total amount : \$ 1851.50. Thank you for your Generous Contribution God Bless you
Nv Parish: \$ 731.50
St. Patrick's: \$ 934
Bowraville: \$ 186
Next Sunday All Souls Day Masses are as usual in all the church, faithful are requested to visit the graveyard and pray for the loved once you will get the special indulgence
All Souls day mass Envelopes are available

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK
Baby Ruby Robison, Nate Doolan, Neville Miles, Jenny Cowin, Tony May Richards

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME
Val Ryan, Martin Howle, Margaret smith, Agnes Rosenberg, Kevin, Ien Smith Dorrie Clough, Jim Hallam, Lionel Smith
WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED
Trevor Smith, Pam Halls, Robert Bagnall

TUE 28th OCT	NO Mass
WED 29th OCT	NO Mass
THU 30th OCT	9:30 Am Mass, Macksville
FRI 31st OCT	9: am Adoration, Nambucca 9:30 am Mass, Nambucca
SAT 1 st NOV	4:30 Pm Reconciliation 5pm all Souls Mass, Nambucca
SUN 2nd NOV All Souls Day	8 am Mass, Macksville 9:30 am Mass Bowraville

****Mass Intention envelopes are located at the back of the Church****