32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—YEAR B
11th November 2012

First Reading: Kings 17:10-16
Responsorial Psalm Praise the Lord, my soul!
Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
Happy the poor in spirit; The kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!
Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

YEAR OF GRACE—PRAYER

Gracious God,
You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people.
We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh from Christ.
You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a new wave of grace, and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives.
Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church may be transformed, our relationship be healed, and our nation grow in compassion and justice.
We make our prayer through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us new ways of living the Gospel.
Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au/

MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

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Baptisms
Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month.

Marriages
(6 months notice)
Arranged by appointment.
[Enquiries and information brochure available from Parish Office]

Reconciliation
Celebrated at 5.30pm on Saturday or by appointment with the Priest.
COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND
This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

WE PRAY FOR...
Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick, especially Vincent Kelly, Shannon Hanah-Merrit, Margaret Holgate, Ino West and Sam Barker and all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them. We pray today for all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries are at this time, and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God. May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

CHURCH ROSTERS

Readers
- Nov 10th: Angela Grinton
- Nov 11th: Frank Donavan
- Nov 17th: Sharon Simpson & Jim Wright
- Nov 18th: Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton

Special Ministers
- Nov 10th: Mary Welch, Mary Larnach Jones & Bruna Bombig
- Nov 11th: Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton
- Nov 17th: Vicky Carrick, Bruna Bombig & Rhonda Loret
- Nov 18th: Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton

Church Cleaning
- Nov 12th: Michael & Karen O'Loughlin
- Nov 19th: Francis Bowen

Church Flowers
- Nov 16th: Rhonda Loret
- Nov 23rd: Lucia Brick

GOSPEL REFLECTION
The widow in Elijah’s time gave all she had to the prophet when he begged for a meal. She was rewarded with enough food to see her through the drought. Jesus sees another widow give all she had to God. Finally, Jesus himself gave all he had, for us. There are times when our efforts may look small to outward appearances, but God alone is the judge.

COLLECTIONS

Presbytery Collection (1st collection)
[This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest's stipend.] $302

Church (envelopes) collection
[This collection covers the Church capital costs, and ongoing maintenance.] $667

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES
These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had much wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’s world.

We must often feel weary and tired, yet God brings us through all these things. 1874
The Little brown book by Sue & Leo Kane

VOCATION VIEW
Jesus said about the widow in the temple, “she out of her poverty has put in everything she had.” Do we dare to offer EVERYTHING to God, to follow the vocation he has chosen for us?

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION
Notice that in the story of the widow’s mite Jesus did not reach into the treasury box and give the widow her coins. If he did not exempt her from giving, surely He expects each of us to share what we have to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and promote the work of the Church here on earth.
**Positions Vacant**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

- Pastoral Associate, St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully
- Pastoral Associate, St Peter’s Parish, Clayton
- Parish Information Officer, Development Office, East Melbourne
- Bookkeeper & Administration Officer, Catholic Society for Marriage Education, East Melbourne.


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**Caritas Australia**

This Christmas, you can help change lives by giving a Caritas Global Gift.

It is a wonderful way to make giving meaningful and help vulnerable communities at the same time.

In return for your donation toward your chosen gift, you receive a beautifully presented card to give to your loved one which explains how you have made a contribution on their behalf.

Clean water $10, Food $25, Sustainable Agriculture $50, Healthcare $75, Education $100, Emergency Relief $200.

Orders should be placed before December 12th to arrive in time for Christmas.

Contact: 1800 024 413
24-32 O’Riordan Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015
www.caritas.org.au/globalgifts

Together let us end poverty, promote justice and uphold the dignity of all people.

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**Cuppa Girls**

You are invited to join with the “Cuppa” girls for lunch on Friday 30th November 12 mid day at Zardy’s.

Friends welcome. Cost $15 (Zardy’s special)

R.S.V.P Veroncia 54272654 or pauline@johnsonwoodend.com.au

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**Thanksgiving Envelopes**

The new set of Thanksgiving Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

Anyone wanting to join our thanksgiving program can contact Bernadette at the Parish Office 54272690

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**Resonance String Orchestra**

World renowned Cello Soloist Zoe Knighton will be performing in a special benefit concert in aid of Woodend’s Resonance String Orchestra. Zoe will be presenting a program of Bach’s solo cello suites and funds raised will go towards the orchestra’s visiting artists program, which employs a range of professional musicians to work with the orchestra’s students.

St Ambrose Church, Saturday November 17th, 2:30pm.

Tickets $20/$15 or family tickets $55

Book online [http://www.trybooking.com/BVVO](http://www.trybooking.com/BVVO) or tickets will be available at the door unless sold out.

For more information contact Emma on 0418392390

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**Lourdes Day Mass**

Saturday 1 December, 10:30am

The Order of Malta Australia and the Development Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne welcome you to the Lourdes Day Mass, a mass for the sick and fragile in our community. To be celebrated by Most Reverend Denis Hart DD, Archbishop of Melbourne. A blessing of the sick will follow the celebration of the Liturgy with water brought from the spring at the Shrine of Lourdes. Gift bag for all attendees including a bottle of Lourdes water, rosary beads & more. Wheelchair access by the side door of Albert St - vehicles can approach this entrance.

Where: St Patrick’s Cathedral, Contact: 9926 5760

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**Book Launch of Charity and Justice: St Mary Mackillop and the Australian Story**

Monday 12 November, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

The booklet *Charity and Justice: St Mary Mackillop and the Australian Story* by Professor Emeritus John Warhurst AM, published by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Commission, builds on the insights from the 2011 Melbourne Conference *St Mary MacKillop: Her influence on Catholic Social Services*. The publication is to be launched by Professor Anne Hunt OAM, Executive Dean of Theology and Philosophy, Australian Catholic University. Light refreshments will also be served.

Where: Cathedral Room, Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne

RSVP: Friday 2 November Contact: Lucia Brick 9287 5566 OR lucia.brick@css.org.au

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**Gregorian Magnificat Chamber Choir**

Sunday 16 December, 2.30pm

Celebrate Christmas with music across the centuries, inspired by the prayer of Mary. The Gregorian Magnificat is followed by works of Schutz, Arvo Part, Vaughan Williams, Raminsh and others.

Cost: Adults $35, Concession $32. Student rush at the door $10

Where: Trinity College Chapel, Royal Parade, Parkville

Contact: 9410 0165

Bookings: [http://www.trybooking.com/BZUK](http://www.trybooking.com/BZUK)
The Living Word

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B 11 November 2012

First Reading  1 Kgs 17:10-16
A reading from the first book of the Kings
The widow made a little scone from her flour meal and brought it to Elijah.

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, ‘Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.’ She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. ‘Please’ he said, ‘bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.’ ‘As the Lord your God lives’, she replied, ‘I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug: I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.’ But Elijah said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

‘Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth.’

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

Second Reading  Heb 9:24-28
A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Chast offered himself only once to take the faults of many on himself.

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation   Mt 5:3
Alleluia, alleluia! 
Happy the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs.
Alleluia!

Gospel  Mk 12:38-44
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This poor widow has put more in than all who contributed.

In his teaching Jesus said, ‘Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.’

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, ‘I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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.

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St. Martin of Tours was born the son of a soldier, circa 315 AD. Born in present day Hungary, he was brought up in Pavia, Italy. As a young officer he encountered a naked beggar, and having nothing to give but the clothes off his own back, he cut his military cloak in two and gave half to the beggar. Later he had a vision of Christ wearing his cloak and soon after he was baptised. Before a battle, St Martin asked to be discharged from the army, stating that as Christ's soldier he was not permitted to fight. When accused of cowardice he offered to stand unarmed on the battlefield between the two opposing armies. After his release, St Martin founded a monastery at Liguage – the first in France - and was made the bishop of Tours in 370 AD. He was one of the first non-martyrs to be made a saint.

Spot the difference Can you spot the seven differences between these two pictures?