

Thought for the week
Sunday, 11th October, 2020
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,

we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;

For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.

Amen.

This weekend's gospel is the parable of the wedding feast and is the third and final parable told by Jesus after his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Jesus knows that the Jewish leaders are conspiring against Him and He needs to press home the message of how to be worthy of entering the Kingdom of Heaven.

There are two things that strike me most in this gospel of St Matthew.

Firstly, the king is generous. The invitation is sent out not once, but twice, and those who might reasonably be expected to accept it, turn it down. The king then issues a further invitation to those who could have been seen as unworthy or undesirable.

Secondly, the casting out of the guest not wearing a wedding garment. When I was very young, I thought that this was cruel - I completely missed the point that this was a parable to emphasise the importance of leading an actively Christian life.

It is quite clear in the parable that the consequences of not accepting the king's invitation are grave and frightening. In our own lives we have to make choices and must understand the consequences of not accepting the invitation Jesus offers us, to enjoy everlasting life.

I thought back to Deacon Brian's sermon last weekend. He effectively illustrated that each of us have our own part to play in ensuring an abundant grape harvest. If we don't play our own part, the grapes fall off and we are left with a withered vine.

So too, it is not enough to simply accept the invitation and turn up to the banquet; we must also wear a fitting garment. We know that God has a plan for each and every one of us and we should always try to discover what that plan is by following Jesus and be worthy of entry to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mary



Prayers Please

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Please pray for the repose of the soul and consolation of the family of Sandra Gibbons who died recently.

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has been readmitted to hospital due to the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 7 and has leukaemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including; John Stitt, Eileen Milne, Mary Andrews, Sylvia Adams, Stephen Boyle, Thomas Butler, Nigel Hester, Peter Holding, Moly (Mary Francis) Morgan, James Enright, Jane Raynard, Gregorio D'Silva, Rosy Maria Lucia D'Silva, Winifred Dougan, Jimmy Enright, Eric Gillett, Pat Hurst Harris.