

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

1 SEPTEMBER 2024

'LISTEN TO ME'

Returning to the Gospel of Mark this week, we have an edited version of a dispute raised by the Pharisees and some of the scribes from Jerusalem about some of Jesus' disciples eating loaves with unwashed hands. Particularly in light of our recent pandemic experiences, we may have some sympathy with them. Yet as the narrative unfolds, we are given further background, that this is but one of the observations of their tradition. The prescriptions about washing do not stem for the Torah, the Law, but are local interpretations by specific groups.

Importantly we can join the extended crowd to hear Jesus say, 'Listen to me.' The same words are used by the prophets to call the people of Israel to listen to the word of God. Here it is a call to pay attention to Jesus' words that 'nothing that goes into a person from outside can defile.' It is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions can grow.

Today let us pick up on Jesus' call to 'listen to me' as we read and pray with the scriptures. Let us also hear Pope Francis reminding us, 'The believer does not turn to the Holy Scriptures to support his or her own philosophical and moral view, but because he or she hopes for an encounter; the believer knows that those words were written in the Holy Spirit, and that therefore in that same Spirit they must be welcomed and understood, so that the encounter can occur.'

(Pope Francis audience, 27 Jan. 2021)

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

You may add nothing to the word which I speak to you – keep the commands of the Lord.

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

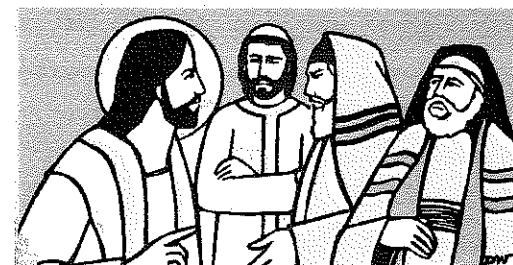
☩ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 14:2-5. R. v. 1

R. The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? / He who walks without fault; / he who acts with justice / and speaks the truth from his heart. R.
2. He who does no wrong to his brother, / who casts no slur on his neighbour, / who holds the godless in disdain, / but honours those who fear the Lord. R.
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; / who takes no interest on a loan / and accepts no bribes against the innocent. / Such a man will stand firm for ever. R.



SECOND READING

James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27

A reading from the letter of St James.

Be doers of the word.

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created.

Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

☩ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

James 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Father gave us birth by his message of truth,
that we might be as the first fruits of his creation.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

You forget the commandments of God to hold on to human tradition.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and

they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me.

The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

☩ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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MASSES — SEPTEMBER 2024

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday	3rd	Narrogin Church	Rosary	5:00pm
Wednesday	4th	Narrogin Church	Mass	9:30am
Friday	6th	Narrogin Church	Adoration Mass	4:30—5:00pm 5:00pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday	7th	Wagin Church	Mass	5:30pm
Sunday	8th	Narrogin Church	Mass	9:30am

To all the "DADS" out there in our parish — fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, Godfathers—a very happy "Father's Day" to you all.

We hope you enjoyed breakfast in bed this morning!! May today be a day of enjoying and celebrating with family and friends. May God bless you all and continue to enrich your lives with his fatherly love.



Priests Welfare Foundation "Father's Day" Appeal

"For the care of our Spiritual Fathers"

This weekend, the annual Priests Welfare Foundation "Father's Day" Appeal is being held across the diocese.

Conducting the appeal on Father's Day provides us with the opportunity to show our appreciation to our "Spiritual Fathers" on this special day.



The Foundation provides assistance to Diocesan priests who have retired or who are in ill-health.

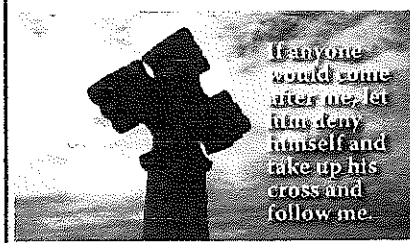
The Appeal Brochure and Donation Envelopes are provided in the pews. Please complete your Donation Envelope and place it in the retiring basket today or in the collection basket in coming weeks. You may wish to send your donation directly to the Foundation. All gifts over \$2 are tax deductible. Receipts for claiming Tax Deductions will be forwarded to your nominated address as soon as possible.

2025 COLUMBAN CALENDAR—\$9.00

Those who would like to order 2025 Columban Calendar, please see Jenny or put your name on the form at the back of the church. Thank you.



COLLECTIONS: Last Weekend: (25 Aug) Planned Giving: \$ 520.00
Loose Collection: \$ 361.55



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDY OF ORDINARY TIME

Taking up the cross is a daily challenge

'Jesus is forming his disciples, we remember. And now he challenges them to begin to come to terms with the mystery of the Cross – his reconciling and healing of a shattered world. Though Jesus was

aware that his conflict with the Jerusalem authorities was a matter of life and death – 'the elders, chief priests and scribes' were the three groups of leaders who made up the Sanhedrin that was to condemn him – his words do not necessarily involve a miraculous foreknowledge of his fate. "Taking up the cross" was a proverbial way of referring to the bearing of adversity and suffering. Under Roman rule, crucifixion – with its prelude of the criminal's bearing of the heavy crossbeam to the place of execution – was a familiar reality. Those who wish to be his followers, Jesus

declares, must be warned that this means a readiness to bear the burden of suffering.

Anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.' These words of Jesus imply an astounding claim. "For my sake," Jesus says. For Old Testament faith, it is only God who deserves to be loved with all one's "heart, soul and mind" (Deut 16); now Jesus is claiming the same absolute allegiance for himself. For Jesus, this taking up of the cross is a daily, life-long calling. The other readings of today's liturgy help us to reflect upon what this call involves in practical everyday terms. Jeremiah's heroic faithfulness was to become a source of blessings and encouragement for God's people of every age. Today's passage from Paul to the Romans can serve as a commentary on the call of Jesus. We can offer our faithfulness as a "living sacrifice," uniting our offering to the Saviour's gift of himself for the sake of the world. It is the mystery of the Eucharist that makes this possible.'

From a sermon by Fr John Thornhill

ST MATTHEW'S PARISH MINISTRIES

	This Sun: 1 September 10:15am	Next Sun: 8 September 9:30am
Welcomer	J Ong	M Balnaves
Liturgy Co-ordinator	T Wardell-Johnson	M Hetherington
Reader	S Brosnan	Z George
Minister for Home-Bound	Sister Sahaya	T Lockwood
Altar Servers		E Pamugas, A Veneracion & V Almario
Music	C House	R Pamugas
Morning Tea	No Morning Tea	St Matthew's Day
Counters	J Ong	T Lockwood & G Henry
Flowers	D Ejercito & E Enad	M Silvester

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Parish Pastoral Councillors for St Matthew's Parish (contact)
 Margaret Hetherington — 9881 4859/0438 826 536 Email Address: hetheringtonm65@gmail.com
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 Chris Beary — 0409 383 531 Email Address: cpb1950@gmail.com
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Parish Finance Committee for St Matthew's Parish
 Fr Abraham Chukwu — 0470 439 768 Email Address: frchukwua@gmail.com
 Philip Ong — 9881 1923 /0478 635 810 Email Address: kbpong@hotmail.com

The Safeguarding Officer for St Matthew's Parish is:
 Desi Wilkie — 0458 871 121 Email Address: wilks@westnet.com.au

Direct Credit: Roman Catholic Bishop of Bunbury Narrogin Parish
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PARISH BUSY BEE

To all those who attended the Parish Busy Bee on Saturday morning. The Church, Parish Hall and surroundings look neat and tidy. God Bless You all.



NOTICE ANYTHING DIFFERENT?


Yes, we have begun another year of Parish Bulletin advertising and a new coloured cover. Thank you to all our sponsors, those continuing from last year and some new sponsors — for your generous support. This sponsorship covers the total cost of producing our weekly bulletin, enables us to more effectively “promote” the parish, and is also an annual fundraiser.

DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES OCCURRED IN SEPTEMBER

We pray for our departed sisters and brothers especially:

Max Shooter, Thomas O'Reilly, Kevin Quartermaine, Ferdie Lobato, Stefan Zawierucha, Serina Ong, Elizabeth Ong, Win Pearce, Elena Smith Morgan's Family, Nora Farr, Joseph Tenni, Grazia Carbone, Thomas Teo Herbert MaharZsuzsanna Saver, Cornelis Blankendaal, Frank Carvalho, Argentina Piscioneri, & Mollie McKenzie

May they share the fullness of God's life promised by the *Memory* Good Shepherd, who leads them home.


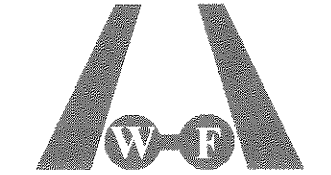


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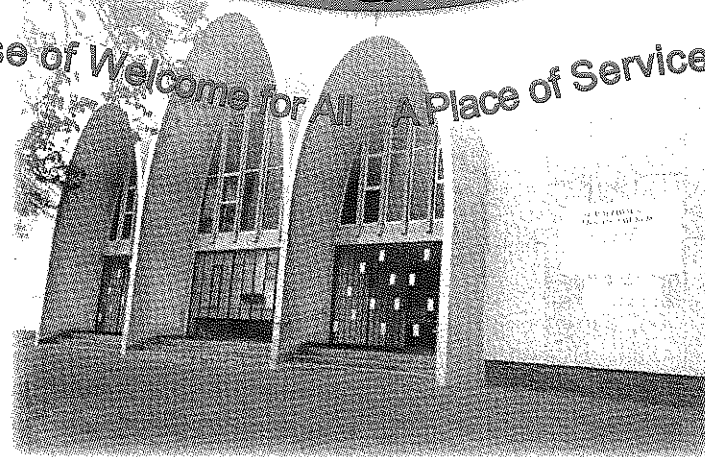
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 Visit the Bunbury Diocese Website at www.bunburycatholic.org.au

St Matthews School

Address: 9 Glyde Street (PO Box 456) Narrogin WA 6312
 Phone: (08) 9853 9500

Email: admin@matthews.wa.edu.au -- Website: www.matthews.wa.edu.au

Weekend Mass Times

	1st Sunday of Month	2nd Sunday of Month	3rd Sunday of Month	4th Sunday of Month	5th Sunday of Month
Narrogin	Sunday 10:15 am	Sunday 9:30 am	Sunday 9:30 am	Sunday 9:30 am	Sunday 9:30 am
Wagin	Sunday 8:00am	Saturday 6:00 pm	Saturday 6:00 pm	Saturday 6:00 pm	Saturday 6:00 pm

WEEKDAY SERVICES AND RECONCILIATION

See Parish Bulletin