

First Reading Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading Philippians 1:20-24. 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation See Acts of the Apostles 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



St. Mary's Parish Cowes Three Churches—One Parish

St. Mary's—Cowes

Our Lady Star of the Sea—San Remo

St. Joseph's—Bass

Parish Priest: Father Siju Xavier

Parish Secretary: Kerry Laughton-McConnon

6 Cowes-Rhyll Road Cowes 3922 PO Box 878 Cowes 3922 Telephone 59 525 418 Email: cowes@cdsale.org.au

Office Hours: Thursday 9.30am – 2.30pm Parish Safeguard Officer: Brendan Marrinon.

Mass Times

Our Lady Star of the Sea—San Remo

Tuesday - Mass: 10:00 am.

(Divine Mercy Prayer and Rosary from 9.15 am)

Saturday Vigil Mass: 6:00 pm

St Joseph's—Bass

Sunday Mass: 11:00 am

Adoration & Prayer Wed 7-8 pm

St Mary's—Cowes

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday

Mass: 9:00 am.

Confession - Saturday at 10-11am (Blessed Sacrament exposed for silent adoration)



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

No Salvation outside the Church?

This is a story of the day labourers of Jesus' time. The 'early birds' contracted for the just wage of one denarius and did the hard work over the course of a long day. They were outraged when latecomers also received a denarius.

This little parable circulated in the Christian community of the first century because there was great antagonism between the Jews who became followers of Jesus and the non-Jews, the 'Gentiles'. Jewish Christians looked at their long history of hardship preparing for the coming of the Messiah. And, now, here were these Gentiles who had done nothing by comparison, and God appeared to be granting them whatever it took to enjoy the 'daily bread' of the Kingdom of God.

Jewish Christians had to be shocked out of *their* idea that God's grace could *not* be lavished on those outside the boundaries of the Chosen People.

We could pause to pray to be taken by happy surprise by those billions of people outside the Church who, by the grace of God, will share with us 'the Bread of Life', given for the salvation of *all* the world.



News from Our Lady Star of the Sea

Our Lady Star of the Sea school community wrapped up a wonderful Term 3 on Friday, celebrating student achievement in our end-of-term meetings and enjoying a fantastic sports-themed Footy Day lunch. We offer our sincere thanks to Fr Siju and the entire parish community for your ongoing prayers and support throughout the term. As our families enter a well-deserved holiday break, please keep our Grade 6 students in your prayers as they prepare to begin their final term before secondary school.



Diocesan Women's Event: Navigating the Unseen – Women Leading with Resilience

Women from across the diocese are invited to gather for an evening dinner and talk celebrating the strength, resilience, and expanding horizons of women in the mission of the Catholic Church.

Guest speaker **Dr. Kim Daniels**—Director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University and member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication, will share insights on leadership, faith, and renewal.

Date: Wednesday, October 14th **Time:** 7:00 PM

Venue: St. Patrick's Parish Hall, Pakenham **Cost:** \$30 per person (includes dinner & soft drinks)

RSVP: Bookings are essential by **October 4th**. Secure your tickets online at trybooking.com/DOZKU or scan the QR code on the promotional flyers in the church foyer.

March for the Babies 2026 – Melbourne

Join the annual peaceful walk through Melbourne to mark the 18th anniversary and advocate for the unborn.

Date: Saturday, 10 October 2026 **Time:** Meet at 1:00 PM **Location:** Treasury Gardens (Corner of Spring St & Wellington Parade, Melbourne) **Dress Code:** Wear pink and/or blue

Signs will be provided on the day. To ensure a peaceful, family-friendly environment with police presence, please leave loudspeakers, horns, and noisemakers at home.

Attendance is free, but pre-registration is required for individuals, families, and groups. Reserve tickets at trybooking.com/events/landing/1626138 or find more details at marchforthebabies.com.



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026: FOR THE CARE OF WATER.

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



We are a child safe parish. Any children, young persons and adults at risk have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you are concerned about any form of abuse, or believe that someone is at significant risk, you should immediately raise your concerns with our Parish Safety Officer. He can be contacted through the Parish Office. Ph 0359525418

