

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - The Widow's Mite



*T*he widow makes a sacrifice; she gives what little she has. While not necessarily starving probably didn't have much to live on and certainly not much in the way of the comforts of life. She, nevertheless places her trust in God that he will provide for her. She stands unnoticed in the Temple but actually makes a greater sacrifice than all those high-ups who are ostentatiously walking about looking important, hoping people will notice them. It is the Widow's sacrifice that will be rewarded by God; her willingness to take a risk, her wish to give something back to God in return for all that she has already received from him. This implies deep faith in God. Her simple action demonstrates what we call trust in divine providence.

Jesus is praising the woman not only because she is giving all she possessed but also that she does it discreetly and not to gain attention. She looks for no reward, she simply does her duty. What we need to learn from this reading is that pride and greed take us away from God while humility and poverty of heart draw us closer to him. What God is interested in is our motives. It is what drives our actions that interests him, not so much what we actually end up doing. This is one of the most important lessons of life. We cannot hide from God, He knows our inmost thoughts and motivations; he knows what we are thinking and what drives our actions. There is absolutely nothing that we can hide from him. This is why we have to keep a constant check on our thoughts as well as on our actions.

This story of the Widow's Mite is an important one for us all. It teaches us about how important it is to have a correct inner motive for our actions. It teaches us that God

notices our inmost thoughts and judges us accordingly. It teaches us the importance of generosity and the need to depend on God when we have nothing else. These are timeless lessons that we need to be sure that we transmit to our children; that we need to be sure we have learned ourselves. These lessons are the key to a truly deep and fulfilling life.

## **FIRST READING**

*1 Kings 17:10-16*

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: 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.

## **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

*Response : My soul, give praise to the Lord.*

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. *Response*

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger. *Response*

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. *Response*

## **SECOND READING**

*Hebrews 9:24-28.*

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.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Even if you have to die, says the Lord,  
keep faithful, and I will give you  
the crown of life.

Alleluia!

## **GOSPEL**     *Mark 12:38-44*

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.'

Jesus 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 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.'





We pray for those who have died recently **Dean King** and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Ella Massey, Jan Toogood, Joan Green, Bridget Cody, Allen O'Connor, Mary Speirs, Bill Elligate, Greg Thomas, Dean Platt**



**Prayers:** Please remember to keep the following people and their families in your prayers .. Val Boothey, Valda Hogan, Maurie Smith, Chrissa Dickinson , John McIlvenna, Lillian Stewart, Flo O'Hara. Julian Insall, Sr Joyce Stewart, Celestine Ressa, Terence Rahill, Janet Dent, Klara (1 year old suffering from Leukemia), Nicki Fabro, Peter Woods, Marj Bateson, Michael Pucella

## **Trash & Treasure Stall – Kitchen Items only**

The Emerald Hill Seniors are holding a KITCHEN ITEMS Trash & Treasure Stall... Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December 9.30am to 2pm.

If you have any goods to donate please leave them with Kevin Lee after either of the weekend Masses. All Kitchenware donations gratefully accepted. If you can help on the day please give Geraldine a call on 9699 6050.

Proceeds to Capuchin Outreach Program.

**Emmaus Friendship group** – our next get together will be on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November and it will be held at the FCJ Convent in Richmond. If you would like to attend this get together please call Carol on 9699 2892 so that transport can be arranged for everyone. Cars will leave from the front of the Church on the day at 11.15am.

## OPEN HOUSE – STS PETER AND PAUL’S

“Open House” provides hospitality, food parcels, counselling, and meals for all in need. Nestled at the back of Sts Peter and Paul's Parish House/Capuchin Friary in South Melbourne, meals are provided throughout the week and the space is open for all to drop in for a coffee and a chat.

### Volunteers assist in the running of “Open House”.

A team of volunteers is involved in our meal services, with the collecting and supply of food, packing food parcels to give away and is ready to chat with the guests who drop in at Open House between the hours of 11:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday to Friday.

The funding provided to Open House by Emerald Hill Mission and The Capuchin Friars Outreach allows for various activities targeted particularly at disadvantaged families and older single people, e.g. weekly barbeques, counselling for drug and alcohol problems, assistance with job seeking and the like.

*Volunteers are currently needed ... especially for Tuesday 11.30am to 1.00pm and also for the Friday lunch 12.00pm to 1.30pm. For Information please call .. 9690 5895*



*Donations of non-perishables accepted*

*... canned protein foods, fish, meat, ham, vegetables, cereals, rice, sugar, UHT milk*

*and cream, soup, pasta sauce ... etc.*



### Emerald Hill Mission Food Van

Six nights a week the Emerald Hill Mission food bus is out in the streets of the City of Port Phillip (..South Melbourne, Port Melbourne St Kilda) nourishing the hungriest and neediest in our community, providing all kinds of nourishment, from hot meals, drinks and snacks but also offering companionship.

*Edmond Rice volunteers, Capuchin Friars young adults and a coalition of other volunteers take out the Food Bus helping to break through the barriers of loneliness and isolation that many living on the fringe of society suffer. We can provide a meal, blankets, snacks, hot beverages and most importantly, companionship.*

The Emerald Hill Mission food bus operate where the need is greatest. We do so with the generous support of our many volunteers, sponsors, donors and suppliers.