



**The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner**  
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**26th SUNDAY O/T – September 27, 2020 YrA**  
**We are warned that our final decision is to be for or against God that is most important because we are rewarded or punished according to it!**

**Life messages:**

- **We need to lead a responsible Christian life, saying "yes" to God.** Each one of us is responsible to God for every one of our actions, and the just God will punish or reward each of us according to our actions. As we do not know at what moment death will take us, our only guarantee of dying in God's friendship is to live in that friendship always, saying "Yes" to God in our deeds. We should become men and women who profess our Faith in word and deed, remembering that, **"Not all those who say to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will I enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but those who do the will of my Father Who is in Heaven.** (Matthew 7:21). God is always with us to strengthen us, to pardon us, and to lift us up again when, through human weakness, we stumble on the road. God is calling us right now, inviting us to work in His vineyard, inviting us to say "Yes" to Him with our words and actions. Let us accept God's invitation by purifying our hearts in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; by resolving to act upon our promises each morning before we get out of bed; and by declaring interiorly that people will be able to identify us as followers of Christ, not by empty words or pious gestures but simply by our Christian actions. In this way, we shall live a life filled with the joy that doing the will of the Father brings.
- **Instead of trusting in lame excuses, we need to seek God's mercy.** We often use flimsy excuses to silence our conscience. They run like this: "I didn't realize how sinful I was"; "I was just too busy with work, family and a decent social life to have time for Sunday Mass"; "That's what all my family does – it's got to be OK!"; "The devil made me do it – it wasn't my fault!"; "I couldn't be different from everyone else—I'd look stupid!"; "I meant to straighten things out – I just didn't get to it." These are not valid excuses at the judgment seat of God. Hence, if we have been disobedient to God in our past life, we need to knock at the door of God's mercy. We need to remember that what God in his mercy did for the tax-collectors and harlots in the parable, the Matthews, the Augustines, the Margarets of Cortona, and the millions of unknown penitents who are now Saints in Heaven, He can, and will, do for us, if we repent of our past sins and renew our lives as the first-asked son in the parable did. It is never too late for us to repent, be converted, and allow the Holy Spirit to renew our life: If we have been disobedient to God in our past life, we need to knock at the door of God's mercy. God can, and will, do for us what, in his mercy, He, did for the repentant tax-collectors and harlots in the parable and in real life. Hence, every night we need to repent of our sins and ask God's pardon. If we are in serious sin we also to be reconciled with God, the Church and our brothers and sisters through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in order to be able to receive Jesus Holy Communion. Let us remember that it is never too late for us to turn back to God. Never too late for us to be transformed.

**Recently Deceased:** *Maria Di Cello, Attasio Kalafatis, Gilda Papile, Ernesto Asuncion,*

**Anniversaries:** *Nicola & Rosaria Scarmozzino, Gregorio & Filomena Torchia*  
*The sick in our parish: Teresa & Con Lamonaca, Leanne Branchflower.*

**Prayers in time of a pandemic - The Catholic Weekly**

*The early Christians prayed in the church of the home. Once more, in troubled times when public worship has to be restricted, we are called to pray in "the domestic church", always aware of the promise of Jesus, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." (Matthew 18:20).*

**In this challenging time:** Lord Jesus Christ, our true physician and healer, be merciful to us and bring us your aid in these troubled times. Heal all our sickness and every affliction of your people. Drive out our infirmities of soul and body; free us from all disease and especially from this pestilence. We place in your gentle Heart the elderly, the frail, people with disability, children, young people and families, our indigenous peoples, those who are poor, lonely and isolated. As you walk with us, free them from fear, and give them patience and hope together with our loving care. In your mercy deal also with the causes of our pitiful condition, that in curing our lack of faith and spiritual weakness, you may also remedy our bodily ills. We place our trust in you, the risen Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

**For those who care for the sick**

Father of mercies, we thank you for all who care for the sick.  
 When they diagnose, give them patience.  
 When they protect the vulnerable, give them your protection.  
 When they work to heal, give them strength.  
 When they comfort, give them consolation.  
 When they are tired, give them rest.  
 When they are discouraged, bring them your hope.  
 May we welcome and respect them as we support one another in this time of trial.

**For those seeking a cure for the virus**

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tiring work and enrich in them the virtue of hope. Amen.

**For those who govern and represent us**

Eternal Wisdom, guide our leaders called to serve us in our Nation. May they respond to the challenges of this affliction with prudence and sound judgement. With foresight, may their planning alleviate the economic burdens, compensate for losses, protect employment and ensure ample food for the poor and isolated. **Amen.**

**For humility** Merciful Lord, we stand before you in our human weakness. We confess that we have been caught up in the pride and presumption that drives our worldly society. Free us from the arrogance that afflicts our age, for now we stand confounded by conditions beyond our control or understanding. Give us humble and honest hearts to discern the greater mystery of your providence in creation. May we accept your justice and trust your redeeming mercy. **Amen**

**Archbishop Comensoli's letter to the People and Clergy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne (16 September 2020)**  
<https://cam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/16Sept20-Letter-to-People-and-Clergy.pdf>