



The Parish of St Matthew's North Fawkner
 Archdiocese of Melbourne, 95 William Street, North Fawkner, 3060
 Tel. 9359 2369 e-mail: stmatthewschurch@bigpond.com
www.stmatthewsparish.org.au



Fr. Florentino Galdo Parish Administrator 9359 2369 Parish Secretary: Krys Herrmann 9359 2369
 School Principal: Bob Brown 9359 5423, Deputy Principal Carmela D'Amato 9359 5423

28th SUNDAY O/T – Oct 11, 2020 YrA

We are given a standing invitation to the everlasting joy of the *Heavenly Banquet* and a loving warning to stay ready always for this *Heavenly banquet* by constantly wearing the *wedding garment*, by remaining in a state of grace by avoiding sins and by doing good.

Life messages:

- **We need to keep wearing the wedding garment of holiness & righteousness,** the state of grace, all the time, do good for everyone, and appreciate and receive God's graces in the Church:
- **We received the "wedding garment" of sanctifying grace in Baptism;** the other Sacraments provide the additional graces we need to retain it.
- **Our participation in the Eucharistic celebration** and in personal and family prayers helps us to recharge our spiritual batteries and enables us to lead Spirit-filled, prayerful lives of doing good for all. Jesus nourishes us in the Church through the proclamation of word of God and through His Body and Blood offered to us as spiritual Food and Drink in Holy Communion. **We need to participate in the Eucharistic banquet with proper preparation by repenting of our sins and by actively participating in the prayers and singing during the Holy Mass.** *Participating in Holy Mass is the best preparation and greatest Source of power for our future participation in the Heavenly banquet.* Life message
- **We need to be grateful to Christ for the invitation to the Heavenly banquet:** From the moment of our Baptism, we have been invited to the Heavenly Banquet and provided with the Wedding Garment of Sanctifying Grace. These great privileges and blessings are freely offered to all, and they are given to us who accept His Gift of Faith, by a loving God. These daily Divine invitations to salvation are to be welcomed with a willingness to be daily transformed by God's grace and according to God's will. But the same obstacles which prevented the Pharisees from entering the Kingdom -- pride, love of this world, its wealth, its power, and its pleasures -- can impede us, too. Hence, we must be prepared to do violence to our ordinary inclinations and to offer ourselves in love and service to Jesus and to his people. That is how we will make our Wedding Garment clean and bright every day. Receiving these gifts of God fully also demands that, instead of remaining marginal members of our parish community, we bear visible witness to our beliefs. Let us have the consoling conviction that, while as Church members we are expected to contribute actively to its life and witnessing, the forgiveness of God and of the community is always available whenever we betray its ideals in our weak moments. Therefore, let us pray that we may keep our Wedding Garments pure and spotless, and that we may become disciples who really practice the teachings of Jesus, rather than remaining mere *Sunday Catholics*. Let us pray for a deeper Faith Hope, and Love and a better spirit of responsibility to our community.

Humour: Heavenly banquet reserved for women? "Mummy," asked a little girl, "do men ever go to Heaven?" "Why, yes, of course, my dear," answered the mother. "Why do you ask?" "Because I have never seen angels with moustaches, whiskers or beards." "Well," replied the mother, "some men do go to Heaven, but they get there only by a close shave!"

Recently Deceased: Maria Xerri, Giacchino & Michela Caruso, Antonio Bucciti

Anniversaries: Antonio Esmaque, Johanna, Eugene & Hans Herrmann, Ludwig Weifritz, Maria Bonadio.

The sick in our parish: Teresa & Con Lamonaca, Leanne Branchflower, Raphaella, Judiel Teodoro & Nola.

We especially pray for all the deceased whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel. We pray for all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time.

All Good Gifts

You probably saw [Babette's Feast](#), or at least have heard about it. An impoverished fine cook from Paris makes her way into a small Danish town where the religion of the area made people hard and cold to each other, at least according to this movie, afraid to enjoy or even to relate to each other. Babette had only a small stash of possessions, but she was a top chef. So she prepared, over many days, a huge, delectable, exquisite feast, serving after serving, all for the uptight townspeople. As they began to taste and enjoy, they began also to communicate in kindness to each other. They even danced! **Food is meant to be enjoyed, not refused.**

I have heard people say that the movie promoted self-indulgence, and I do not endorse such a thing. But I do notice similarities to the huge feast we hear about in the [1st Reading](#).

It is the famous invitation from the Lord of Hosts, full of unstinting promise. "A feast of rich food and choice wines," Isaiah says. A great feast, a "groaning board" in medieval England, just like the banquet in Babette's Feast.

This Sunday's [Gospel](#) has a sumptuous feed too. The king gets his very best livestock fattened up, seasoned, readied for cooking, with invitations sent out. If you thought the people in Babette's town were reluctant, look what happened here. Some people refused outright to come. Others simply ignored the invitation as if it had not been given, and a number "laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them." The king punished these and then invited in street people. **Food is meant to be enjoyed, not refused.**

But with so many people starving in today's world, how dare we fatten ourselves up with rich food and every other kind of riches? Shouldn't we much more becomingly abstain and deny ourselves? Isn't the "First World" currently fattening itself on food far more lavish than the ancient world could ever have imagined? Advertisements in the United States tell us we should luxuriate, should pamper ourselves, should not hold back. "Who says you can't have it all," they say. How are we to respond, we who try to be faithful to God and God's promises? But remember that Jesus both fasted and feasted. He abstained from food for forty days at the beginning of his public ministry. But later on he said, "The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners' ([Mt. 11:19](#))." How would he have gotten such a reputation except by enjoying his times with others at meals? Which is it for us, then, fasting or feasting? I think the answer is simple yet difficult to grow into. I think we are meant to receive humbly and to give to others as well. The mistake is to adopt a stance of only receiving (getting, grabbing) or on the other hand, only giving (giving, with nothing in return). Sunday's readings invite us to come into the kingdom, to open up, eat, enjoy what is there. To receive as Jesus did. He went deep, accepting all things as coming from God's hand. Then, when it was time to let go of it all—life, friends, peace and possessions—he did that with love.

Receive and give. Jesus wants us to receive his life and then give it out to the world.

Father Foley Copyright © 2020, John B. Foley, SJ All rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce for personal or parish use.