

## Reflection on the Gospel-22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

(Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23) -Veronica Lawson RSM

After a lengthy detour over some weeks into the gospel of John with its focus on Jesus as the Bread of Life and the Bread of Wisdom, we return to Mark's gospel and a legal dispute about ritual purity. The parties to the dispute are Jesus, the Pharisees, and some of the scribes or teachers of the law. It is worth noting that Mark's non-Jewish readers, later and in another place, need to be given detailed information about certain Jewish traditions.

At issue for the scribes and Pharisees in the story is the failure of Jesus' disciples to respect their oral tradition, in this instance to perform ritual washings before eating. From their perspective, the disciples are not walking" according to the tradition of the elders. For the Markan Jesus, "the command of God" is paramount, not some distorted interpretation of it. He offers a hard-hitting counter-critique of their attitude to law. He calls them "hypocrites" and informs them that the condemnation of the prophet Isaiah was intended for them. They have so distorted God's law, substituting their own observances for the "commandment of God" that their prayer amounts to nothing more than lip-service, their hearts are far from God, and their worship is worthless!

For Jesus, there are criteria other than such observances for determining who is clean or unclean. He has already declared the leper clean (Mk 1:41-45). For Jesus, the "heart" is the locus of purity and impurity. For him as for all his people, the heart was the seat of the intellect and of morality as well as the seat of the emotions. In the kingdom of God, therefore, one's thoughts, desires, and intentions render one clean or unclean, not one's attention to hygiene. The latter is important of course, as the experience of pandemic has taught us, but it is peripheral in the context being addressed in the gospel. It is worth applying the criteria provided at the end of the passage to discover whether or not our "hearts" are near or distant from our God. The real-life Pharisees of the first century were the respected teachers of God's law. It is imperative that stories such as we find in today's gospel are not used to denigrate the Jews or to pit Christianity over against Judaism. We must keep reminding ourselves that time and again we are dealing with in-house debates between Jewish groups.

Finally, this episode, with its attention to ritual washing, raises the issue of the right use of water, that precious earth element without which there would be no life at all on our planet. Plastic free July this year alerted us once more to the problem that the plastic bottling of water has brought to the future of life on our planet. It may be time to bring out our "keep cup" and reaffirm our commitment to protecting God's creation.



**WELCOME TO ST. PATRICK'S PARISH**  
COMMUNITIES OF WAROONA AND YARLOOP  
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**1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME YEAR B**  
RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

THE JUST WILL LIVE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

### ST. PATRICK'S Church MASS TIMES:

**Weekday Masses** Wed., Thurs., Fri. 9:00 am

**Weekend Masses** Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm Sunday 8:30 am

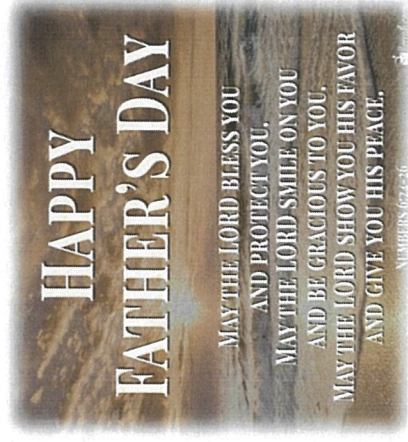
**Devotions:** Rosary on Wednesdays 9:30 am and Prayers to St. Joseph at Mass

**Mass Intention 31<sup>st</sup> August Saturday:** Let us pray for the soul of **Peter Feraro** as we remember his 9<sup>th</sup> year death anniversary offered by Mary Feraro and Family.

**Home visitation:** Fr. Jorge is happy to do home visitation if you know anyone who wants to have a visit or you would want to be visited kindly get in touch with him.

**We remember in our prayers all the Sick especially:** Shelley Pawang, Socorro De Chavez, Maria Dimasi, Catarina Martelli, Tona Pisconeri, Vince Pisconeri, Lena Deleo, Margaret Bevan, Peg Venables, Romana Stampone, Mrs Pazzano, Betty Dundon, Judy Alexander, and all those in need of God's healing. Please get in touch with Fr. Jorge if there is anyone you wish to be added or be taken off the list.

We welcome and express our gratitude to **Fr. Joel Villanueva OSJ** as he celebrates our mass this weekend and talks about our Founder **St. Joseph Marelllo** and our Order **Oblates of St. Joseph** (OSJ).



*Prayer for Fathers*  
*Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness, and patience. Support them in the work they do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender. Amen.*

**General Intentions:**

Let us pray for peace in areas where there are conflicts, namely, in Gaza and Ukraine. We pray for an end to violence and for people to respect the sanctity of human life and work towards the restoration of order and peace. Let us pray for the homeless, the lonely, the underprivileged in our community.

**AUGUST Prayer Intention of Pope Francis: FOR POLITICAL LEADERS**

Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking caring of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.

**Church Cleaners' Roster:**

- Thank you to all Volunteers for keeping our Church Neat and Tidy
- Remember, more volunteers mean less time having the job done.
- For extra help, please contact Del or Lena A. 0429 177 347
- September 13th Jillian Snell 27th Ange Ferraro & Carmel Look
- October 11th Kerry Shore 25th Gino Chiera
- November 8th Karen Riegert 22nd Lucy Anzellino
- December 6th Maria Ferraro & Monina Almينة Aquila 20th Lena Anzellino

**Readers, Commentators, and Greeters Roster**

DATE	GREETER	COMMENTATOR	READER
Saturday August 31		Ange	Carol
<b>Sunday September 1</b>	Lyn	Murray	Karen
Saturday September 7		Carmel	Carol
<b>Sunday September 8</b>	Lily	Kerrie	Jackie
Saturday September 14		Ange	Carol
<b>Sunday September 15</b>	Lyn	Lena	Mary
Saturday September 21		Carmel	Carol
<b>Sunday September 22</b>	Lily	Carol Hull	Jillian
pSaturday September 29		Angel	Carol
<b>Sunday September 30</b>	Lily	Kerrie	Sue

**OUR GIFTS FOR OUR PARISH 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August**

1<sup>st</sup> collection: 362.50. 2<sup>nd</sup> collection: 337.50 online: 75.00 Total: 775.00  
 Parishioners are now able to direct credit offertory gifts on a weekly or monthly basis, or annual donation, Account – Waroona Catholic Parish; BSB – 086-006  
 Acc. No. 847 527 158 In The description please state  
 "OFFERTORY" AND YOUR NAME.

*Thank you for your Generosity and may God Bless You! "The miracle of giving is that it ripples. Your one small gesture can affect thousands."*

**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.

*Congratulations*

*Massimo, Annie, Joni, Jack*

*for continuing your sacramental journey, to your first Eucharist!*

*They received their First Communion last Saturday August 24 during our Vigil Mass. Our parish faith family is delighted to have you join us in our Eucharistic celebrations. Jesus loves you and joyfully shares himself with you.*

*Thank you to the family, staffs of St. Joseph's school and all the faithful of our parish for all your support.*

