

PARISHES OF SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK,  
CAMBERWELL, BALWYN & DEEPDENE  
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
(YEAR A) • 2 AUGUST 2020



***Spending Time with the Word of God..***

*Find a quiet space*

*Place a candle as a focus for your prayer*

*When you are ready, you can light the candle to acknowledge the presence of Christ among us.*

**GATHERING RITE**

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: As we come together, let us join as a community in prayer, acknowledging our need to care and respect each other.

The Lord is rich in mercy and kindness. Let us prepare ourselves to hear God's Word and praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you heal us when we are sick:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Christ Jesus, you feed us when we are hungry:  
Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, you give us everything we need:  
Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, may our hearts be filled with compassion and love as we reach out to others in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Let us pray.  
God most holy, your gifts are all around us but we do not always see them. Help us to seek your goodness and follow where you lead, for your love for us is the greatest gift of all. We ask this through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*As we prepare to listen and proclaim the Gospel the following introduction can be said:*

Reader: Lord be in my heart and on my lips as I proclaim and listen to your holy Gospel.  
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Mt 14:13-21 They all ate and were satisfied.*

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.**

## REFLECT AND RESPOND

Take a few moments to ponder the words of God's love and the impact they have on you:

- What strikes you about this Gospel? Which words or phrases?
- What message can you take from this passage that is applicable today?

Response: Reflect on moments in your life when you experienced God's generosity. Where in your life are there opportunities to 'share food' so others will have enough? If you are praying with other family members, invite each to share.

Leader: Let us pray.  
With faith in the love of Christ, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That the Church will always show the love of God, acting with kindness and compassion.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That nations with abundant resources will come to the aid of those in urgent need of food and shelter.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who are sick will be comforted through God's merciful love. We especially pray for residents and staff at aged care facilities during this difficult time.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For an end to all discrimination, especially human trafficking, so that all may live with dignity and respect.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For those who have died will dwell in the kingdom of heaven forever.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: You are invited to share a prayer intention if you wish. (pause)  
For these and all our intentions deep in our hearts.  
Lord, hear us:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Loving God, you sustain and nourish all who hunger your presence. Hear our prayers and strengthen our faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## OUR FATHER

Leader: Jesus taught his disciples to pray, and so we have the courage to say:  
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

All: Jesus, you promised that you will be with us to the end of time,  
be with us today, fill us with your love.  
Jesus, come to us, for we need you.  
Although we cannot receive you in Communion today  
we unite ourselves in faith, hope and love.  
Come Lord Jesus, come into our lives.

## CONCLUDING RITE

### BLESSING FOR THE WORLD, FOR OUR COUNTRY AND OUR HOME

Leader: Lord Jesus, your words are like food when we are hungry.  
May your wisdom always sustain us.  
In your name we pray.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: May the Spirit of wisdom inform our thoughts and God's Word live in our hearts.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**