

PARISHES OF SURREY HILLS WATTLE PARK,
CAMBERWELL, BALWYN & DEEPDENE
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(YEAR A) • 18 OCTOBER 2020



Photo by Hana Mara from Pexels

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.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are our honest teacher:
Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Christ Jesus, you treat everyone with the same respect:
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you teach us the way of God:
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Let us pray.
Lord Jesus, help us to act with fairness and honesty in every aspect
of our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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 22:15-21 Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and
to God the things that are God's.**

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

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 resonates with you in this Gospel? Which words or phrases?
- How can we apply today the words of Jesus, 'give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God'?

Respond: Today's Gospel makes it clear that to be a good citizen and to serve God are not in contradiction, since God works through people and institutions to build a community of love. All are subject to the higher demands of truth and justice and the dignity of the person centred in God. As Christians we cannot cut ourselves off from the affairs of the world, but we should never compromise our beliefs and values. In what ways am I called to go beyond the law showing love, mercy, and justice to others and to all of creation? If you are praying with other family members, invite each to share.

Leader: Let us pray.
With thankful hearts let us bring our prayers before God.

Reader: We pray for the Church, on this Mission Sunday, that all the baptised may embrace their mission to go forth and proclaim the good news.
Lord, hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for civic leaders, that they may carry out their work with integrity.
Lord, hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our community of faith, that we may always give God thanks for the many blessings we have received.
Lord, hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the sick and those who care for them, and that those who have died recently will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord.
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, hear our prayers and help us to be true to you in everything we do. We make this prayer 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, Lord, 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, may we be true to you in everything we do.
In your name we pray.

All: Amen.

Leader: May God bless us with his mercy, strengthen us with his love, and enable us
to walk in charity and peace. And may almighty God bless us. The Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.