

LISTENING WITH DELIGHT

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 7 NOVEMBER 2021



Ludovico Mazzolino | public domain

It is lovely to be back in the parish after study leave.

PARENTS & PREP 2022

On Wednesday evening, parents of next year's Prep students gathered to meet the Prep Year staff and other school leaders.

A video of students sharing and praying was a wonderful highlight.

How important it is to **listen** to the children.

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLANS

Earlier in the day, was the quarterly Archdiocesan meeting about the Reconciliation Action Plans in our pilot parishes, schools and agencies.

Again it was an important opportunity to **listen** and plan.

It was lovely to report back on St Joey's Catholic EarlyEd Care RAP and St Joseph's School draft RAP plan which is being fine-tuned at present.

ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS PARISH MASSES

At Monday's All Saints Parish Mass,
and Tuesday's All Soul's parish Masses and College Mass,
we asked our loving God to **listen** to our prayers for those who have died.

With incredible patience and love, God listens to us.

We are asked to share that patience and love, as we **listen** to each other.

And the opportunity to contact and remember friends at Melbourne Cup gatherings where COVID restrictions permitted.

And family members by phone and social media contact, being able to **listen** to each other.

In our Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council,
the importance of **listening** to others is essential.

SAINT PATRICK'S BLACKALL FETE

The St Patrick's Blackall Fete on Saturday 20th November is a wonderful event.

We pray for its success and we pray for the members
from our parish family who are journeying up to Blackall.

And the sharing and **listening** to stories of how things have been going.

COP26 GLASGOW

At the present climate change meeting in Glasgow, COP 26,
we have a reality test as to whether we are **listening** to the environment **or not**.

National Catholic Reporter carries this article about the first week of COP 26
<https://www.ncronline.org/news/earthbeat/first-week-cop26-offers-big-climate-pledges-catholic-activists-want-details>

Our Parish webpage gives access to the updates from COP26.
The link is www.stjosephsbrackenridge.com

Let us pray now for the gift of **listening**, for detailed plans and action in the second week of COP26. **[pause and pray]**

Just before today's Gospel passage,
we learn that Jesus was teaching the crowd of people in the Temple precinct.
In Mark 12:37 we hear

'And the large crowd was listening to him with delight'.

To be able to **listen with delight!**

In our prayer, we are called to find the time and opportunity to **listen** to God with **delight**.
And in weekend and weekday Masses, there are opportunities to **listen with delight**
to God's Word in the Biblical Readings,
and to **listen** to the Holy Spirit's promptings within us
during the Eucharist as we respond with **delight**.

WE ASK TWO QUESTIONS

Today we ask two questions –

1. Do I think that God listens to me with delight?
2. Do I humbly listen to God with delight?

Part of my recent study of the writings of St John of the Cross was about the growth in delight in our relationship with God. This includes the dark night when God weans us off the breast and enables us to walk lovingly with God, and to pick up the Cross lovingly instead of dragging it.

In love with God, we desire to listen to God with delight.
In love with God, as a community,
we desire to love in solidarity with God's creation and each other.

TODAY'S GOSPEL OF MARK 12:38-44

Jesus calls us to be guided by the love of God,
and not to be guided by self-importance and power and prestige.

The first part of today's Gospel points out the weakness of scribes
"As he taught, he said,

*'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes,
and to be greeted with respect in the market-places,
and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets!
They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers.
They will receive the greater condemnation.'* "

Not only do they seek out places of honour,
but they also **'devour widow's houses'**.

Jesus **contrasts** these attitudes with a widow who appears in front of them.

*"He sat down opposite the treasury,
and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury.
Many rich people put in large sums.
A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny.
Then he called his disciples and said to them,
**'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more
than all those who are contributing to the treasury.
For all of them have contributed out of their abundance;
but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live
on.'**"*

The humility and generosity of the widow has drawn the interest of Christians for 2,000 years.

She makes no speech, and does not draw people's attention to herself.
What she does is between herself and God. She gives more than most.

Giving of our money and our possessions are only a part of our response.

Giving with delight of our time, enthusiasm and love.

Giving with delight of our service and efforts.

Giving with delight of our very selves.

We learn from the widow, not only to give with delight,
but **to give humbly with delight**.

Let us humbly love God who gifts us with life and love.

Let us pray.

Father Gerry

Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/110721.cfm>

