

'WORLD DAY OF THE POOR' – HOMILY - 19 NOVEMBER 2017

Pope Francis has declared this Sunday, the First World Day of the Poor.
God gifts each of us with life.

HOW DO WE GROW IN OUR LOVE OF GOD AND NEIGHBOUR?

By loving.

Not by being fearful and hiding God's treasure of Love.

MATTHEW 25

CAN TODAY'S PARABLE FROM MATTHEW 25 HELP US TO REFLECT ON THIS?

A person going on a journey entrusts three servants with enormous wealth.
One gets five talents, another gets two talents and another one talent.
All are caretakers, stewards of that treasure. None of them own the treasure.
The first two servants grow the treasure – they don't let it be dormant or in paralysis.

We are told:

***"But the one who had received the one talent went off
and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money."***

We are not to hide God's graciousness and love.
We are to grow in our faith and love.

The first two servants on the master's return are praised:

***"Well done, good and trustworthy slave;
you have been trustworthy in a few things,
I will put you in charge of many things;
enter into the joy of your master."***

God entrusts responsibility to us in life.
And invites us to enter into God's joy.

The parable is one that would keep the people's attention as Jesus told it.
Such a story of great wealth would be told and retold by hearers.
And the harshness of the master and the laziness and fear of the 3rd servant
would be remembered in the retelling.
The 3rd servant hadn't even invested the amount.
Hearers would share their opinions on that.
And the ending would shock them.
A drama told to be retold over the ages to come.

MATTHEW REVEALS THE MERCY OF GOD

Of course, Matthew repeatedly reveals the mercy of God.

The master in the parable doesn't parallel our image of God.

Jesus relates through the words of the third servant

***"Master, I knew that you were a harsh man,
reaping where you did not sow,
and gathering where you did not scatter seed"***

As the master doesn't parallel God,
the coming **passion scenes** in Matthew's Gospel
would reveal the incredible **depth of God's love for us**,
with Jesus dying for us, that Jesus would be our **saviour**,
and we be invited to enter the **joy** of God's love eternally.

ENCOUNTERING THE POOR IN PRACTICAL WAYS

- In preparing for this Sunday, we were invited in Monday's Mass to reflect on how we encounter and respect the poor in our midst
- In Tuesday's Mass we prayed for our parish St Vincent de Paul members and we prayed for the people in need at this moment that they meet
- St Joseph's Primary School and St John Fisher College invited staff and students into the spirit of the World Day of the Poor
- In Friday's morning Mass and especially in the evening vigil, we prayed for our Indigenous sisters and brothers grieving in the reburial ceremony in NSW
- This weekend, in our newsletter, a special appeal is announced, for a school community some suburbs away, where some children do not even have breakfast or lunch

SOME OF OUR SYMBOLS OF SHARING

In the procession of gifts today, some of our small ways of sharing are placed at the altar

- our St Vincent de Paul box
- our Blackall Tambo Parish can
- our bucket for South Sudan water wells
- a loaf of bread humbly offered as a symbol of our everyday life, and those who are hungry now.

YEAR OF YOUTH 2018

Sharing the love of God is across the whole community.

Emma, our parish youth coordinator, speaks at all Masses this weekend.

She wishes to consult with all young people aged 12 -30.

A survey is also available for you, the younger community members, to express your insights.

Emma is available after all Masses as well - for a yarn.

OUR YOUTH GROUPS – BLITZ, ROCK & SALT

We, as a community, thank Josh and Kelcey for their wonderful leadership and bless them as they take a break from **BLITZ**.

We commission Emma in her youth and children's ministry, **ROCK** and **BLITZ**.

We commission Damian, Jess and Sarah as leaders in our young adult group **SALT**.

GRIEVING AND RECONCILIATION

IN LOVING, HOW ATTENTIVE ARE WE TO THE GRIEVING OF OTHERS?

At our weekly local parish prayer vigil on Friday night,

we remembered the importance of praying in solidarity. Praying with respect.

The Mutthi Mutthi, Nygiampa and Paakantji Peoples had reburied Mungo Man earlier in the day in New South Wales.

It was a sacred time. Also, a possible moment of Reconciliation as a nation.

Mungo Man's human remains had been taken in 1974, without permission of the local Indigenous custodians of the area. In 2015 his remains were moved from ANU to the National Resting Place, until he could be properly buried once more. Scientists involved reveal that he was buried about 42,000 years ago. He had been about 50 years old, buried in ceremony and painted with ochre. He suffered from severe arthritis. There has been a nationwide movement by our Indigenous sisters and brothers for many years now, in contacting museums and universities around the world, to recover the remains of their Ancestors.

Watching part of Mungo Man's reburial ceremony on TV and social media was an opportunity for us, as Australians, to be aware of how important, how sacred and how reconciling, the reburial ceremonies are. Respecting the deep spiritual and cultural traditions of Indigenous people. In justice and healing. Recognising their pain.

Like the first two servants in today's Gospel, we must reach out in love to others. Thank you to the Mutthi Mutthi custodian who reached out to us and provided an accompanying prayer ritual for all Australians to share on the day, wherever they were. If you missed it and would like to pray from it during this week, you will find the explanation and invitation to pray on the website of the [Yingadi Aboriginal Corporation](#), and an attachment to the liturgy.

MAY THE SPIRIT OF MUNGO MAN REST IN PEACE.

Jesus told the parable that could be told over and over again.
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By loving.

Not by being fearful and hiding God's treasure of Love.

On this World Day of the Poor, and in our preparation for the Year of Youth 2018, and as Australians seeking Reconciliation and Justice and Healing,
let us live and love generously in Jesus and in our neighbours everywhere.

Amen.

Fr Gerry

[Fr. Gerry Hefferan – World Day of the Poor – 19 November 2017]

[Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/111917.cfm>]

[Parish Facebook: <http://bit.ly/parishFacebook19112017>]

Other:

[Yingadi Aboriginal Corporation – Liturgy for Mungo Man](#)

[Year of Youth 2018](#)

[World Day of the Poor](#)