

St Therese's Parish Essendon

10 & 11 October 2020

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
World Mission Month



First Reading Is 25:6-10 A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.

On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

Gospel Mt 22: 1-14 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE 2020 This year our perpetual Book of Remembrance will be published online on our website.

To submit new names to the book, please follow this link: <https://forms.gle/26pCK8E5ovgFbDpv9> which will be active until 5pm on Wednesday 28 October.

If you would like to submit names via email then please send them to essendon@cam.org.au.

Entries in the book are sorted alphabetically by last name.

The book will be up on our website from Sunday 1 November.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have submitted names in previous years there is no need to do it again as all names remain in the Book of Remembrance.

Brothers and sisters, called to the banquet of life, let us bring our prayers before God.

We pray for the Church: may we always be a haven of welcome for those in need, offering friendship and warmth, understanding and care.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for all those whose jobs have been adversely affected by Covid: may their work and conditions bounce back to a healthy balance.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for all the sick and needy members of our parish: may we be constant in our care for them and see in them the presence of Christ among us.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for the children at our school as they conclude their period of remote learning and return to onsite learning this coming week. May they have a fruitful and happy final term for 2020.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for students preparing for their VCE exams and for those finishing their secondary school but not sitting the VCE. May they all have the strength and resilience to confidently make their way to independence.

Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.

We pray for our own special intentions: **Lord, hear us - Lord, hear our prayer**

We pray for those who are ill, especially Jorge Arenivar, Marty O'Donnell, Lolita Fajardo, Jane Phelan, Joan Kennedy, and Gerard O'Brien

For those who have died recently, Eddie Gauci and Marg Kovacs,

And those we remember at this time especially Bridget and John Sweeney, Mary Elsie Smith, Beatrice Grocott, Anthony Paul Guiney, Pat Johnson, Angela-Antonietta Salpietro, Gerry Delaharpe, Pauline Tighe,

Lord, hear us - Lord hear our prayer

Generous God, you lavish us with kindness and invite all to the wedding feast. Hear the prayers of your people and help us to prepare for the coming of your kingdom where we will dwell in your house forever.

Amen



Almighty and merciful God,

we pray for the healing and full recovery of those affected by COVID-19.

We pray for God's comfort for those who have lost loved ones to this pandemic.

Protect the doctors and health care professionals on the frontlines, and guide scientists and researchers to develop treatments, cures and vaccines.

Guide with your wisdom, all Governments and Health Authorities to work for the welfare of the people.

Father God, we submit our lives, our families, our projects and our futures to you.

We pray that through the precious and holy blood of the Lamb shed on the cross, this pandemic may stop.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Dear Friends,

It was heartening to see photos of all those school students who participated in the [National Week of Solidarity](#) last month, calling for people seeking asylum to have the support they need during COVID-19. At a time of so much uncertainty and hardship, their solidarity is an important and meaningful gesture.

There are currently around 16,000 children and young people seeking asylum in Australia. Many of their families have experienced job losses and are ineligible for Federal Government income support or Medicare. This has severely impacted basic needs such as access to housing, health care and food.

CAPSA will continue to call on the Federal and State governments to extend a vital safety net (financial support, Medicare, and adequate shelter) to everyone in need within the Australian community, regardless of their visa status, as the impact of this health and economic crisis continues.

In positive news, it appears the bill is unlikely to have sufficient numbers to pass through the Senate after Senator Jacqui Lambie, who holds one of the key deciding votes on the issue (and had not previously publicly disclosed her position) [recently announced](#) she opposes the bill.

CAPSA also believes this legislation is overly broad, restrictive and should not be passed. Our friend and colleague Andy Hamilton wrote a perceptive recent article on the bill for Eureka Street. Here's an excerpt: *'The confiscation of phones, searching of personal belongings and strip searches are highly intrusive and humiliating actions with potential to injure the mental health of those exposed to them. The reasons offered in justification are sketchy and general — to respond to criminal behaviour and prevent plans to escape and create disorder. They also point out that detention centres house both people seeking protection and people subject to deportation after serving sentences for crimes.*

None of these reasons are convincing. There are already adequate powers to respond to disorder and criminal acts by individuals. Nor, in the case of a captive population, is there the urgent need to act without seeking a warrant for the action. A general power to confiscate phones, strip search people and search their possessions would be regarded as an overreach of power and an invitation to abuse when directed against any other group in society. In a detention centre where people are locked up with officers, the powers create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation that increases tension and harm to mental health.'

WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2020

Sunday, September 27 marked the 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, a day on which Catholics gather together to pray and act in solidarity with fellow migrant and refugee brothers and sisters. The theme chosen by the Holy Father is "Forced like Jesus Christ to flee" to focus on the pastoral care of internally displaced people (IDPs). To read more about Pope Francis' message, read the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACRMO)'s [toolkit here](#).

To commemorate this day, the Justice and Peace Office (JPO) of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia, and Nangami, the peace and justice group at Our Lady



Picture courtesy of [Jesuit Refugee Service Australia Facebook](#)

PROHIBITING ITEMS BILL

A concerning [Federal Government bill](#) that would provide new search and seizure powers for Australian Border Force officers in immigration detention passed the House of Representatives in early September, and will now be debated in the Senate, which convened on October 6. The bill would enable officers to seize items such as mobile phones and sim cards.

of the Way Jesuit parish in North Sydney, co-hosted a public webinar where a panel of experts discussed: *Is this a Time for Grace within our public policy, our theology and our own actions towards migrants and refugees? Is there reason to have hope for all of us?*



Speakers included Bishop of Parramatta, Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv; Fr Frank Brennan SJ AO, Australian Jesuit Priest, Human Rights Lawyer, and Academic; Nishadh Rego, Policy, Advocacy and Communication Manager, JRS Australia; and Julie Macken, Research and Projects Officer, Justice and Peace Office, Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney.

To watch the webinar, please click on the following [link](#)

SOME GOOD NEWS!

Huyen Thu Thi Tran and her two-year-old daughter Isabella were finally [released from immigration detention in Melbourne](#) in late August. This was such good news. Isabella had spent her whole life in immigration detention. They should never have been locked up in the first place.

Rights group Human Rights for All also stated that several more people were released from immigration detention in late August, some after many years.

MORE REFUGEES LEFT WITHOUT SUPPORT

According to the Refugee Council of Australia (RCOA), the Federal Government has abruptly begun moving scores of people out of community detention and onto Bridging Visas in the community. The difficulty is that many are now left without any financial support, nowhere to live and few community contacts. Although they now have the right to work, finding a job – difficult at the best of times – is even more so at a time of economic upheaval due to COVID-19.

Those affected by this decision are refugees and people seeking asylum previously transferred by the Australian Government from Papua New Guinea and Nauru to receive medical treatment in Australia, or their accompanying family members. Their ongoing visa status is uncertain. According to

RCOA, as at 23 September 2020, 188 people have been moved from community detention in QLD, NSW, SA and WA, with consideration in train to move more than 300 more people onto the same arrangements.

Read [RCOA's brief on the issue here](#).

STATS: ONSHORE IMMIGRATION DETENTION

According to the latest statistics on onshore immigration detention released by the Department of Home Affairs, as at 30 June 2020:

- 1,523 people were in immigration detention across Australia
- 42.5% of people were detained for more than one year
- 25.5% of people were detained for more than two years
- The average period of time people are detained is 551 days

RECOMMENDED READING

To read Andrew Hamilton's article **Mobile phone bill threatens dignity and decency** in Eureka Street [click here](#).

ABC, [Australian Government refuses to release 'starving' immigration detainee despite UN appeal](#)

Star News, [Family's struggle to survive](#)

The Conversation, [With our borders shut, this is the ideal time to overhaul our asylum seeker policies](#)

SBS, [Australia's international borders remain shut to these refugee families in India with permanent visas](#)

[VIDEO] RCOA, [Fatma's Story: A Family Left Behind](#)

NYT, ['White Australia' policy lives on in immigrant detention](#)

The Guardian, [Sri Lankan refugee detained by Australia for 11 years despite government ruling he's owed protection](#)

ABOUT CAPSA

The Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA) is about compassion for people seeking asylum.

We are an alliance of individuals, organisations, schools and parishes from across the Catholic community who advocate for fair and humane treatment for people seeking asylum in Australia. We know that together WE CAN make a difference.

Jesuit Social Services and JRS (Australia) co-convene CAPSA, supported by an Advisory Group of national representatives.

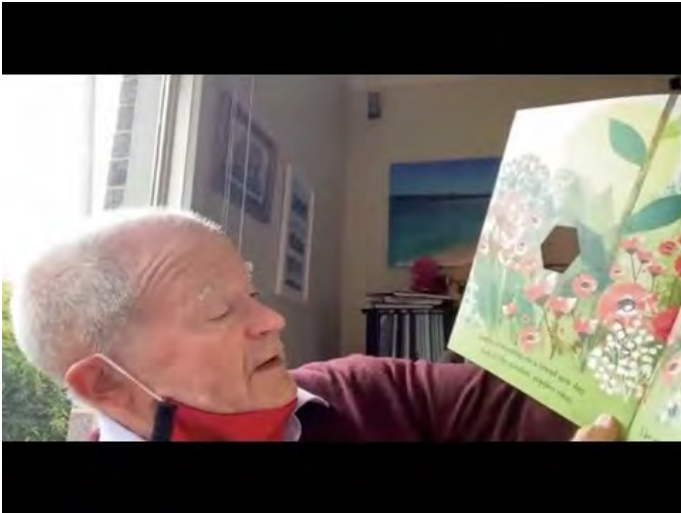
Individuals, parishes, organisations and local groups can all join CAPSA and stay up to date with a monthly e-bulletin. Individuals can [join online](#) while groups (parish, school, social justice, workplace or community) simply email info@capsa.org.au to sign up.

PARISH LIFE ISO

This week, before their return to onsite learning, the children of St Therese's primary school marked the Feast of our patron St Therèse with some special remote-learning activities.

'The significance of celebrating her life and legacy as a school community, before we all return to school on Monday, is something that brings me great joy.' said principal Michael Di Nuzzo.

Friday's school programme began with an online Para-liturgy with school leaders, staff and a special appearance from Fr John who talked to the children about St Therese, read from the Gospel of Matthew, and read the book Bee by Britta Teckentrup.



Click on this picture to see Fr John speaking to the children

Last year staff and students decorated the school grounds with beautiful chalk artwork in honour of the Feast of St Therèse. This year students were asked instead to create a chalk garden at the front of their own house. Gardens could include flowers, quotes or other special images that have some connection to St Therèse. 'We are hoping, weather permitting, these tribute gardens are on display all throughout our local community so that families can go for a walk later in the day and enjoy other student creations.' said Mr Di Nuzzo.

Luckily the rain held off and the kids were able to get outside and bring their chalk gardens to vibrantly colourful life.



We hope come across some of the beautiful tribute garden artwork in your neighbourhood.

We'd love to hear what you've been up to in ISO. Email jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au to contribute to Parish Life in ISO

POPE FRANCIS RELEASES NEW ENCYCLICAL Pope Francis has written his third encyclical entitled *Fratelli tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship), which he addresses to all people of goodwill and offers as a proposal for a way of life 'marked by the flavour of the Gospel'. Archbishop Peter Comensoli encourages the faithful to read the pope's words: 'Situated as we are in the latter stages of this Pandemic, *Fratelli tutti* offers much that we might embrace ... and how we might emerge from this time of exile to go on mission into the world with the beating heart of Jesus. I urge everyone to read it, and to then return to it with time and space to draw more deeply into the riches within.' Visit our website to read the [full encyclical](#) or a [summary](#).



COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR 2021 Our St Vincent De Paul Society conference will be selling Columban Art Calendars this year. Anyone interested in purchasing a calendar from SVDP should contact the office either by email essendon@cam.org.au or by phoning 9401 6330 during office hours.

Details on how to collect the calendars will be worked out once more information about the Metropolitan Melbourne roadmap are released.

Proceeds from sales support the works of our SVDP Essendon conference.



WOMEN, CHURCH, COMMUNITY IN A TIME OF COVID-19: Listening, awakening in knowledge, discerning and imagining our way together

YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION, ZOOM EVENT

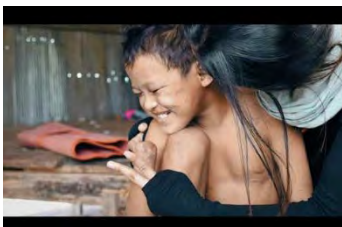
WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER

4.30PM - 6.30PM

The link to Zoom event will appear on the YTU website on 20 October: <https://ytu.edu.au/>

We begin in conversation with Claire Renkin and guest artist, Jan Hynes about her cycle of paintings featuring Mary and Elizabeth, then we widen our conversation and share insights and challenges. Facilitator: Rachel McLoughlin (ibvm YTU Chaplain) with Claire Renkin (Lecturer Art History and Spirituality YTU) and Eleanor Flynn (Lecturer YTU)

MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS WORLD MISSION MONTH Help empower children and young adults with disability at the Arrupe Centre in Cambodia, providing vital care for those with otherwise limited opportunities or support to lead a fulfilling life. Help empower people like Dara and Chen.



DARA'S STORY Dara was only 11 years old when he lost his hand and most of his eyesight when he picked up an unexploded ordnance he found on his family farm. Concerned about being able to provide the special care and education now needed, Dara's parents were grateful when the Arrupe Centre, offered their son a home and the support he needs. Now, two years on, Dara has been able to learn Braille, enjoys going to school and playing with his friends at the home.



CHEN'S STORY At just 16 years old, Chen's life changed in a moment when he stood on a landmine that took both of his legs. With his family already struggling to make ends meet, they were unsure if they would be able to provide the necessary care for Chen. The Arrupe Centre offered a lifeline, and opened many doors for Chen. Ten years after the accident, Chen has completed his secondary education and he has gone on to study information technology processing at university, and gain employment at the La Paloma Textiles Centre, a Church-run social enterprise in Battambang.

TO DONATE TO CATHOLIC MISSION'S 2020 APPEAL [CLICK HERE](#) OR PHONE 1800 257 296.

PARISH GIVING DURING COVID19 If you usually support the parish with envelopes at Masses and would like to continue your payments, you can deposit your PSP donations directly to the parish accounts. Note there are separate accounts for church and clergy.

Contributions to the church account:

Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, Account number: 67640 1701

Contributions towards supporting the clergy:

Account Name: St Therese's Church, BSB: 083 347, A/C number: 67616 4988

Any deposit should be referenced with your FIRST INITIAL and SURNAME so that we know that the money is a PSP payment attributed to you.



MELBOURNE STEP 2 RESTRICTIONS AT ST THERESE'S

Our church remains closed except for permitted ceremonies.

RELIGIOUS GATHERINGS: permitted with a limit of five people, plus one faith leader. Must be adjacent to the place of worship with only one group permitted at a time. You can only travel up to 5km from your home to attend a gathering and only for 2 hours.

FUNERALS: will be limited to 10 mourners (infants under 12 months of age not included in this number). A separate grouping of mourners may not come in to remove the coffin from the church.

You can travel to a funeral outside of metropolitan Melbourne.

WEDDINGS: permitted in outdoor public spaces with a maximum of 5 attendees, including the couple and two witnesses, but not including the celebrant. Children under 12 months are exempted from the number. Do not need to occur proximate to a place of worship.

BAPTISMS: may be celebrated under the outdoor gathering limits. This allows for 5 people including the faith leader outdoors (a child under 12 months not included), meeting all hygiene and distancing precautions and recording names and contact details of all present.

REQUESTS FOR OUTDOOR RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES WILL BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE-BY-CASE, PASTORAL BASIS.

VISITATIONS: Homes: Faith leaders may visit someone in their home on request to share spiritual ministry (or equivalent religious services) to provide care and support to a person who is at the end of their life. It is critical measures like face coverings and physical distancing are observed, and that the travel to the person's home and the visit are limited to what is reasonably required and necessary (e.g. only required attendees should visit and just for the service).

Hospitals or Care Facilities: Faith leaders may visit someone in a hospital or care facility to share spiritual ministry (or equivalent religious services) to those who are at the end of their life, or if it would support a patient or resident with their emotional or mental wellbeing, in line with other visiting restrictions and if this support cannot be provided remotely. It is important to note that strict limits on 3 visitors apply in these circumstances. It is critical measures like face coverings and physical distancing are observed and these visits are limited to what is reasonably required and necessary (e.g. a visit has been requested by a patient).

Mass online is celebrated Wednesday to Friday along with our weekend Mass.

PACE REMAINS CLOSED

PARISH OFFICE OPERATES REMOTELY You can call us weekdays 9am until 3pm or send us an email. For those needing to speak to Fr John, appointments can be made over the phone or via email. Onsite meetings are not permitted.

EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS contact number for Fr John: 0490 956 610

For the full details of Step 1 restrictions you should visit the [DHHS website](#).

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE provides regular pastoral updates on the COVID-19 situation on the CAM website: www.cam.org.au

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: John Hannon john.hannon@cam.org.au

Baptism – Pastoral Outreach: Leanne Torr leanne.torr@cam.org.au

Business Manager: Kathy Gilmour kathy.gilmour@cam.org.au

Function Manager: Jac Radcliffe jac.radcliffe@cam.org.au

Bookkeeper: Irene Fritsche irene.fritsche@cam.org.au

Parish Leadership Team: essendon.plt@cam.org.au

Child Safety Officer: Olivia Metcalf essendon.safeguarding@cam.org.au

Office opening hours - Monday to Friday 9.00am – 3.30pm

Office Telephone: 9401 6330 – after hours Fr John: 0490 956 610

Office email: essendon@cam.org.au Website: www.stthereses.org.au

School email: principal@stessendon.catholic.edu.au

St Vincent de Paul helpline: 1800 305 330 WEEKDAYS 10am–3pm

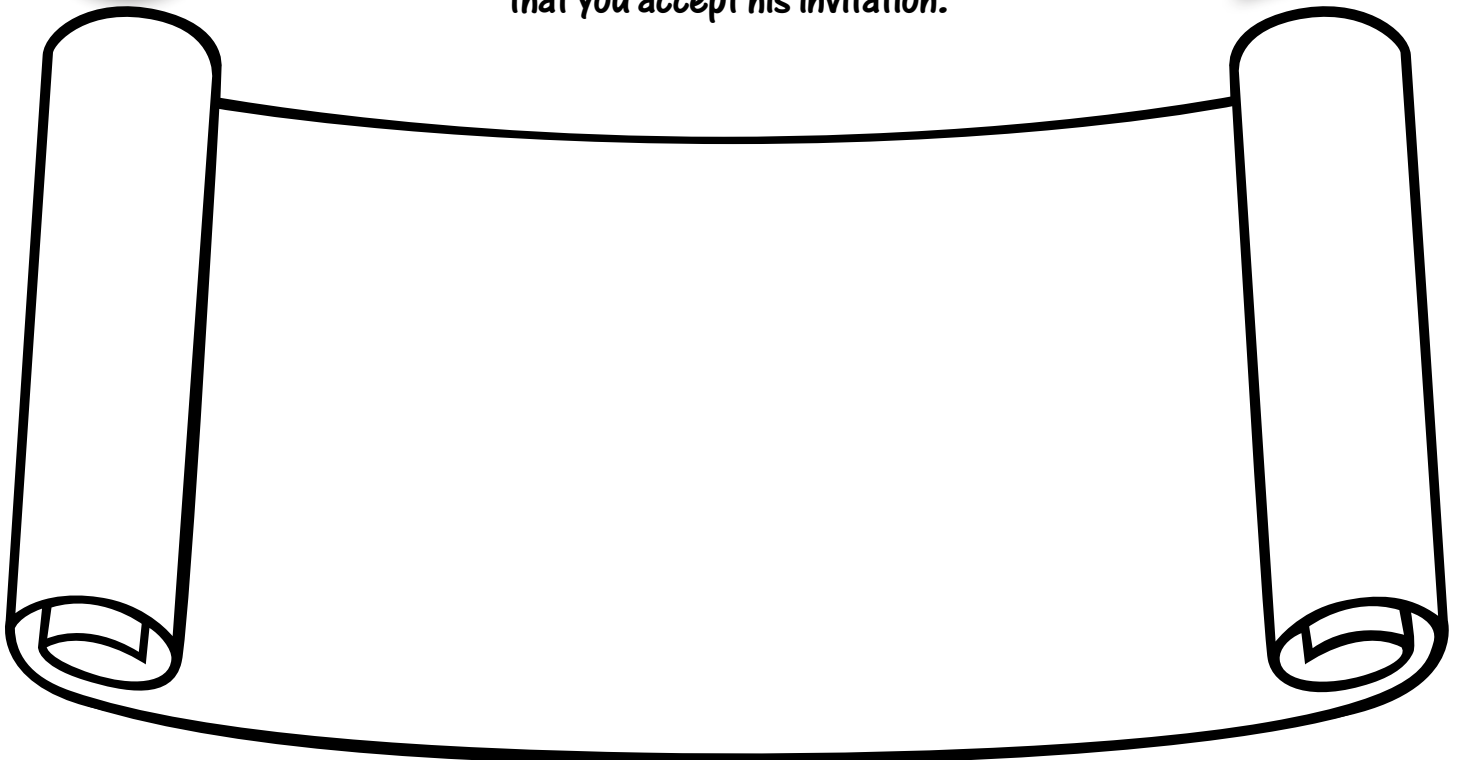
Tiny T's Playgroup: stthereses.tinyts@gmail.com

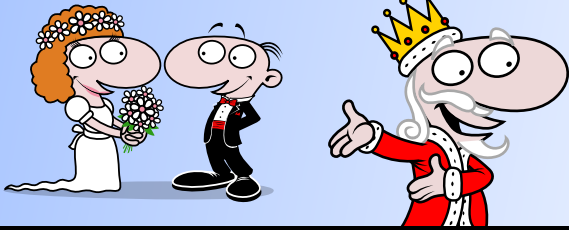
The banquet is ready!

When the invited guests refused to come, the king asked people from the streets to come to the banquet. On the table, draw the finest food for the banquet.



Just as we invite our friends to be at our party, Jesus wants us to know that we are all invited to eternal life with him in heaven. Draw a picture of yourself doing something that shows Jesus that you accept his invitation.





The banquet is ready!

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Gospel Mt 22:1-10

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants,

maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants were out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.'

Make a list of all the people you would invite if you gave a banquet.



What would you do if everyone refused to come to your banquet?



BANQUET

How many words can you make from the letters in the word BANQUET?

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