

St Therese's Parish Essendon

21 and 22 November 2020

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Year A



First Reading - Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

You, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.

As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

Gospel - Mt 25:31-46 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He will take his seat on his throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal



CHRIST THE KING This week's liturgy marks the end of the liturgical cycle. Next week begins the new year with the season of Advent. The liturgy is celebrated as the Feast of Christ the King – reminding us of a very imperial model of church and theology that reflected the structure of the Roman Empire and later, Feudal Europe. To have this reading on the feast of Christ the King is a powerful reminder of how Jesus envisaged the Kingdom of God. For Jesus, the Kingdom was not a rule of power and status but a rule of justice and peace for even the lowliest. It is an apt conclusion to the liturgical year.



GOSPEL FOCUS – THE FINAL JUDGMENT Often referred to as 'The Final Judgment', this gospel presents an understanding of judgment and punishment that reflects the theology and culture of the first century. It is an image that has continued to dominate Christian art and theology for most of its history: the idea of God sitting in judgment on the final day and weighing up each individual's actions. It is often applied very literally and it is a dominant image of God represented in the media – TV sit-coms and movies often draw on the image. It is a literalist image of God that needs to be challenged. We must remember that the focus of the gospel passage is on the call to action for justice.

Loving God, we pray for our needs and those of all humanity.

We pray for the Pope and all leaders in the Church: may they set out clearly and fearlessly the teachings of the Gospel. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

That wealthy nations seek practical ways to relieve the crushing debt of poor countries. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

We remember all the faithful departed, especially those we knew who have died in the last 12 months. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

That each of us in this parish be a strength to one another at this time. **Lord, hear us. Lord hear our prayer.**

We pray for the speedy development of a successful cost-effective vaccine for Covid that can be distributed to everyone the world over. **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 Marty O'Donnell, Lolita Fajardo, and Jane Phelan

For those who have died recently, Lachlan Millet, Elsomina Lopez, Austin Eastburn, Marie Lithgow, Annie Finn, Joseph Julian Fernando,

And those we remember at this time especially Anne O'Riley, Giuseppina Furlani, Terry Daffey, Gerard Hockey, Nell O'Brien, Alison Hinton, Brian Bergin, Angelina & Ermineo Risso, Gwen Proudfoot, Ula McColl, Frances Hogan Sweeney, Regina Cecilia Jones.

That they will rest peacefully in God's loving care. **Lord, hear us - Lord hear our prayer**

God, you raised up Jesus as King of all creation. Hear our prayers and help us to see Jesus in everyone we meet. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

REFLECTION BY GREG SUNTER

This week's gospel is the final passage in Matthew's gospel before the passion narrative – the death and resurrection of Jesus. As such, it provides a powerful end point to the teaching ministry section of the gospel. In many ways this passage can be seen as a summary of Jesus' vision for the Kingdom – a world in which the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked and the imprisoned are treated with respect and dignity as a child of God. This is exactly what Jesus himself did throughout his ministry and it is what all Christian people are called to do.

Like the virtuous people of the passage, there are many times when we do not know the good work that we do. There are many times when our positive interaction with another person can be the difference between hope and despair for that person – and we may never know the difference we have made in their life. The challenge presented by Jesus is that whenever we see a person in need our response to them should be as if we were responding to Jesus himself.

But what of the times we fail to respond to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked and the imprisoned? Who are they for us? ... That irritating person who we've never been able to get along with?... That person who's just arrived in the country and can't speak the language properly? ... That kid who always looks dirty and nobody talks to? ... That girl who's no good at relating to other people and everyone avoids her? ... The homeless man in the street who asks for money? ... The asylum seeker fleeing their country who didn't go through all the right channels to immigrate? ... Lord, when did we see you, and not come to your help?





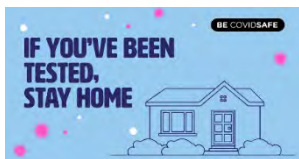
ST THERESE'S ROADMAP TO REOPENING

All going to plan, we will resume **WEEKEND MASSES ON SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER AT 6PM** This plan relies on us reaching the [Last Step in Victoria's roadmap for reopening](#).

Online bookings will open on for next weekend's Masses on Monday 23 November at 9am. Mass guidelines and the link for booking are below. Online booking is preferred but if you do not have access to online devices you can call the office after 10am on Monday to make a booking. We will only be booking one weekend in advance at the moment and will maintain a waitlist for those who miss out.

MASS GUIDELINES AT ST THERESE'S ESSENDON:

- No more than 100 persons may attend Mass as well as the priest.
- Entry to the church is via the main double doors at the Florence St/Lincoln Rd intersection. Mobility impaired persons may enter via the Lincoln Rd door in the west transept.
- The church will open 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass. There will be no access before this time.
- You must check in at the entry door. Contact details are required for all attendees and these will be collected at the time of booking.
- All persons attending Mass must use the hand sanitiser provided as they enter the church.
- All persons attending Mass must wear a mask unless a lawful exception applies
- Seating areas in the church have been marked as per social distancing requirements and some areas of the church are off limits.
- All attendees must sit 1.5 metres apart unless they are from the same household.
- Only recorded music is allowed.
- The sacristy is off-limits unless there is an emergency.
- There will be no sacristans required and Fr John will set up for Masses.
- There will be no Offertory Procession during Masses.
- There will be only two Eucharistic Ministers required at each Mass who must sanitise their hands directly before distributing the Eucharist.
- There will be no Altar Servers at Masses.
- There will be no collection during Masses. PSP envelopes and cash donations can be deposited in collection boxes before exiting the church.
- All doors will be closed during Mass to prevent public access.
- Attendees are asked to leave the church immediately after Mass has ended via any of the three exits.
- Public toilets at the rear of church will remain closed. The PACE disabled toilet may be used in an emergency.
- Following each Mass, the church and PACE toilet will be cleaned in accordance with routine environmental cleaning and disinfection in the community guidelines.
- Excepting the disabled toilet, all areas of PACE are off limits to Mass attendees.
- There will be no access to the church between Masses.
- No gatherings are permitted outside the church following Mass



Under no circumstances should anyone awaiting test verification, including Clergy or Deacons, (even without presenting symptoms) attend a church or parish setting until a diagnosis is confirmed. Additionally, under no circumstances should anyone attend who is closely connected to people who are awaiting test results or who have tested positive.

ONLINE BOOKING LINKS OPEN FOR SATURDAY 28 & SUNDAY 29 MASS AT 9AM MONDAY

Saturday 28 November 6pm: [Book on Eventbrite](#)

Sunday 29 November 9am: [Book on Eventbrite](#)

Sunday 29 November 10.30a: [Book on Eventbrite](#)

WAITLIST Anyone missing out on a booking will be placed on the waitlist and will have priority for the next available Masses.



OTHER CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS

PACE REMAINS CLOSED as it is classified as a community venue. Hospitality rules do not apply. PACE will not be available for hire for functions until the 4m² per person requirement is relaxed or lifted.

PARISH OFFICE OPERATES REMOTELY Phone us weekdays 9am until 3pm or send an email. For those needing to speak to Fr John, appointments can be made over the phone or via email.

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

THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE provides regular pastoral updates on the COVID-19 situation on their new website: melbournecatholic.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: WORKING BEE

Next Saturday we are holding a working bee to get the church ready for opening up weekend Masses of up to 100 people under strict distancing requirements. We'll need some able-bodied people to help move pews and chairs and get it all spick and span.

If you can help please arrive at the church by 9am. You will need to sign in, leaving your name and contact phone number.

Volunteers for once-off events like this do not need to hold a WWCC



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SANITISING Getting back to Mass means our church and toilets need cleaning and sanitising after each Mass. At the moment this is a one-person operation and we need help! If you are willing and able to help out please let the parish office know. We will provide training on what is required and will roster you on for a particular Mass. For ongoing volunteer work such as this you will require a Working With Children Check.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE: IS YOUR WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK UP TO DATE?

As we return to Masses and our parish life slowly turns to a new 'Covid Normal' it is a timely reminder that **ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HOLD A WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK**. There are no exceptions and we are required by law to enforce this requirement. Please update your WWCC to include St Therese's as a location where you volunteer, or apply for a new WWCC at <https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>



Click the image to watch this week's video

READY, SET, PRAY! CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD.

In this episode Andrew and Tara explore how the love we feel for Jesus needs to be experienced in our words and actions by all those we meet, especially those who seem unimportant. -- The team have also produced a downloadable Advent Wreath which may be coloured in and perhaps laminated. It could be used as a prayer mat or place mat for your child. The page also contains a weekly [Advent prayer to pray with your child](#). The Ready, Set, Pray! series is produced by Proclaim: The Office for Mission Renewal.'



Book of Remembrance

2020



Click the picture to go to the online book

OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE is now published online and a hard copy has been placed in our church where it will remain throughout November.

NOVEMBER OFFERING: Envelopes for November Masses can be placed in the drop box beside the parish office front door. Fr John will remember our deceased friends and family at all Masses in November.



SUPPORT THE WORK OF BAHAY TULUYAN PHILIPPINES AUSTRALIA

These wooden, hand-carved nativity sets are for sale. Each set sells for \$50, with all proceeds supporting Bahay Tuluyan. Made in the Philippines, they provide families with work and income for the year. If you would like a nativity set, please email Clare – clare@btpa.org.au. Bahay Tuluyan is a children's rights organisation based in the Philippines, aimed at preventing and responding to abuse and violence against children. More info at: <https://www.btpa.org.au/>

COLUMBAN ART CALENDAR 2021 If you would like to purchase a calendar from SVDP please contact the office either by email essendon@cam.org.au or by phoning 9401 6330 during office hours. A representative from our SVDP Essendon conference will be in touch to arrange pick up or delivery. Proceeds from sales support the works of our SVDP Essendon conference.

DATES NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Date	Event	Time
Saturday 28 November	Working Bee to arrange church in line with spacing requirements and in readiness for weekend Masses	9.00am
Saturday 28 November	First Weekend Advent – Weekend Masses resume*	6.00pm
Sunday 29 November	First Sunday in Advent Mass*	9.00am 10.30am
Saturday 5 December	First Eucharist Candidates at Mass*	6.00pm
Sunday 6 December	First Eucharist Candidates at Mass*	9.00am 10.30am
Tuesday 8 December	Sacrament of Confirmation School Students**	5.30pm
Wednesday 9 December	Sacrament of Confirmation School and RE Students**	5.30pm
Saturday 12 December	First Eucharist Candidates at Mass*	6.00pm
Sunday 13 December	First Eucharist Candidates at Mass*	9.00am 10.30am
Tuesday 15 December	St Therese's School Grade 6 Graduation Mass**	4.00pm
Wednesday 16 December	Term 4 Concludes	1.00pm
Saturday 19 December	Working Bee to polish up church and church surrounds for Christmas	9.00am

*Subject to easing of restrictions. Mass attendance will require booking.

** Subject to easing of restrictions. Masses are not open to the public – private celebration.

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.

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

To have our newsletter delivered direct to your inbox, subscribe by [clicking here](#)

St Therese's Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

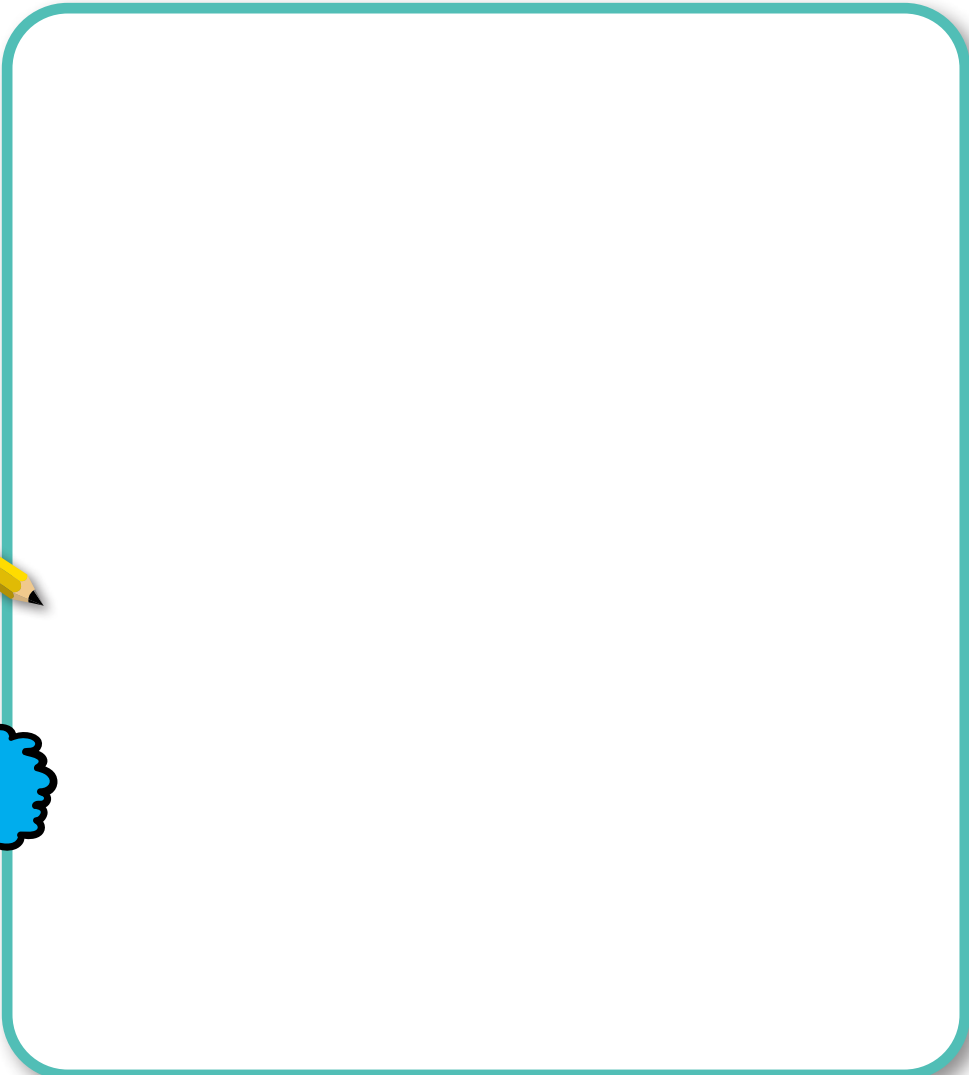
We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country of the land on which our church stands and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to Elders past and present.

Come and receive the kingdom that is prepared for you

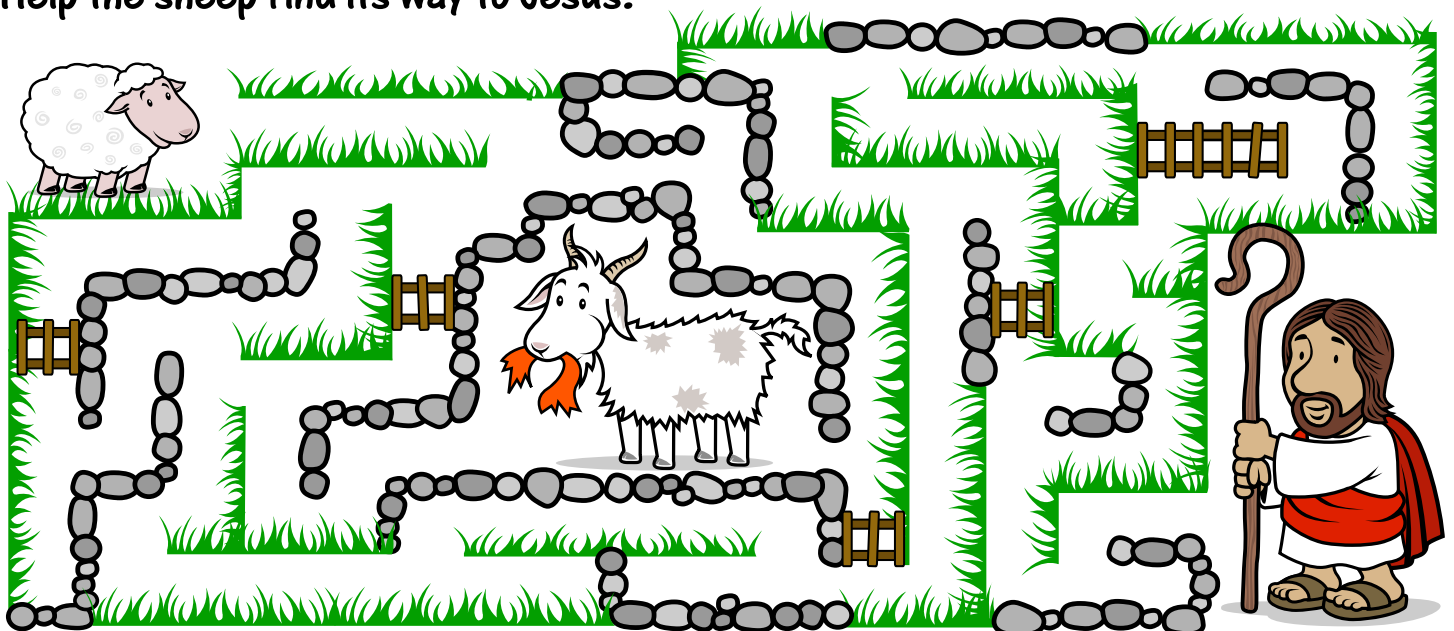


Jesus says when we do something good for others we also do it for him.

Draw a picture of yourself performing an act of kindness.



Help the sheep find its way to Jesus.





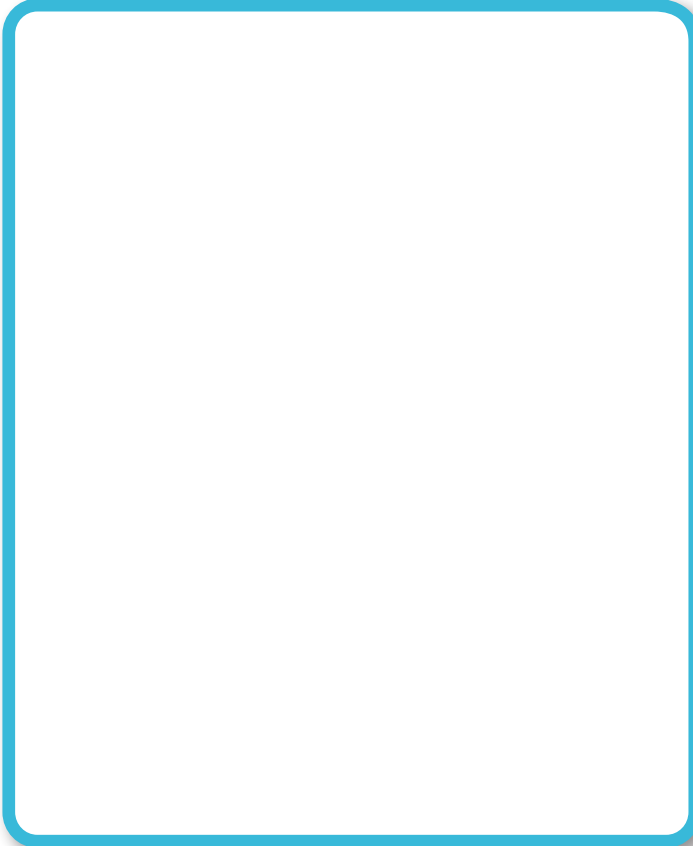
Come and receive the kingdom that is prepared for you



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – Year A



Jesus says when we do something good for others we also do it for him. Draw a picture of yourself performing an act of kindness.



Fill in the spaces using the words below

When I was hungry, you gave me something to ____.

When I was thirsty, you gave me something to _____.

When I was a stranger, you _____ me.

When I was naked, you gave me _____ to wear.

When I was sick, you took _____ of me.

When I was in gaol, you _____ me.

welcomed drink care
eat clothes visited

Gospel Mt 25:14-15, 19-21

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed

you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'