



Gospel 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.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus first cleverly throws his questioners on the defensive. *They* are the ones carrying the coinage, not him. Then he poses the crucial question, 'Whose image is it and whose inscription?' They said to him, 'Caesar's'. Then he said to them: 'Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'

The coin bore the image and inscription of Caesar. Genesis teaches us that human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. Our Lord is saying, 'Let the political and financial authorities have their coinage. It is their legal tender. But they cannot have human beings. Human beings belong to Another. They belong to God.'

We are fortunate to live in a wonderful democracy. But even a democracy can violate the dignity of a human being created in the image and likeness of God. As Pope John Paul II said: 'Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, *and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person.*' (Italics added)

We could pause for a moment to thank God for the inscription, 'Child of God', effectively engraved on our hearts by baptism.

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The Living Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

22 October 2023

First Reading Is 45:1.4-6

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to
Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not
know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to
the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the
peoples. (R.)
- 2 The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens.
(R.)

3 Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)

4 Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thes 1:1-5

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;

you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

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OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
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Parish Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Wed 10am-4.00pm; Fri 10am-3.00pm.

Sunday Masses: *English* - Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm

Mass in other languages: *Chin - Burmese* Sunday 2.30pm; *Tongan* 3.30pm **22nd October**

Vietnamese Saturday Vigil 7pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7pm

Weekday Masses: Mon, Wed, Thurs & Sat 9am; Friday 11am; Tuesday 7.30pm

Confessions: Saturday 9.30am (*English or Vietnamese*) **Novena:** Tuesday 8.00pm



MASS INTENTIONS 21-28 October

Sat	5.30pm	Clement Da Costa RIP Arthur & Ineke Shacklock RIP
Sun	9.00am	Filip & Maria Krsticevic RIP
	10.30am	Paul Tran RIP, Maria Dinh RIP
	5.30pm	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon	9.00am	John Shacklock RIP
Tues	10.30am	FUNERAL: ANNE COOKE
	7.30pm	Eileen Shacklock RIP
Wed	9.00am	Olivia Da Costa RIP
Thur	9.00am	Sheila La'Rive RIP Zelma Dalby RIP
Fri	11.00am	Chris Basadur RIP
Sat	9.00am	Toni Power RIP

"Will you not watch one hour with me?" *Matt 26:40*

You are invited to come and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament:
Each Friday 12pm -3.00pm
Come for just a short visit or for as long as you wish.



October
Month of the Holy Rosary



Child Safety Reminders & Important notice for Parents

- ◆ Please accompany your child if they need to leave the building.
- ◆ Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.

Our parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and vulnerable people.

DONATIONS

Please support our parish
Thank you!



Week 5	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Mary Stanek	P Josan	Jannelli Campana	Melizza Boongaling
Extraordinary Ministers	Mary Rapa	Kieran Sheridan	Luisa Amati	Celine Rivera
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Emmanuel Campana	Eleazar Boongaling

Caesar and the King: *Scott Hahn Reflects on 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Readings: *Is 45:1,4-6; Ps 96:1,3-5, 7-10; 1 Thess 1:1-5; Matt 22:15-21*

The Lord is king over all the earth, as we sing in today's Psalm.

Governments rise and fall by His permission, with no authority but that given from above.

In effect, God says to every ruler what He tells King Cyrus in today's First

Reading: "I have called you . . . though you knew me not."

The Lord raised up Cyrus to restore the Israelites from exile, and to rebuild Jerusalem. Throughout salvation history, God has used foreign rulers for the sake of His chosen people. Pharaoh's heart was hardened to reveal God's power. Invading armies were used to punish Israel's sins.

The Roman occupation during Jesus' time was, in a similar way, a judgment on Israel's unfaithfulness. Jesus' famous words in today's Gospel, "repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar," are a pointed reminder of this.

And they call us, too,

to keep our allegiances straight.

The Lord alone is our king.

His kingdom is not of this world but it begins here in His Church, which tells of His glory among all peoples.

Citizens of heaven, we are called to be a light to the world—working in faith, labouring in love, and enduring in hope, as today's Second Reading counsels.

We owe the government a concern for the common good and obedience to laws—**unless they conflict with God's commandments** as interpreted by the Church.

But we owe God everything. The coin bears Caesar's image. But we bear God's own image.

We owe Him our very lives — all our heart, mind, soul, and strength,
 — offered as a living sacrifice of love.

We should pray for our leaders, that like Cyrus they do God's will — until from the rising of the sun to its setting all humanity knows that Jesus is Lord.



Parish Census TODAY - Extra Option online -> Scan QR Code below

We invite each member of our Parish to participate in our census process.

By completing the census form, we can register the number of our parish members and better understand the needs of our community. Data from this census will also enable the parish to strategically plan for important events, ministries, and other future endeavours. Your privacy is essential, and all information will be treated with confidentiality.

Thank you.

Please put the completed handwritten form in any of the collections. Or use ONLINE Form:

Parish Census 2023

Online Form

