

## Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

| Headings                                   | Gospel (Matthew 22:1-14)  | 1st Reading (Isaiah 25:6-10)   | 2nd Reading (Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20)  |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Context</b>                             | In carrying out His ministry, Jesus taught the people about God’s values and the kingdom of heaven. By speaking to the people in parables, Jesus granted understanding to those who were seeking God’s truth.   | Isaiah is generally regarded as being the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. Importantly, Isaiah predicted that God would send a Messiah (Jesus) to save his people by dying to take away sins.  | Paul’s letter was written to strengthen believers by showing them that true joy comes from Jesus Christ alone.  |
| <b>Key verses</b>                          | <i>“...many are called, but few are chosen.”</i>  | <i>“...the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet...”</i><br><i>“...we rejoice that he has saved us...”</i>   | <i>“...God will fulfil all your needs in Jesus Christ, as lavishly as only God can.”</i>  |
| <b>Key themes/ messages</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus has prepared places for each of us in the kingdom of heaven.</li> <li>• Jesus invites us to join Him in heaven. This is an open invitation, rather than one that is given to us just once.</li> <li>• We must be willing to listen to Jesus and follow Him. This is a choice that is freely given to all of us. It is also a stark message that we must respond positively to God’s invitation.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This wonderful prophesy shows us God’s plans to lavish His people with great gifts and blessings.</li> <li>• God will destroy Death through His son, Jesus Christ.</li> <li>• God’s saving message extends to all people throughout the world.</li> <li>• God’s word is absolute. We can therefore fully trust that God will follow through on His promise of salvation.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul was content whether he had plenty or whether he was in need.</li> <li>• While Paul knew he would face challenges, he also knew he could always rely on God’s power and strength.</li> <li>• Paul was grateful for what God had given him and rightfully gave glory to God. Paul also recognised the generosity of God’s promises to His people. (These promises were foretold by Isaiah and taught by Jesus in Mathew’s Gospel.)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Questions/ application to our lives</b> | How have we responded to Jesus’ invitation to follow Him? In particular, how can we show that we have chosen the path of salvation in the way we live our daily lives? Are there other steps we can take to better prepare ourselves for the kingdom of heaven?   | Do we recognise the strength of trust we can place in God’s word? If so, how do we respond to his promises, for example, by rejoicing and praising God for His many blessings? Does Isaiah’s banquet reminds us of the Eucharist?  | In reflecting on our lives, do we get our priorities right by focusing on what we have been given, rather than longing for other things we might like to have? Do we sometimes forget to thank God for his generosity?  |
| <b>Further reading</b>                     | <i>Catechism 543 - 546</i>  | <i>Catechism 1402 – 1405, 2837</i>   |   |

