

## The Perspective of Justice - Everlasting Life

The rich man wants to have it both ways: he wants his possessions and he wants everlasting life. Jesus shatters his illusion; you can't have both, Jesus says. The rich man goes away sad, prompting Jesus to comment on the difficulty of being rich and entering the kingdom.

There is more to this story than renunciation of material possessions, for Jesus does not tell the man simply to get rid of his possessions: he must sell them and give to the poor. The point of the command is the acknowledgment of the priority of people and their needs over the satisfaction provided by the ownership of things.

This is "God's word (that) is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword," and this is the spirit of Wisdom of which the first reading speaks: we are to value each other as if we were prime possessions, and the promise of everlasting life is made to those who have the power to give all they have to their brothers and sisters, especially those most in need.

Then who can be saved? Those whose love for God expresses itself in eagerness to do good for others.

Neither individuals nor nations should regard the possession of more and more goods as the ultimate objective. Every kind of progress is a two-edged sword. It is necessary if man is to grow as a human being; yet it can also enslave him, if he comes to regard it as the supreme good and cannot look beyond it. When this happens, men harden their hearts, shut out others from their minds and gather together solely for reasons of self-interest rather than out of friendship; dissension and disunity follow soon after.

Thus the exclusive pursuit of material possessions prevents man's growth as a human being and stands in opposition to his true grandeur. Avarice, in individuals and in nations, is the most obvious form of stultified moral development.

Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, 1967: 19

Gerald Darring

Gerald Darring is an adjunct instructor of Theology at Spring Hill College, Alabama

**DIocese of Parramatta Plenary Council Website:** We are almost at the half way mark of Assembly 1 of the Plenary Council and you can find all the links to the Agenda, daily livestreams and everything else you need on: [parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/](http://parracatholic.org/plenary-2021/)

*"Kindness is the natural fruit of goodness of the heart"*

(St Katharine Drexel)



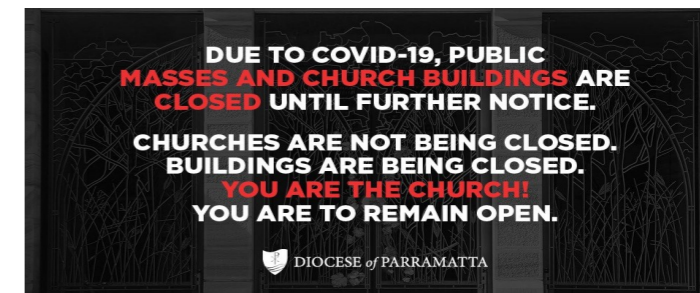
Monday, 11th October - *Feast of Pope St John XXIII* and *Feast of St Canice*  
 Saturday, 16th October - *Memorial of St Margaret Mary Alacoque*  
 Monday, 18th October - *Feast of St Luke the Evangelist*  
 Friday, 22nd October - *Memorial of Pope St John Paul II*  
 Sunday, 24th October - *World Mission Day (Holy See)*

## St Thomas Aquinas Parish Bulletin



Parish Website:  
 Parish Facebook Page:  
 Parish Priest:  
 Assistant Priest:  
 Parish Pastoral Council:  
 Parish Office Hours:

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777  
 PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777  
 Phone: 02 4754 1052  
 Email: [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org)  
[www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au)  
**St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood**  
 Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0418 461 316  
 Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052 *Emergency ONLY:* 0415 077 969  
 Email - [springwoodppc@gmail.com](mailto:springwoodppc@gmail.com)  
 Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm



### A Poem to Sit With



For the Christ  
 did not consider  
 his divinity something  
 to be clung to  
 but left his  
 land to be our servant  
 outstretched arms  
 were his only posture  
 as an infant  
 to his death on a cross  
 for such the Father  
 desired in the  
 Spirit.

J. Janda

### THE GOSPEL

Mark 10:17-30

*Jesus looking at him, loved him, and said to him,  
 "... Go sell what you have and give to the poor  
 then come, follow me."*

Lord, please look upon us and love us.  
 And grant to us the grace to  
 give freely to the needy  
 everything you  
 have poured  
 upon  
 us.

In our giving, Lord  
 let us receive  
 a hundred  
 fold:

you,  
 Lord of All.

Anne Osdieck

**Today's Readings:** *Wis 7:7-11; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30*

**Entrance Antiphon:** If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 89:12-17**

**R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

**Next Week: Is 53:10-11; Heb 4:14-16; Mk 10:35-45**



**Sick:** Evelyn Robinson, Lisa Vaughan, Susie Ziino, James Wallace, Mischa Damaguc and family, Margaret Day, Adam McCully, Christopher Coombs, Kate Moore, Luca Hurley **and all Private Intentions.**

*Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.*

## Parish and Local Community News

**THE GLOBAL FOUNDATION ROAD TO ASSISI ROUNDTABLE:** You are invited to The Global Foundation's upcoming 'Road to Assisi' Roundtable, which will be held online on Thursday 21st October from 5pm to 7pm. Hosted by Fr Frank Brennan SJ, the roundtable will speak on climate change and will focus on practical actions which may be undertaken by those taking part. For more information, and to register by 11th October, please contact [sg@globalfoundation.org.au](mailto:sg@globalfoundation.org.au)



**NATIONAL CARERS WEEK:** 10-16th October. It's an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding contribution carers make to our community, and to give a little something back. This year it is going virtual, with a wonderful program of 30 online events, designed to give carers some much needed respite and a little entertainment. From the check in and chat sessions, to trivia, the Great Race gameshow and yoga, and even information sessions – there's something for everyone. All events are free and there's no limit to how many you can attend. Get the full program and start registering now at: <https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/carersweek>

**CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE: Inter-religious Dialogue Course Information Session** - The Catholic Theological College is offering a six-week intensive course on "Christian Faith and World Religions: Inter-religious dialogue in Australia" over Zoom in Semester 2 2022. The College is hosting an information session on Wednesday 20 October from 7pm to 7.30pm AEDT, with registration essential at [https://divinity.zoom.us/join/register/tZEpFuyorzsiGtGBjOis8utrIdbWvjMe\\_fWR](https://divinity.zoom.us/join/register/tZEpFuyorzsiGtGBjOis8utrIdbWvjMe_fWR). Contact the Academic Records Office for enrolment information and appointments on (03) 9412 3333 or [registrar@ctc.edu.au](mailto:registrar@ctc.edu.au)

**CATHOLIC OUTLOOK BOOK GIVEAWAY:** You have a chance to win one of three copies of "Opening Doors: A Seeker's Reflections on the Rooms of Christian Living" by Kevin Treston. 'Opening Doors' has been described 'an easy read that asks hard questions', designed to help us create a better life and a better world. Entries are now open until Monday 11 October. Enter today via [catholicoutlook.org](http://catholicoutlook.org) and fill out the form under 'Book Giveaway'.

**POSITIONS VACANT: Human Resources Partner** – Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited, Diocese of Parramatta. **Human Resources Manager** – Catholic Diocese of Parramatta Services Limited, Diocese of Parramatta. More details at: [parracatholic.org/employment](http://parracatholic.org/employment)



**ST THOMAS AQUINAS RECORDED MASS:** *Fr Paul would be honoured if you could join him each week* - Every week since March 2020, Fr Paul has recorded Mass at Lawson and it is uploaded onto our Website and Facebook pages every Saturday morning. You are able to view at any time. Web: [www.stachurchspringwood.org.au](http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au) or Facebook: St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood.

**2022 JOSEPHITE CALENDARS:** Inspiration for daily life from the writings of St Mary MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods with attractive coloured photos taken by the Sisters and Associates Dates to Remember... + Key events in the life of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods + Significant dates in Josephite history + Liturgical Calendar and Feasts of the Catholic Church + Public Holidays + School term dates for Australia + Phases of the Moon + Pull out Yearly Planner 2022, which may also be suitable for recording rainfall. \$8.00 along with a contribution to postage. Sisters of St Joseph NSW Locked Bag 3031 BURWOOD NSW 1805, Phone (b/h) 02 8741 2333, [josephitecalendar@sosj.org.au](mailto:josephitecalendar@sosj.org.au)

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL ROSALIE RENDU FORUM: 21 OCTOBER** - You are invited to the St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Rosalie Rendu Forum, which will be held online on Thursday 21 October from 6pm to 7.30pm. This year's Forum will explore the intersections between gender, poverty and domestic and family violence, as there are rising concerns of a shadow pandemic of domestic and family violence. Bookings are essential and early RSVP is recommended. Register by Monday 18 October by visiting <https://bit.ly/RosalieRendu2021>

**For an up-to-date letter regarding the re-opening of Places of Worship from Fr Peter G Williams, Vicar General & Moderator of the Curia, please refer to the below link:**

<https://stachurchspringwood.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Pastoral-Letter-6-October-2021.pdf>

## Glancing Thoughts - Inheriting Eternal Life

In the Gospel Reading, a rich young man asks Jesus, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" In response, Jesus says to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor".

Selling what you own is a pretty radical thing to do. Just think what you own: a house, a car, a bed. And that's just the beginning, isn't it? There's also the computer, the cell phone, the TV—and on and on.

Early in Christian history, people who sold everything they owned set up religious orders, so that they could live together and share what they needed. And so Jesus' exhortation to sell what you have and give to the poor is usually taken as a call to religious life. Understood in that way, Jesus' advice to the rich young man is one of the counsels of perfection. It explains what you have to do to be perfect in *this* life.

But here's a puzzle worth noticing. You don't have to be perfect to go to heaven. You don't have to be a member of a religious order to go to heaven. But going to heaven is what the rich young man was asking Jesus about: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" And so the answer Jesus gave the rich young man should have explained to him what you have to do to get to heaven. A counsel of perfection is by its nature *not* an answer to the rich young man's question.

Or put it this way. If selling all he has and giving it to the poor is what the rich young man needs to do to inherit eternal life, what about everybody else? Does *everybody* have to sell what he has in order to attain heaven?

The solution to the puzzle is to think about the description of the man asking Jesus the question: he is the *rich* young man. In other words, his gifts lie in his wealth.



Now gifts are highly various. There are lots of gifts, gifts of learning, of music, of many other things. But whatever a person's gifts are, they are meant to be given back in service to the Lord. You cannot bury your talent—your gifts—in the ground and hope to please the Lord.

So here is what you need to do to inherit eternal life: **You need to follow Jesus and use your gifts to the full when you do.**

*Eleonore Stump*

*Eleonore Stump is Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University*

## Waste and Recycling Workshops (On Line):

Composting Workshop	27th October	10.00 - 11.00 am
Worm Farming	27th October	11.30 - 12.30 pm
Food Waste Workshop	11th November	12.30 - 1.30 pm
Worm Farming	11th November	2.30 - 3.30 pm
Composting Workshop	13th November	10.30 - 11.30 am

<https://www.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/waste-recycling-workshops-events>

Hosted by the Blue Mountains City Council

