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TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME, Year C, 18  
September 2022

## How much does a man require?

In 1886 the famous Russian novelist, Leo Tolstoy wrote a short story titled "How Much Land Does a Man Require?". Basically it told the story of a farmer named Pahom. As a young man, he took over the family farm and made quite a success of it. Soon he bought the neighbour's farm, and then that neighbour's neighbour's farm, and so on until he owned thousands of acres of land. He continued to buy land until he was the largest landholder in the area.

But it was not enough. Pahom wanted more. A traveler told him of the far away country of the Bashkirs, where acres and acres of the most beautiful land were waiting to be cultivated. Pahom investigated the traveler's story and found that it was true. Pahom immediately sold his land and homestead at a hefty profit and journeyed to the land of the Bashkirs.

Upon his arrival, he presented himself to the Bashkir chief. Pahom offered to buy as much land as they would sell. The chief said the price was set: One thousand rubles a day. One thousand rubles a day? What kind of measure is that?

"We do not know how to reckon it out," said the chief. "We sell it by the day. As much as you can go round on your feet in a day is yours, and the price is one thousand rubles a day." Pahom was shocked. "But in a day you can get round a large track of land."

"And it will be yours," the chief said. "But there is one condition: If you don't return on the same day to the same spot where you started, your money is lost." The excited Pahom paid the money and agreed to begin his trek the next morning. That night Pahom could hardly sleep, he was so excited. The virgin soil was the most beautiful he had ever seen, rich and black, level and stoneless. All of it would be his.

Just before sunrise the next morning, Pahom met the chief and his men at the appointed place. As the sun appeared over the

horizon at dawn, Pahom dug his spade into the dirt, marking his starting point. The race was on.

Pahom walked as fast as he could, making marks along the way. As the day grew warmer, he cast aside his coat. Soon he was running. By noon he was very pleased at the great distance he walked — but time was wasting. He did not stop to eat, but kept up his pace, almost running. Pahom would not even take time to rest or take a drink of water. Although near exhaustion, the promise of land kept him going.

All afternoon he ran. But as the sun was about to set, Pahom realized that he had gone too far. He had less than an hour to make it back to the starting spot. Horrified at his blunder, Pahom ran faster and faster, his legs becoming heavier and heavier. The sun began to set over the western horizon. Pahom could see the Chief and the Bashkirs waiting for him. Pahom dragged his body across the plain, crying for more time.

As the sun disappeared, Pahom dropped to his knees before reaching the mark he had made at sunrise. But he had no strength left to make his final mark. Broken and exhausted, Pahom collapsed before the Chief. The Bashkirs picked up his shovel and buried Pahom on the spot. Six feet from his head to his heels was all the land he needed.

Jesus constantly warns his followers of the dangers of money and possessions. Often we let the things we possess possess us, demanding our time and attention at the expense of the people we love. The danger of owning things is forgetting that the value is not in the thing itself but in that thing's enabling us to save time and make our life easier so that we can concentrate on the more important values that God offers us in the gift of life.

Wishing you and yours every blessing for the week ahead.

Fr Peter Brannelly

## Proper of the Mass

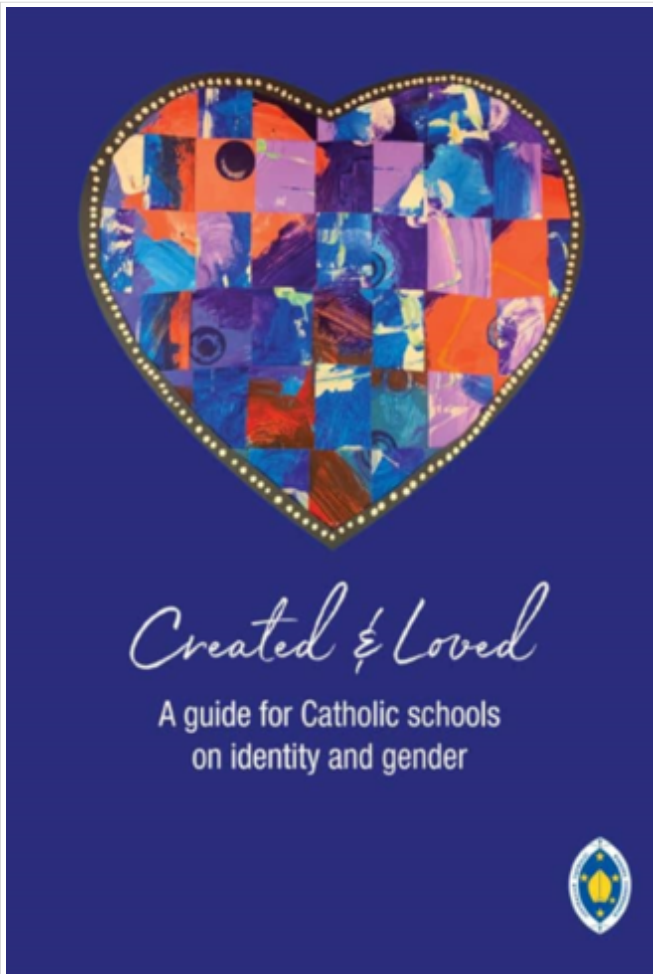
First Reading: Amos 8:4-7  
Second Reading: 1 Tim 2:1-8  
Gospel: Lk 16:1-13

## From The Archbishop of Brisbane

I was four years old when Queen Elizabeth ascended the throne, and it is hard to imagine the world without her. When she became Queen at a young age she said simply "I serve"; and so she has, humbly and serenely, through more than seventy years. Through times of great turbulence she has been sustained by her Christian faith, looking to a realm beyond the one entrusted to her on earth. As she sets forth on the last of her many journeys, we thank her and we pray for her: "Well done, good and faithful servant. Come and enter your master's happiness". We pray also for her son, Charles, to whom the call to serve as king now comes. God rest the Queen, God save the King.

*The Most Reverend Mark Coleridge*

## Bishop's Statement



The Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference has released *Created and Loved: A guide for Catholic schools on identity and gender*. It supports Catholic Schools in responding to the individual social and pastoral needs of students. It outlines a pastoral approach shaped by the theological, medical and legislative context in which Catholic schools operate. The bishops consulted widely with specialists in education,

including principals and teachers, sought advice from parents with children facing various gender questions, heard from bioethicists and other experts in the field, and from the international Church community. Increasing rates of gender incongruence in Australian society are seen as an invitation to reflect deeply on the biblical and Christian witness to human dignity. The guide offers principles that can be used by Catholic education authorities for their own local contexts. "The Catholic Church and our schools begin from the foundational principle that each person is created in the image and likeness of God, and is loved by God," said Archbishop Peter A Comensoli. For more information please visit the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference webpage.

## Accommodation Urgently Required

Lady in our Parish urgently needs to rent 2 bedroom unit with long term lease. Employed, with no children or pets. Excellent references.

Contact Carla 0423 185 325

## In Transition

We welcome into our Parish Family Conrad Dowling, Jordan Harper & Patrick Blair who will be baptized this weekend at Stella Maris Parish. We pray for all those who have died, especially Anthony Storey, Suzette Green & Margaret Stinson whose funeral rites were celebrated last week. We pray for Brian Crawley whose funeral rites will take place at the G&W Chapel, Buderim this Tuesday. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, Rest in Peace.

## A warm welcome!

At the start of the school holidays, a warm welcome to everyone joining us today! Whether you are traveling from across the street, up the Bruce Highway or roving around the country, thank you for choosing to be part of our community today as we celebrate the 25th Sunday of the Church's year.

## Major Maintenance

As a parish Family we are blessed to have four beautiful places of worship where we gather each weekend. The challenge for us is to continually be conscious that to maintain the high standard we need budget for ongoing maintenance. From this Monday, September 19th, a major maintenance project will begin on the external timber support beams at Stella Maris church. This work is needed to preserve the timber and this maintenance will become an annual feature of good stewardship of Stella Maris. Please be advised that sections of Stella Maris will from Monday become a worksite and all parishioners and visitors will have to exercise caution and follow safety instructions. Also, we will need to be patient and flexible while the maintenance work is being carried out.

## Seeking

Our faith journey is something that most of us take for granted, seamlessly it is incorporated into our daily lives. For others the journey is more nuanced, requiring at times reflection and guidance. If you are seeking some spiritual direction or spiritual accompaniment then there is a list of spiritual directors connected with the archdiocese of Brisbane. If you would like to access these spiritual directors visit the webpage: [brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/spiritual-direction](http://brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/spiritual-direction)

## Hola!

Every Wednesday evening at the Maroochydore Function Room the Latin American prayer group gathers at 6pm. A warm welcome is extended to all Spanish speakers to join them. Please tell your Spanish speaking friends!

## Never Too Late

Our Catholic tradition has been to baptize our new born babies shortly after birth. Sometimes, for many different reasons, a child's baptism is delayed. No problem – no one should be excluded from God's Family and being a pilgrim with the rest of us on the journey of life. We are about to start a new journey for children 7 years and older who have not been baptized—if you would like more information please contact the coordinator—June Jorgensen at [jmjorgensen21@gmail.com](mailto:jmjorgensen21@gmail.com)

## Pizza and Poetry

You are invited to join us for an evening of pizza and an introduction to Catholic poetry. We will meet at the Stella Maris chapel at 6pm Friday 23rd September. \$10 for dinner. Recitals of your own poetry are most welcome! Rsvp Aimee 0412 871 467

## E-Newsletter Sign Up

If you would like to receive our e-newsletter follow the link [stellamariscp.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe](http://stellamariscp.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe)

## Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller

Last Sunday at the 9am Maroochydore Mass we welcomed the Knights and Dames of the Sunshine Coast Priory of the Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller. The modern order of Saint John of Jerusalem Knights Hospitaller is a Christian, chivalric, ecumenical community directly descended from the Hospitaller activities at the Hospice, founded before the turn of the 12th century by the Amalfi merchants, for pilgrims in Jerusalem. Originally the focus of the order was on aiding the sick and the poor and were renowned for their hospitals. Today their charitable work continues with the

Sunshine Coast Priory is currently supporting the Western Queensland Drought appeal, Hear & Say, Cittamani House and have supported Zambales in the Philippines (children with cleft palates), Our rainbow House and Val Smith-Orr with burns victims.



## New Parishioners welcomed at last week's Welcome Cocktail Party

Last Wednesday night the Parish Welcome Committee joined with representatives from our 4 faith communities to welcome new parishioners at a special cocktail party on the balcony of the Maroochydore presbytery. In our large and busy Parish it is so easy for new members to get lost in all the activity and the cocktail party was our opportunity, as a Parish, to introduce ourselves and welcome new members into their new Parish Family. If you are new to the Parish please take a welcome pack at the entrance to the church and complete the information and someone from our Parish Welcome Committee will be in contact with you.



Thank you for remembering your parish family in your will.

The Week Ahead



## THE WEEK AHEAD

*We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which our communities celebrate our liturgies and lives out our faith.*

*We pay respects to leaders past, present and emerging. May their example of stewardship be reflected in our lives.*

### **Monday, 19 September**

Maintenance work begins at Stella Maris.  
Adoration 4.30pm, Benediction at 5.15pm  
**Mass** (5.30pm, Stella Maris Church)

### **Tuesday, 20 September**

**Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris Church)  
Christ Catholic Community(9:30am, Maroochydore)  
St Peter's craft group, 1pm, Coolum  
Alpha Program (6 to 8pm, Maroochydore)

### **Wednesday, 21 September**

**Mass** (7.00am , St Mary's Church)  
Scripture Study Group (9.30am, Zoom gathering)  
St Peter's Coolum will be holding its monthly morning tea at 10am on Wednesday 21st September at Freddie's (near Coles). All welcome.  
Parish Local Groups meeting, 5pm Maroochydore  
Latin American prayer group meets every Wednesday in the Maroochydore Parish function room 6-8pm

### **Thursday, 22 September—Public Holiday**

**Mass** (8.30am, St Peter's Church)  
Coolum St Vincent de Paul meeting, 9am.

**Mass 5:30pm Mass Cancelled**

### **Friday, 23 September**

**Mass** (9.00am, Stella Maris Church)

- Gen Y Fridays – the young adult group meets on Friday at the Stella Maris chapel at 6pm followed by dinner. All young adults welcome.
- Community Meal for the Homeless, Vulnerable and Disadvantaged (6.00pm, Stella Maris).

### **Saturday, 24 September**

Reconciliation **8:30 to 9:30am**, Stella Maris. Please note the change of time for Saturday Reconciliation – thank you.  
El Shaddai group meets 11am Saturday at St Catherine of Siena Church.