Gospel  Lk 10:38-42 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Martha took up the duties in the house. Mary chose the better part.

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord’s feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, ‘Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.’ But the Lord answered: ‘Martha, Martha,’ he said, ‘you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.’

Reflection:

Today we see the people of God offering the hospitality rather than receiving it, first Abraham and then Martha. What lessons of discipleship can be learned from these readings?

First and foremost we see how important openness is, for in each case those to whom the hospitality was offered were divine visitors in human form. We can never be sure under what guise God will come to us. It could be the person on the street who asks for directions, or the one who comes to our place of work to engage the service that we provide. It may be the friend who comes to dinner or the co-worker who acts in a way we did not expect. God comes into our lives in unexpected ways and we must have an open attitude of hospitality if we are to receive the blessings that might come with such visits.

We know that we cannot lay aside the responsibilities of our lives in order to sit with Mary at the feet of Jesus. However, we cannot allow ourselves to be held captive by these responsibilities, regardless of how legitimate they may be. And so we continue to struggle; to carry the burdens that are ours for the sake of the people that we serve; to serve the people in our care realising that we will probably not be able to accomplish all of our tasks or at least as well as we would like. It is in this way that the reign of God struggles to be born.

Prayer:

Gentle Lord, Still our body mind and Spirit. Let us feel your love catch up with us. There is nothing ‘better’ than this. To rest gently in your presence, not to worry, fret and be distracted by a multitude of those unimportant things. Help us to stay focused and listen to you. Amen.

About Prayer

Often when we see a child in a shop nagging and moaning at Mum or Dad for something, we probably don’t think of it as a model of our prayer lives! And yet, if we take the word of God seriously today, that is exactly what our faith teaches us to do! The message is persistence – never giving up, even if prayers do not seem to be answered. We shouldn’t ask why they are not answered on the spot (God’s probably got a reason), but should just continue beating on the door of heaven in faith and hope.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation

A reminder that preparation classes for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation will start in Term 3 and continue in Term 4. All children in year 3,4,5,6 who have been Baptised are eligible to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Children in Year 6 are eligible to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please send your forms into the office a week prior to attending the preparation classes, 7th of August. Enrolment is on 11th August 10 am Mass. The reconciliation classes will commence on 14th August.

Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator
**Dates to Remember!**

- 26<sup>th</sup> July - 5:30 – 7:00pm - ‘Christmas in July’ disco
- 9<sup>th</sup> August - Staff Development Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> August – Book Fair
- 19<sup>th</sup> August – Coffee n Chat
- 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August – Book Week
- 22<sup>nd</sup> August – Book Parade
- 20<sup>th</sup> August - St Nicholas Netball Gala Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> August - Father’s Day Stall
- 30<sup>th</sup> August - 7:30am - Father’s Day BBQ followed by a liturgy
- 14<sup>th</sup> September - Bunnings BBQ & Cake Stall Fundraiser

**Census Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

The Census of Catholic Schools is on Friday 2nd August. We ask that all children come to school on this day if possible. If your child is sick, we understand that they would need to stay at home, but please send in a note on the following Monday explaining the absence. Thank you.

**Stepping Beyond: Support For Those Separated Or Divorced**

On the last Tuesday of each month Catholic Care Solo Parent Ministry invites those who have been separated or divorced to an evening for sharing and support. The emphasis is on personal development, growth and goals for a hope-filled future. Shared personal experiences are prompted by the questions: “How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?” Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Date: 30/7/13 Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Cost: $5.00. Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205.

**Bereavement Support For Those Widowed**

Catholic Care Solo Parent Ministry is running its next Seasons for Growth Program for adults in Parramatta, commencing on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August**. The Program will run for five consecutive weeks and is a means of helping those who are grieving the death of their spouse or partner. Through input and small group sharing you will be supported and assisted in understanding and working through some of the aspects and effects of your deep sadness, loss and grief and as you make the necessary adjustments to a new life without your soul mate. Venue: 2A Villiers St North Parramatta. Date/Time: Tuesdays 10.00am – 1.00pm. Cost: $80.00. Contact and Registration soloparentministry@ccss.org.au, Ph. 9933 0205.

**Faith in Marriage Conference**

A Conference about Marriage for couples. The gifts and graces of marriage give us great hope and strength for ourselves and our society.

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 – 8.45am – 5.00pm. Cost $25 single, $50 couple, includes light lunch.
Where: Our Lady of Mercy College Hall, Ross Street, Parramatta (free parking surrounding Streets only)
Guest Speakers: Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP; Professor Greg Craven, Vice-Chancellor, Australian Catholic University; Dr Ryan Messmore, President of Campion College and Robyn Moore.

Book early to avoid disappointment: By email marriage@ccss.org.au or telephone 9933 0222.

**Lost Property**

A child’s Nike trainer size 8.5 has been found on the playground, please contact the office if this belongs to you. Please remember to label all school uniform clearly so it can be returned to its owner when handed in to lost property.