Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.

On a Sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, ‘When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, “Give up your place to this man.” And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, “My friend, move up higher.” In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.’

Then he said to his host, ‘When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.’

Reflection

One of the most basic human responses to anything new is to ask, ‘What's in it for me?’ We would like to think our motives are pure and our interests are for others, but there is often a nagging voice reminding us that selfish desires are never far from the surface.

Only the humble can receive the gifts of God. Only those who can admit what they need and are open enough to realise that God’s blessings are gifts freely given, not compensation for a job well done. Without a humble spirit we are unable to receive gifts as gifts. This is either because we are too proud or we do not know how to receive with the open hearts of children, who never think that they must return in kind. This is the kind of humility possessed by the disadvantaged pictured in the gospel.

As we have received from the bounty of God, so we are called to give to others. Only those who have received with a humble spirit can give with the generosity of God, for they know that they do not deserve God’s goodness and they do not require anything in return.

Prayer

Loving God,
Let us remember where we stand and in whose presence,
which places of honour we need to vacate.
Remove our fear and indifference to our poor sisters and brothers,
They are rich in faith and have gifts they can give us.
Give us the soft eyes of Christ Jesus when we look out for the poor.
Amen.

Reminder

You are invited to contribute to the Religious Education review process by responding to an online questionnaire.

There will be an opportunity for this next Wednesday 11th September in the hall from 9-11 and 2 until 3pm. Please come and participate as your feedback is vital to the Religious Education future directions.

Thank you,
Mrs Franca Bonserio
Religious Education Coordinator
**Dates to Remember!**

6th September  
Stage 2 Touch at Kingsway St Mary’s

11th September  
Rite of First Reconciliation

13th September  
Australian Girls Choir assessment

14th September  
Bunning BBQ & Cake Stall Fundraiser

16th September  
Coffee n Chat  
Naplan results home this week.

17th September  
Kindergarten 2014 Information Evening

20th September  
Term 3 ends

23rd September – 4th October  
School Holidays

7th October  
Public Holiday- school closed  
Labour Day

8th October  
Term 4 commences

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**Lost Property**

Bracelet found on school playground, please contact the office.

**Australian Girls Choir**

The Australian Girls Choir will be holding an assessment workshop at St Oliver’s at 11am on Friday 13th September for any interested girls in Grade 1-6.

**Change into Summer Uniform**

Students are now able to transition to summer uniform. During this period the students can elect to wear either the summer or winter uniform, but not a combination of both. The transitional arrangements apply until the start of Term 4. Please ensure that your child complies with all aspects of our school uniform policy. Remember to label all items of uniform with your child’s name.