

**READINGS AND REFLECTION
FOR THE 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

<http://cms.usccb.org/bible/readings/092720.cfm>

A READING FROM THE PROPHET EZEKIEL 18:25-28

Thus says the LORD:

You say, "The LORD's way is not fair!"

Hear now, house of Israel:

Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?

When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die.

But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed,

he does what is right and just,

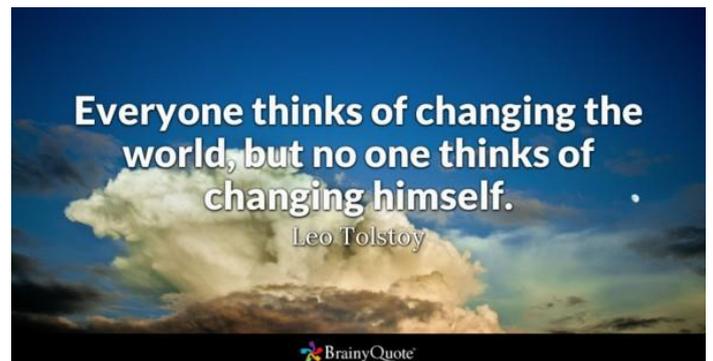
he shall preserve his life;

since he has turned away from all the sins

that he has committed,

he shall surely live, he shall not die.

The Word of the Lord.



RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 25: 4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;

teach me your paths,

guide me in your truth and teach me,

for you are God my saviour.

REMEMBER YOUR MERCIES, O LORD.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,

and your love are from of old.

The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not;

in your kindness remember me,

because of your goodness, O LORD.

REMEMBER YOUR MERCIES, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
and teaches the humble his way.
REMEMBER YOUR MERCIES, O LORD.

A READING FROM St PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILLIPIANS 2:1-11

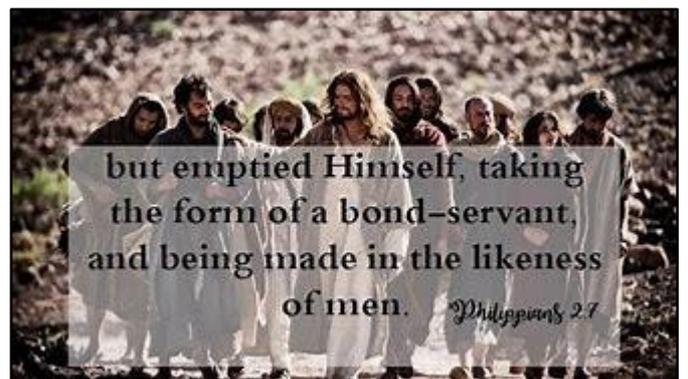
Brothers and sisters:

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love,
any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy,
complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love,
united in heart, thinking one thing.

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory;
rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves,
each looking out not for his own interests,
but also for those of others.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus,
Who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
something to be grasped.
Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
coming in human likeness;
and found human in appearance,
he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.



The Word of the Lord.

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord.
I know them and they follow me.
Jn 10:27

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

"What is your opinion?

A man had two sons.

He came to the first and said,

'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

He said in reply, 'I will not, '

but afterwards changed his mind and went.

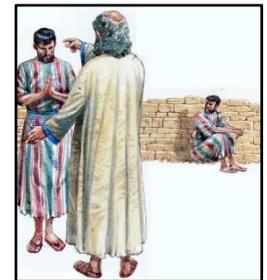


The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, "The first."



Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you,

tax collectors and prostitutes

are entering the kingdom of God before you.

When John came to you in the way of righteousness,

you did not believe him;

but tax collectors and prostitutes did.

Yet even when you saw that,

you did not later change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION

Google Social Justice Statement Aust. Bishops 2020 **MENTAL HEALTH IN AUSTRALIA TODAY**
Key ideas from Part A of **THE MENTAL HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES:**

Understanding mental health can help us support people in our families, faith communities, workplaces and society.

Young people can experience symptoms of ill health before 25 years of age. Schooling, study, the workforce, housing and debt can provoke both withdrawals from family and friends, and risk-taking behaviours. Young people are vulnerable to suicide.

Older Australians may enjoy leisure, occupations, family and social life. However, declining health, social isolation, grief, financial issues, dependence on others and changing needs in housing can arouse mental health problems. People over 75 years receive low levels of mental health care.

In families, ante-natal and post-natal depression can impact on the health of mothers, routines and the care of a child, a joy notwithstanding.

Employment conditions can deprive families of valuable time together. Carers and unwell dependants may struggle on meagre income support.

Domestic violence, the abuse of women, separation and divorce impact upon mental and emotional health in families.

Crises - drought, bushfires and COVID-19 - have provoked tumultuous upheavals in our communities. Yet people have acted heroically to bring harmony and sustainability to all life.

May our society's shared experiences of both anxiety and goodwill help us remove the stigma and discrimination that has surrounded mental illness.

