

ENVY AS A SPIRITUAL POISON

Today's parable is about a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius each, the standard daily wage. He kept hiring more labourers throughout the day, even at the eleventh hour. In the end, he paid everyone the same wage, both the first and the last to come. The first set complained that they deserved more, but the employer made it clear that he had not cheated them; he had simply chosen to be generous to those who came last. He asked them, "Why be envious because I am generous?" Envy is a malicious feeling of bitterness or resentment over another person's possessions or achievements.

The early workers felt it was unfair to be paid the same as the latecomers, but their reasoning was faulty. They were not denied what was due to them; the employer simply chose to be generous to the others. They thought they were fighting for fairness, but it was envy at work. Envy is nothing new. It has plagued humanity since the Fall. Scripture tells us that through the Devil's envy, death entered the world (Wis 2:24), as he lured Adam and Eve with the promise that they would be like God. It was Cain's envy of Abel's favour with God that led him to murder his brother. Envy also drove King Ahab and Queen Jezebel to have Naboth killed for his vineyard. And envy continues to wreak havoc on our world today.

Envy is a corrosive poison to our minds and souls. Envy is when we dislike others for their possessions or achievements. Envy is believing that another person's joy or success somehow diminishes our own. Envy destroys human relationships by robbing us of our ability to genuinely share in the joys of those around us. Envy makes us obsessed with what others have and what we crave for ourselves: money, education, career opportunities, trendy clothes, posh cars, big houses.

Unlike jealousy, which seeks to protect what one already possesses, envy seeks to dispossess another of what they have. Envy is rooted in hatred and the will to destroy what is good in other people. It lies at the root of the intolerance and socio-economic exclusion that pervades our world, because some believe they are more deserving of the good life than others. When envy joins forces with pride and political ideology, the result is division, hatred, racism, the dehumanisation of migrants, war, and genocide. Think about the transatlantic slave trade; think about racial discrimination in America or the White Australia policy; think about the Holocaust; think about Apartheid in South Africa; think about the genocide in Rwanda; think about the massacres in Darfur and elsewhere. So often it begins with resentment of others, joined to the belief that some people are superior to others and therefore more deserving of the bounties of creation.

St Gregory the Great teaches us that envy gives rise to detraction and calumny, along with joy at a neighbour's misfortune (CCC 2539). Sometimes we criticise others

unfairly behind their backs. Sometimes we magnify others' weaknesses and failures, even when we do not have the full picture. Sometimes people tell outright falsehoods about others, all to appear superior in the eyes of the listener. Sometimes we think that belittling others will advance our own reputation. But it doesn't have to be that way. If we cared more about glorifying God than ourselves, we would not think of pulling others down. We would rather build them up, just as we would like them to build us up.

We should always remember that everyone is uniquely made and gifted by God, and equally precious in His eyes. A good Christian responds to another person's progress with gratitude rather than bitterness.

Reflecting on the parable of the prodigal son, the Dutch priest Henri Nouwen observed that when faced with losses, whether real or imagined, we tend to respond with either resentment or gratitude. Many are drawn towards resentment, just like those grumbling labourers. This resentment can easily grow with age, as people look back on missed opportunities and begin to feel that life has been unfair to them and that there is little left to hope for. Such despair can easily turn into envy, because it is painful to see others apparently doing better.

Many of us can recall times when we felt marginalised, cheated, neglected, or unfairly targeted. Yet today's parable is not about fair pay or justice, but about grace and divine generosity. The heart of the parable is that everyone is given a place in God's vineyard, and everyone will be fully satisfied, whatever others receive. So, there should be no room for envy. Instead, we are called to what Henri Nouwen calls the "discipline of gratitude": a conscious choice to thank God both for what we have and for what our brothers and sisters achieve. In this way we show ourselves to be people of the Eucharist, a word that means thanksgiving.

Let us reject envy today and always, and may the most merciful Father help us to recognise the roots of envy in our lives and give us the grace to overcome them. Amen! (*Fr Henry*)

EUCCHARIST28 Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ. Amen

PARISH ONLINE DONATION DETAILS

Presbytery Account (1st Collection): BSB 066 789, Account 100 005 036 — Griffith Presbytery.

Parish Account (2nd Collection): BSB 066 789, Account 100 005 037 — Griffith Parish.

SPRINGTIME IMMACULATA MISSION SCHOOL

THE CALL TO BE A Saint (8-11 OCTOBER 2026)
KILDARE CATHOLIC COLLEGE, WAGGA WAGGA
TO REGISTER: Visit immaculata.org.au/ims

YOUTH ADULTS' BIBLE STUDY

Every 1st and 3rd Friday. 7 pm Rosary in the Adoration Chapel, followed by Bible Study in the St John Bosco Youth Hut. Next meeting: 2nd October 2026.

ST LORENZO RUIZ MASS & GATHERING

Sunday 27th Sept.2026, 10:30 am
& followed by Lunch in the Parish Hall.
Everyone welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

ADORERS NEEDED

We need adorers for the following time slots: Friday 3 pm; Saturday 8 am & Sunday 11 am. If you can help, please call Anna on 0428 644 513, or the Parish Office on 6962 1533.

SPECIAL COLLECTION — MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

Will be next Sunday (**September 27**) after each Mass, to support local Catholic organisations working with Migrants, Refugees & Asylum seekers

Fr Andrew Grace (Silver Jubilee)

of Priestly Ordination on October 6, 2026.

For more details, contact Sacred Heart, Koorlingal, Wagga.
Ph: 6922 6057

Sacred Heart Parish Griffith

Annual Fundraiser
Spring Cash Raffle 2026

TICKETS ON SALE IN THE FOYER

✦ **WIN A SHARE OF \$10,000 CASH!** ✦

1 st Prize \$5,000	2 nd Prize \$3,000	3 rd Prize \$2,000
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 **TICKETS: \$20 EACH** 

Drawn: 1 November 2026

Tickets available following all weekend Masses.

Alternatively, you may take a ticket book to sell.
(Please ensure all proceeds and any unsold tickets are returned as soon as possible).

BUS TRIP TO THE ORDINATION

A free bus trip is on offer to Wagga for Deacon Saxon's priestly ordination **on Saturday 24th October**. The bus will depart at **7 am**. A sign-on sheet is available in the foyer. A volunteer driver will be needed.

Parish Marriage Preparation Course

- Thursday, October 1– November 19 (8 weeks)
- **Day/Time:** Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm.
- **Venue:** Saint Bosco's Youth Hut, Noorebar Avenue ((Behind the Presbytery)

	Sat 26 th	Sunday 27 th September 2026			
Masses	5:30 pm	7:30 am	9 am Italian	10:30 am	5:30 pm
Reader	Sophia Carbone	Erma Basing-at	Alba Donadel	James & Lotu	Anna Rossetto
Extraordinary Minister	Josie Guidolin	Loretta Walsh		Rosa Romeo	
Music		Nilva/Choir	Loretta Zannotto	Julius Emalay	
26th / 27th September 2026					
Church Cleaning	Group 1 – Lisa De Marco, Josephine Romeo, Anna Gigliotti, Sarina Sergi, Josephine Mazza				
Lawn Mowing	Group 5 – Maikeli & Petelo Uoifalelahi & Tongan Community				
Counting	Group 4 – Diana Brown, Annette Close, Anna Rossetto, Josie Guidolin, Reserve: Liana Pechini & Kath Garbuio				



Sacred Heart Parish

9 Warrambool Street, Griffith NSW 2680 (P.O. Box 714) · Phone: 6962 1533 · Mobile: 0475 793 013

Email: info@griffithsacredheart.org · **Office Hours:** Monday–Friday, 9 am–1 pm

Parish Priest: Fr Henry Ibe (0411 020 933) · **Assistant Priest:** Fr Joseph Nguyen, CCS · **Deacon:** Rev. Saxon Onions

Parish Secretary: Lisia Hoke

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A/II) · Sunday 20th September 2026

The Parish of Sacred Heart, Griffith, and the Diocese of Wagga Wagga are committed to caring for, supporting, and protecting children, young people, and adults at risk in our community. We are strongly committed to working together to ensure that everyone is supported and feels safe.

MASS TIMES

Weekend Masses: Vigil (Saturday) 5:30 pm;
Sunday 7:30 am, 9 am (Italian), 10:30 am & 5:30 pm.

Weekday Masses: Monday–Friday 7 am & 5:30 pm
(no 7 am Mass on First Thursdays); Saturday 8 am.

Anointing Mass: First Thursdays, 11 am.

SACRAMENTS & DEVOTIONS

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday 4:30–5:15 pm; Saturday 7:30–7:50 am & 4:30–5:20 pm; Sundays 5:00–5:20 pm; First Thursdays 10:30 am.

Holy Hour (with Confessions): Fridays, 4:30 pm.

Baptisms: Saturdays and Sundays, 11:30 am.

Anointing of the Sick: Anytime, on call.

Divine Mercy Devotion: First Sundays, 3 pm.

Wedding & Convalidation: Booking through the Parish Office.

Marian Movement of Priests: Wednesdays, 4:40 pm (in the church).

Charismatic Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays, 1:30 pm (Guadalupe Room, Parish Hall).

House Blessing: Anytime, on call.

St Vincent de Paul, Griffith Conference: Meets monthly (2nd Tuesday), 1:30 pm. Next meeting: Tuesday, 13th October 2026. Contact Yvonne (0438 623 612).

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Mon 21: St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist.

Tue 22: Tuesday of Week 25 in Ordinary Time.

Wed 23: St Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest.

Thu 17: Thursday of Week 25 in Ordinary Time.

Fri 18: Friday of Week 25 in Ordinary Time.

Sat 19: Saturday of Week 25 in Ordinary Time.

PRAYING FOR THE SICK

We pray especially for Cath Catanzariti, Fr Reece Beltrame, Michael Brown, Michael & Clarita Randle, Magdalena Bustamante & Rita Dametto, Dawn McIntyre, Maria Sarina Luna Patane.

PRAYING FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Domenico Fattore; Harlean Hognio; Bruna Panazzolo; Bruna Onisto; Giuseppe & Maria Agostino ; Antonio, Anna & Rocco Barbaro ; Alfio, Agata & Salvatore Battiato ; Francesca & Francesco Calabria ; Antonia Calabria ; Pasquale, Elisabeta, Francesco & Anna Calabria ; Antonio & Joe Calabria ; Giulio & Lucy Cappello ; Elerio, Alba, Antonio, Olindo Colpo ; Davis Watson ; Giuseppi Cremasco ; Angelo, Paulina, Tom & Lena D'Aquino ; Patrick Hanrahan ; Lucia de Jesus Juwend ; Atelea Ele Kosi ; Angelo, Alfia, Salvatore La Spina ; Carmelo & Maria Lo Giudice ; Angelo Macri ; Bruno Marando ; Alvise Minato ; Aldo Montagnino ; Catalina Licup ; Michael Newman ; Henry Nowak ; Eslie O'Connor ; Caterina, Giuseppe, Adamo, Toto Perre ; Antonio & Anna Petrulli ; Alfio Previtera ; Liina Iirilli ; Rocco, Rosina, Giuseppe & Caterina Qualtieri ; Giuseppe, Elisabetta, Antonio Romeo ; Francesca, Rocco, Michele & Antonio Sergi ; Antonio Paul & Nick Sergi ; Mario Strano ; Mario Vardanega ; Orazio Vecchio ; Giulia Virgara ; Leo White ; Lorita Zappala ; deceased members of the Demasi, Montagnino, Petrulli, Vecchio, families & all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Let us pray to the Lord!

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (55:6-9)

My thoughts are not your thoughts

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 144(145):2-3, 8-9, 17-18)

R. The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **R.**

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (Philippians 1:20-24,27)

Life to me is Christ; but death would bring me more

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 20:1–16)

Why be envious because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

The Gospel of the Lord.