REFLECTION: CHANCE AFTER CHANCE

Today's parable of the wedding feast underscores the importance of readiness for the end of time. Everyone is invited, but all must wear the proper wedding garment. Many declined the invitation, while one attendee was thrown out for not wearing the required garment. The parable reminds us that we must not only accept God's invitation but also come adequately prepared.

The wedding garment symbolises the ideal Christian life: faith, hope, love, mercy, kindness, and detachment from earthly things. We first receive this wedding garment at Baptism, symbolised by the white garment given to the newly baptised, who is required to keep it spotless for the wedding feast of the Lamb at the end of time. When this garment is soiled by sin, we have a spiritual laundry in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The wedding garment is a mark of our divine identity that must be kept spotless. That means living a life of holiness and grace.

The First Reading says that the Lord is preparing for all peoples "a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines" (Isaiah 25:6). But the Gospel passage indicates that "many are called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14). The improperly dressed guest was surely invited but was cast out for failing to observe the mandatory dress code. He symbolises those members of the Church who do not live according to the law of Christ. As Christians, we have all been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb of God in heaven. We shall all appear at the entrance to the banquet, but whether we gain entry will depend on whether we are wearing our wedding garments. Today's parable is a warning that, just as the unworthy guest was expelled, anyone who fails to practise integrity in this life risks exclusion from the joys of the life to come.

In the parable, those who flatly rejected the invitation were guilty of ingratitude. They symbolise those in the world who deny God as the source of life and of everything good. Many such people are so preoccupied with human progress that they fail to acknowledge God as the ultimate source of all goodness and authentic human progress. Whoever rejects the Lord's plan of salvation risks exclusion from the path to eternal blessedness. This applies also to those who are already baptised but choose to abandon the practice of the faith, and especially to anyone who professes the faith publicly while secretly leading a double life. Such an attitude soils the wedding garment and makes the person unfit to enter the banquet.

Therefore, let us examine ourselves today. Are we rejecting the Lord's invitation, or soiling our wedding garments through sin and hypocrisy? Are we putting on a façade of piety while our secret actions "are crucifying the Son of God all over again" (Hebrews 6:6)? Are we, like the unworthy guest, responding to the Lord's invitation on our own terms, refusing to conform to the etiquette of the banquet? Nevertheless, God is the ultimate Host, and He determines who receives a seat at the banquet. That means we can accept His call only on His terms, by putting on our wedding garments.

In every formal setting, and even in social circles, certain dress codes and etiquette are required. A police officer is not expected to dress like an athlete. No one wants a dentist dressed like a boxer, and no one attends a black-tie event wearing shorts and sandals. Accordingly, the wedding feast of the Lamb of God requires the wedding garments of Christian holiness.

In summary, today's parable offers some important lessons:

1. It shows the continuous nature of God's invitation to us. Sacred Scripture tells us that God "wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). Therefore, the Lord continually extends an invitation into a relationship of divine intimacy.
2. The parable highlights the importance of prioritising our spiritual life. We must place God first in every aspect of our lives.
3. We are reminded that the Kingdom of God is offered to all. God's mercy is boundless, and His saving love is universal.
4. The parable highlights the danger of ignoring God's invitation or treating it carelessly. We must be prepared and vigilant because we do not know when the end will come.

Brothers and sisters, on the day of our Baptism we received the white garment, and the celebrant said:

"You have become a new creation and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven." Let this be our challenge this week as we strive to rid our lives of every stain of sin and corruption.

May the Lord grant us the grace to respond to His invitation with gratitude and humility, so that our lives may reflect the splendour of the wedding garments of peace, righteousness, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Amen. (*Fr Henry)*

EUCHARIST28 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.

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CONFIRMATION WILL BE CELEBRATED ON

Saturday 17th October: 5:30 pm &
Sunday 18th October 2026: 10:30 am
40 children; State School
44 children: St Patrick School

Please pray for the children who are preparing to receive this powerful Sacrament of the Holy Spirit

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YOUTH & FAMILY 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: 16th October 2026.

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ADORERS NEEDED

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

NOVEMBER- MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES

are available at the back of the church.
Please write names of the deceased clearly. Please send in the envelopes by Friday 23th October.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Monday 12th October 2026
Time: 6:15 pm at the Parish Hall.

If you have an item for the agenda, please send it to the Parish Office.

SACRED HEART
SPRING CASH RAFFLE 2026
ONLY 3 MORE WEEKS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO
WIN A SHARE OF
$10,000 CASH!
Drawn 1st November
Tickets $20 ea.



1st Prize: $5,000
2nd Prize: $3,000
3rd Prize: $2,000

Tickets available before & after all Masses this month
(Cash or EFT)
OR
you can still take a book of 5 tickets home to buy / sell & pay for them when you bring them back.
(Please return all proceeds and tickets, sold or unsold as soon as possible)

All proceeds of this and upcoming fundraisers are going towards urgent renovations for the Church, Presbytery & Hall, estimated over $400,000

BUS TRIP TO THE ORDINATION

The free bus offer to Wagga for Deacon Saxon's priestly ordination **on Saturday 24th October** has 12 more seats available. The bus will depart at **7 am.**

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)

7AM MASSES

There will be no 7 am Masses from **Tuesday 20th October–Friday, 23rd October, due to the clergy retreat**. There will be 5:30 pm Masses.

MISSION SUNDAY-OCTOBER 18

There will be a special collection next weekend for the Catholic Mission Sunday Appeal.

	Sat 17th October	Sunday 18th October 2026			
Masses	5:30 pm	7:30 am	9 am Italian	10:30 am	5:30 pm
Reader	**CONFIRMATION**	Shirine Nehme	Alba Donadel	**CONFIRMATION**	Pauline
Extraordinary Minister	Fay Pilloni	Michael Carnell		Rosa Romeo	Annette Close
Music	**CONFIRMATION**	Nilva/Choir	Loretta Zanotto	**CONFIRMATION**	Filipino Choir

17th / 18th October 2026	
Church Cleaning	Group 4 –Lucia Gullotta, Betty Catanzariti, Sonia Del Lucchi
Lawn Mowing	Group 3– Julius Emalay
Counting	Group 3 – Loretta Walsh, Barbara Carusi, Cathy McDonald.



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

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A/II) · Sunday 11th October 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 12: Monday of Week 28 in Ordinary Time.
Tue 13: Tuesday of Week 28 in Ordinary Time
Wed 14: Wednesday of Week 28 in Ordinary Time.
Thu 15: St Teresa of Jesus, Virgin, Doctor.
Fri 16: Friday of Week 28 in Ordinary Time
Sat 17: St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr.

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

Giuseppe Vaccari; Nathan Tengstrom; Domenico Rogato; Olga Castelletto; Allan Cooper; Teresinha Abreu ; Giuseppe & Maria Agostino ; Vincenzo & Assunta Iannotti ; Francesco, Serafina & Pasquale Barbaro ; Antonio, Anna & Rocco Barbaro ; Alfio, Agata & Salvatore Battiato ; Antonia Calabria; Francesca & Francesco Calabria ; Joe & Antonio Calabria ; Pasquale, Elisabeta, Francesco & Anna Calabria ; Giulio & Lucy Cappello ; Frank Cirillo ; Elerio, Alba, Antonio, & Olindo Colpo ; Angelo, Paulina, Tom & Lena D'Aquino ; Patrick Hanrahan ; Atelea Ele Kosi ; Angelo, Alfia, & Salvatore La Spina ; Angelo Macri ; Bruno Marando ; Betty Huxley ; Neville Mathews ; Alvise Minato ; Aldo Montagnino ; Michel Nehme ; Henry Nowak ; Eslie O'Connor ; Caterina, Giuseppe, Adamo, & Toto Perre ; Antonio & Anna Petrulli ; Alfio Previtera ; Nancy & Giuseppina Pittari ; Giuseppe, Elisabetta, & Antonio Romeo ; Francesca, Rocco, Michele & Antonio Sergi ; Antonio Paul & Nick Sergi ; Mario Strano ; 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!***

LITURGY OF THE WORD · 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (25:6-10)

The Lord will prepare a banquet for every nation

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps.22(23)

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

1 The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians (Philippians 4:12-14,19-20*)*

With the help of the One who gives me strength, there is nothing I cannot master

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation cf: Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our heart
that we might see how great is the hope
to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 22:1–14)

Invite everyone you can to the wedding

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.