**“Who will speak if you don’t?”**

**Mercy Day Mass**

**Friday September 20th 2019**

**Bishop Vincent Long**

**Fr Walter Fogarty**

**Lectern Copy**

**Acknowledgement of Country**

**Ashley:** My Name is Ashley and I am a kamilaroi woman. I pass respect on to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today. I acknowledge the Burramattagal people of the Darug nation, the traditional custodians of this land where we gather this morning.

I am proud to welcome three women from the Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation which was founded by five Aboriginal elders from Western Sydney.  The word Baabayn means ‘Ancestral woman’ and it is indeed these elders who are working hard with a passion for helping Aboriginal people to connect with their culture and develop a strong sense of belonging.

We welcome\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ here today and I invite them to lead us in a water blessing.

**Water Blessing**

**Welcome**

**Josie:** Good morning and welcome this morning as we celebrate our Mercy Day Mass together. It is wonderful to be able to join together and share the Eucharist as a community in this, our 130th year.

We would like to warmly welcome our special guests who are with us this morning:

**Entrance Procession**

**Anya:** The theme for our Mass today is “Who will speak if you don’t”

Displacement of people and the degradation of the Earth are two areas where the silence is deafening.

We will commence with our Entrance Procession.

**Isabella M: *Clapping sticks***

Who will speak for the Indigenous people if you don’t?

The people who have lived on, and cherished, the land we now walk upon
who have suffered from stolen rights, land and voices.

Who will speak for them if you don’t?

**Adriana: *Suitcase***

Who will speak for the refugees if you don’t?

Refugees are people who have been displaced from their homes and forced to cross national borders in search of safety and security.

Who will speak for them if you don’t?

**Olivia: *Key***

Who will speak for the homeless if you don’t?

The state of having no home. Those in our society with no security,
safety or comfort.

Who will speak for them if you don’t?

**Isabella B: *Water and oil container***

Who will speak for the waters if you don’t?

Beautiful oceans, lakes and bays are struggling, they are suffocating. Slowly drowning in plastic and waste.

Who will speak for the environment if you don’t?

**Jo: *Tree husk***

Who will speak for living things if you don’t?

The flora and fauna that God has so beautifully created are versatile and useful, providing food, medicine and materials. But they are fragile and threatened.

Who will speak for the environment if you don’t?

**Yasmin: *Charcoal***

Who will speak for the Earth if you don’t?

How many precious resources can be removed from our Earth before we say enough is enough? Our ecosystems suffer as a result.

Who will speak for the Environment if you don’t?

**Charlotte:** Who will speak?

We must be people of Hope.

We have to speak.

We have to act

and we have to change

because if we don’t who will?

**Amelie:** We warmly welcome Bishop Vincent to our College to lead us in our Mercy Day Mass, joined by our Chaplian, Fr Walter.

Please stand for our Entrance Hymn, Who will speak.

**FIRST READING MIA**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy

This is what you are to teach the people to believe

and persuade them to do.

Anyone who teaches anything different,

and does not keep to the sound teaching

which is that of our Lord Jesus Christ,

is simply ignorant

and must be full of self-conceit –

with a craze for questioning everything

and arguing about words.

All that can come of this is jealousy,

contention, abuse and wicked mistrust of one another;

and unending disputes by people

who are neither rational nor informed

and imagine that religion is a way of making a profit.

Religion, of course,

does bring large profits,

but only to those who are content

with what they have.

We brought nothing into the world,

and we can take nothing out of it;

but as long as we have food and clothing,

let us be content with that.

People who long to be rich

are a prey to temptation;

they get trapped

into all sorts of foolish

and dangerous ambitions

which eventually

plunge them

into ruin

and destruction.

‘The love of money

is the root of all evils’

and there are some

who,

pursuing it,

have wandered away from the faith,

and so

given their souls

any number of fatal wounds.

But,

as someone dedicated to God,

you must avoid all that.

You must aim

to be saintly and religious,

filled with faith and love,

patient and gentle.

Fight the good fight of the faith

and win for yourself

the eternal life

to which you were called

when you made your profession

and spoke up

for the truth

in front of many witnesses.

The word of the Lord

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM LEYLA**

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

1. Why should I fear in evil days

the malice of the foes who surround me,

those who trust in their wealth,

and boast of the vastness of their riches? (R.)

1. For no one can buy their own ransom,

or pay a price to God for their life.

The ransom of their soul is beyond them.

They cannot buy life without end,

nor avoid coming to the grave. (R.)

1. Then do not fear when someone grows rich,

when the glory of their house increases.

You can take nothing with you when you die,

your glory does not follow you below. (R.)

***After your reading, please hand the book to the altar servers***

**GOSPEL** Lk 8:1-3

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus made his way through towns and villages preaching, and proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of God. With him went the Twelve, as well as certain women who had been cured of evil spirits and ailments: Mary surnamed the [Magdalene](http://liturgyhelp.com.au/resource_file/wav/Magdalene.mp3), from whom seven demons had gone out, [Joanna](http://liturgyhelp.com.au/resource_file/wav/Joanna.mp3) the wife of [Herod](http://liturgyhelp.com.au/resource_file/wav/Herod.mp3)’s steward [Chuza](http://liturgyhelp.com.au/resource_file/wav/Chuza.mp3%22%20%5Co%20%22), [Susanna](http://liturgyhelp.com.au/resource_file/wav/Susanna.mp3), and several others who provided for them out of their own resources.

The Gospel of the Lord

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

Let us bring our prayers before our loving God; a God who hears the prayers that are spoken and those that remain in our hearts:

1. **STEPH**

We pray for Church leaders: Pope Francis, Bishop Vincent and all Priests and religious;

That they may continue to bring the kingdom of God alive to all who listen to their words, see their actions, and receive the fruits of their good deeds. May they continue to be champions for those whose voices cannot always be heard.

Lord, In your mercy,

1. **MIA** We pray for the Sisters of Mercy, especially those in our Parramatta community;

As women of faith, courage and resilience, we pray that their tireless works for both the environment and people in need is able to continue and that their legacy lives on in the lives of all those touched by the compassion of Mercy shown to them.

Lord, In your mercy,

1. **SARAH MAROUN**

We pray for all in our College community;

May each of us know the loving embrace of Jesus and use this as a tool to enable us to become advocates for the poor and marginalized; for the sick and disabled; and for our planet which is crying out for protection and healing.

Lord, in your mercy,

1. **SISTER OF MERCY**

We pray for the people of the world;

That through their times of hardship and sorrow, the tender embrace of Jesus and the guiding force of the Holy Spirit is always with them to offer protection, comfort and love.

Lord, in your mercy,

1. **SELVIA**

We pray for all people in our community who are unwell at this time;

May they be blest with the healing touch of God and know the love and support that comes to them from many people.

Lord, in your mercy,

1. **ALISSIA**

We pray for those in our community who have died;

We especially remember the Sisters of Mercy and past staff, students and family members who are no longer with us. May we cherish their memory and keep them close to our hearts always.

Lord, in your mercy,

Loving God, you sent your Son into the world for us. Hear the prayers that we have brought before you today and remain with us always. We make this prayer in your name, Amen.