



## Life Out of Focus

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**I found myself angry the other day**, as we all do, I suppose, whenever we put our foot in our mouth, or forget about an important engagement, or scramble whatever it was we had hoped would be picture-perfect. What I had scrambled was a homily. For some reason, the image came out wrong, or the example did not fit, or it just did not come together the way I had hoped. And I was angry with myself to the point that it caught me off guard. It was an unexpected glimpse of what I didn't want to admit: the fact that the way people might perceive me as a preacher had taken on more importance than preaching God's word. Life had gotten out of focus. A perspective had been lost.

It happens to us all in the course of our lifetimes,

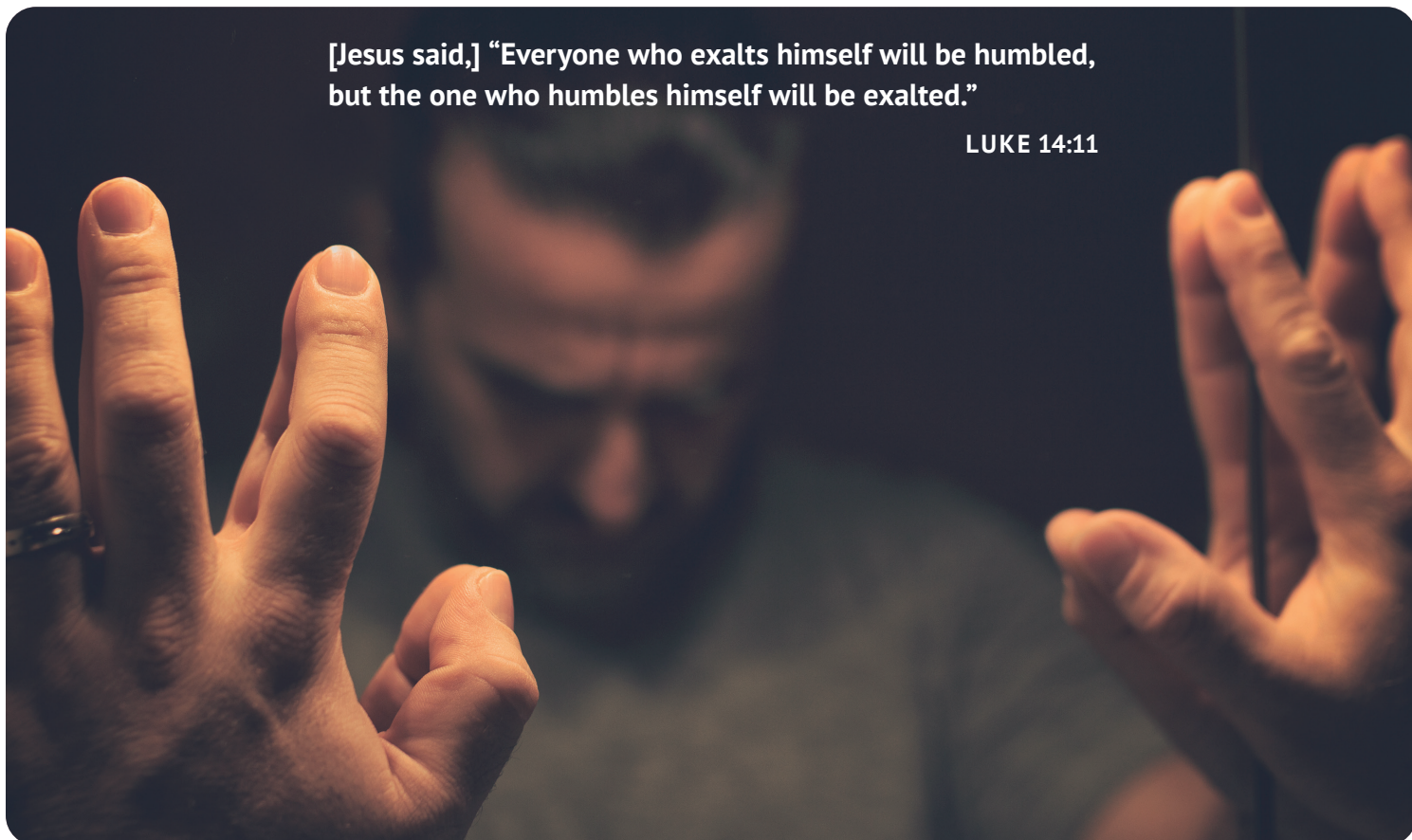
and more than once. Grades become more important than learning, or being right more important than the relationship, or the address of where we live more important than the people living together. It happens between parent and child when a parent places greater significance on the son's or daughter's profession than on that son's or daughter's happiness. Like in the parable of Jesus, where we sit at table takes on greater meaning than the people who gather or the meal that is shared. That is what pride does. It distorts what is real and shifts the focus of life to ourselves. The antidote? A prayerful awareness of who we are and who God is. ●

### Reflect

***What is more important to me than it should be?***

[Jesus said,] "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,  
but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

LUKE 14:11





## St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1928.  
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda  
or  
P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MABX, Bermuda.  
Telephone: (441) 234-2321  
Email: [stjosephbermuda@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephbermuda@gmail.com)



### Tentative Mass Schedule Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By date: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	By appointment
Filipino Mass – Saturday 11:00 a.m.	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Kids & Youth Ministry	<b>5<sup>th</sup> October 2025</b>
Children's Mass	TBA
<b>Pastoral &amp; Finance Council</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Monthly Coffee Social	TBA
Second Collection	Second Sunday of the Month

**DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA**  
**Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak**  
[www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm)

#### Parish Team Leaders

<b>Mrs. Elizabeth Card</b> – Pastoral Council Chairperson	<b>Mrs. Annette Barclay</b> St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
<b>Walette Cross</b> Stewardship Representative	<b>Natalia Walker</b> Religious Education Kids & Youth Ministry
<b>Mrs. Mary Harvey</b> - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	<b>Mrs. Jane Farge</b> Music Ministry



#### Today's Hymns

<b>Entrance:</b>	<b>The Summons</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Offertory:</b>	<b>Centre of My Life</b>	<b>#665</b>
<b>Communion:</b>	<b>Gather the People</b>	<b>#766</b>
<b>Recessional:</b>	<b>Sent Forth by God's Blessing</b>	<b>#740</b>

**Leader of Song: Aidan Stones**



#### **Christ Teaches Humility**

**Source:** Liturgy Tools  
**Artist:** Robert Scott Lauder (1803-1869)

*The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.*



**Sunday – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**Proclaimer of God's Word**  
**Opening/Closing of the Church**  
**Eucharistic Minister**  
**Collection Counters**

**Altar Server**

**Music**

**Stefano Ausenda**  
**Elizabeth Card**  
**Annette Barclay**  
**Joanne Smith**

**Jane Farge**

**Prayers:** Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Eleanor Correia, Evelyn Pinlac, and Mary Maybury.

#### **MASS INTENTIONS:**

**Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> August** for the people of St. Josephs  
**Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> August** \*Maria Vieira

#### **ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION**

<b>MASS</b>	<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Collection</b>
Saturday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> August – 4:00 p.m.	7	73
Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> August - 8:45 a.m.	37	360
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>\$433</b>

*Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield*

#### **THANK YOU**

**Fr. George, we take this opportunity to thank you for acting as our interim pastor for the past two weeks. We hope you have enjoyed your stay on the island, and that you will return sometime in the future.**

#### **UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS**

Please put the following dates on your calendar.



**Annual Fall Supper - Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> October**



**Annual Christmas Bingo - Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December**



**Decorating the Church & Tree (after Mass) - Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December**



**Afternoon of Christmas – Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December**



#### **KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY CLASSES**

**2025/2026**

Sunday - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025



#### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES**

**2025/2026**

Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025

If any parent in the parish has an older child who has not yet received First Holy Communion, and you would like them to do so, see Liz Card and we can see what can be worked out so this youngster can receive the sacrament in 2026, maybe an early evening class during the week can be arranged!

#### **BISHOP'S CORNER**

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Alagad ni Maria, a [Filipino religious order](#) with priests in the Diocese of Orange, California, recently purchased a 1.4 acre property in Anaheim. On this property, they opened the first Filipino Catholic Center in the U.S., named the Poong Nazareno Filipino Catholic Center. The [center](#) takes its name from a Black Nazarene image; Poong in this context is a Tagalog word for God or Master. Devotion to the Poong Nazareno is the second most practiced popular devotion in the Philippines, with a yearly procession attracting millions. The original image in the Philippines was brought from Mexico in 1606.

The Poong Nazareno Catholic Center isn't intended to be another parish. Instead, it provides programs of faith formation and cultural education to Filipinos in Southern California, especially youth, as supplements to the sacramental life in parishes. Still, a key component of these programs are Masses for Filipinos, celebrated in English, Tagalog, and other Filipino dialects.

The Poong Nazareno Center includes a 180-seat chapel, classrooms, a fellowship hall, a music room, offices, and a kitchen. There are also plans to build a rectory for visiting priests, adjacent to the present structure. The programs offered will prioritise the cultural and spiritual needs of the 90,000 Filipino Catholics in Southern California. Nevertheless, the zeal enlivened by the center will likely inspire many to spread the joy of their culture and faith beyond California's borders.

May your Sunday be restful and your week blessed!

Bishop Wes

On the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C, the readings teach us about humility and generosity. These lessons are shown through simple actions and attitudes.

- **Humility before God:** Sirach advises humility, reminding us to be modest and not to seek praise. We should acknowledge our limitations and depend on God.
- **Gentleness and wisdom:** Being gentle and wise brings more respect than being proud and boastful. Gentleness leads to better relationships and more peace.
- **Knowing our place:** Recognizing our smallness helps us see the greatness of God. It reminds us to be humble and grateful.
- **Generosity without reward:** Jesus teaches to invite those who cannot repay us, showing true generosity. This selfless giving reflects God's love.
- **Serving others:** Helping those in need without expecting anything in return reflects true Christian love. Service is a key aspect of living out our faith.
- **Respect for all:** Respect everyone, not just the wealthy or powerful, as everyone is valuable in God's eyes. This shows that all people deserve love and kindness.

These themes for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C guide us to live humbly and serve others. They remind us that true greatness comes from being kind and humble.

Source: [young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com)



#### **22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Stewardship Lifestyle**

*“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.” LUKE 14:13-14*

One of the main principles of living a **Stewardship** lifestyle is to give without expecting anything in return. This is difficult for some to comprehend in our “consumerist” culture that we live in. This is even difficult for many parish communities that have become heavily dependent on parish fundraising events to support the mission and ministry of their local parish. Generally speaking, at a parish fundraiser, you pay money and receive something in return, it is just a financial transaction. **This is opposed to our parish offertory at Holy Mass, where you unite your sacrifice with Jesus' sacrifice, renewing our covenant relationship with Him.**



# Dear Padre,

## Is it sacrilegious to throw away a sacramental?

“Sacramentals do not confer the grace of the Holy Spirit in the way that the sacraments do, but by the Church’s prayer, they prepare us to receive and dispose us to cooperate with it” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1670). Therefore, sacramentals confer grace through the Church’s power of prayer and, if blessed, should not be thrown away but burned and/or buried. If the object has not been blessed, it can be discarded; however, it could also be donated to a Catholic ministry (school, prison, hospital, etc.) that would benefit from its distribution. (If a religious object was included in an unsolicited appeal letter from a charitable organization, it is safe to assume that it was not blessed.)

If the object is worn or broken, it should be substantially altered so that it loses its form as a sacramental and then returned to the earthly elements. For example, a worn scapular should be burned and the ashes buried; a damaged statue should be further broken into smaller fragments and buried. A European tradition on the Vigil of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (June 23) is to burn old sacramentals in bonfires and bury the ashes. Burning and/or burial respects the sacred nature once held by these items and prevents their adaptation for trivial use. Reverence and discretion are proper for whatever method of disposal. ●



TACIO PHILIP SANSONOVSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*To follow [Jesus]...means “carrying one’s cross”: shouldering, like him, one’s own burdens and those of others, making one’s life a gift, not a possession, spending it in imitation of his own generous and merciful love for us. These are decisions that engage the totality of our lives.*

HOMILY, ROME,  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

GOOGLE GEMINI



### Monday

September 1

Weekday

1 Thes 4:13–18

Lk 4:16–30

### Tuesday

September 2

Weekday

1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11

Lk 4:31–37

### Wednesday

September 3

St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

Col 1:1–8

Lk 4:38–44

### Thursday

September 4

Weekday

Col 1:9–14

Lk 5:1–11

### Friday

September 5

Weekday

Col 1:15–20

Lk 5:33–39

### Saturday

September 6

Weekday

Col 1:21–23

Lk 6:1–5

### Sunday

September 7

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 9:13–18b

Phlm 9–10, 12–17

Lk 14:25–33

# Our Sunday Readings

SIRACH 3:17-18,20,28-29  
 PSALM 68:4-7,10-11  
 HEBREWS 12:18-19,22-24a  
 LUKE 14:1,7-14

## Repayment

### SIRACH 3:17-18,20,28-29

#### Reading closely

1. Who all is pleased by humility?
2. Why is humility better than giving gifts?
3. In what ways do people seek what is beyond them (v.20)?
4. Why do you think *an attentive ear* brings joy to the wise (v.28)?
5. How do alms atone for sins (v.29)?

#### Living the word

6. What examples of humble behavior have you seen?
7. Do people respect humble behavior?
8. Are there questions about God and/or the world that you think you should not ask?
9. If alms atone for sins, why is it better to be humble than a *giver of gifts*?

### THE FIRST READING

#### Getting an education

The Book of Sirach (or Book of ben Sira) was probably written between 200-175 BC. Because schools as we know them didn't yet exist, Jewish boys whose parents could afford a good education hired a tutor or *sage*. This book is an example of the wisdom taught by such sages.

#### Know your limits

The sage discourages students from trying to understand things that they can't (v.20). He might have been referring to certain Greek philosophical ideas. In this era Greek culture and philosophy were popular, but some ideas put forth by Greek thinkers could not be reconciled with Judaism.

#### Help the poor

Since only wealthy families could afford a tutor, the students of this sage are probably quite rich. Because many people at this time believed that wealth was a sign of God's favor, a rich person might think he was better than others.

The sage disagrees with the notion that God favors the rich: he urges his wealthy students to be humble (vv.17-18). Moreover, he instructs his students to help those in need (see 4:1-10)

In verse 29 the author urges his students to give money to the poor because it will counteract their sins just like water counteracts fire. It's not clear if he means that almsgiving will take away their sins or if God will treat them more mercifully if they give alms.

## LUKE 14:1,7-14

### Reading closely

1. What kinds of people are at the meal?
2. What all might the guests be thinking and feeling as they gather?
3. How do you imagine the guests trying to arrange themselves?
4. What do you think the host is doing?
5. What might Jesus be thinking right before he speaks?
6. Who does Jesus criticize?
7. How do you think everyone reacts to Jesus?
8. How does Jesus use the word *repay/repayment*?
9. Where at the table do you think Jesus is?
10. Where would you have wanted to be?

### Living the word

11. Why do people want to feel important?
12. What do people in our culture do to seem important?
13. Do you want to be important? Why/Why not?
14. In what ways does this passage unsettle you?

## THE GOSPEL READING

### A tense meal

In the New Testament era evening meals were opportunities for philosophical and/or religious discussion. Well-known teachers might even give a lecture during the meal.

At this point in Luke's Gospel Jesus has emerged as a teacher within Judaism, but his teachings have often angered people. Three things about this meal prepare us for more conflict.

- The meal is hosted by a Pharisee. Jesus has not had friendly interactions with Pharisees.
- It's a sabbath meal, and Jesus has shown that he will break sabbath laws
- The guests are scrutinizing Jesus (v.1)

### Taking the top spots

At the time of Jesus some places at table were more prestigious than others. Luke describes how the guests at this meal try to take the best positions. As they scramble for places of honor, they're forgetting Proverbs 25:6-7, which Jesus references:

*Claim no honor in the king's presence,  
nor occupy the place of great men;  
for it is better that you be told, "Come up closer!"  
than that you be humbled before the prince.*

Although the guests suspect Jesus of betraying their Jewish heritage, they're the ones ignoring it.

### Humbling oneself

Jesus critiques human pride with its status-seeking behavior (vv.8-10). He then shifts the discussion to God's kingdom (v.11). Just as we should humble ourselves in human affairs, so we should humble ourselves before God. In the end, God alone invites us to a higher place.

Jesus next addresses the host of this meal. The host probably expects at least some of his guests to seat him at a place of honor at a future meal that they themselves would host. Such reciprocity was one way wealthy members of society maintained their social status.

Jesus insists that his host (and future hosts) should invite people who are too poor to host a big meal of their own. God will see the generosity of the rich and reward them with a place in his kingdom because God cares the most about the very people whom society cares about the least.

## PRAYER

*adapted from The Litany of Humility*

Hear me, O Jesus, meek and humble of heart.

Deliver me, Jesus,  
from the desire of being honored,  
from the desire of being praised,  
from the desire of being preferred to others,  
from the desire of being consulted.

Deliver me, Jesus,  
from the fear of being humiliated,  
from the fear of being despised,  
from the fear of suffering rebukes,  
from the fear of being forgotten,  
from the fear of being ridiculed,  
from the fear of being wronged.

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire  
to be humble in all that I do. Amen.