# Reading for the Memorial of St Charles Borromeo

## 4th November 2026

**First reading**

**Philippians 2:12-18**

**'Work out your own salvation, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work.'**

My beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 27(26):1. 4. 13-14. ℟1a**

*The* Lord *is my light and my salvation.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread?
There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord,
to enquire at his temple.
I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong; be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord!

**Gospel Acclamation** **1 Peter 4:14**

Alleluia, alleluia.
If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed,
because the Spirit of God rests upon you.
Alleluia.

**Gospel** **Luke 14:25-33**

**'Any one who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'**

At that time: Great crowds accompanied Jesus, and he turned and said to them, 'If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother, and wife and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, "This man began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.'

**Short reflection on the reading for today**

The saying about hating father and mother, etc. grates on our ears. But the words are a Semitic idiom expressing preference of one thing over another. If you prefer one thing over another, you are said to love the one and hate the other.
Jesus does not really ask us to hate our families, but to love him more than we love even our families. He is to be the primary love in our lives and our first loyalty is to him. Elsewhere he says our main priority is to love God with all one's soul, strength and mind. However, since He is God-with-us, to love God above all is also to love Jesus above all.
As followers of Christ, he is our primary allegiance; our bond with him colours all our other relationships. He calls for such loyalty and devotion that potential disciples should reflect, just as a builder must reflect whether he will be able to finish what he intends to build. We pray to be whole-hearted rather than half-hearted in following him.

*These are the readings for the memorial*

**First reading** **Romans 12:3-13**

**'Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.'**
Brothers and Sisters: By the grace given to me I say to every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.
Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 89(88): 2-3. 4-5. 21-22. 25, 27. ℟ cf. 2a**
*I will sing for ever of your mercies, O* Lord.
I will sing for ever of your mercies, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your fidelity.
I have declared your mercy is established for ever; your fidelity stands firm as the heavens.
'With my chosen one I have made a covenant; I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your descendants for ever, and set up your throne through all ages.'
'I have found my servant David, and with my holy oil anointed him.
My hand shall always be with him, and my arm shall make him strong.'
'My mercy and my faithfulness shall be with him; by my name his might shall be exalted.
He will call out to me, "You are my father, my God, the rock of my salvation". '

**Gospel Acclamation** **Jn10:14**
Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

**Gospel** **John 10:11-16**

**‘The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.’**

At that time: Jesus said, ‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.’