You Have a Part to Play in God's work.

I was in primary school, 7 years old (Year 3), one of the smallest in my year. At the end of the school day, the school cricket team were about to leave for a cricket match, and I was going home. The teacher said, "We're one short. Damian, do you want to play?" I went to play.

During the game, I was called to bat. The cricket bat was bigger than me, and the equipment didn't fit. My teammates looked embarrassed. I got bowled out very quickly. I only got two runs!

At the end, the other team scored 199 runs.

Guess how many we got?

200. We won by just 1 run.

Even though I only got 2 runs, without me we would have lost. I played the smallest part in us winning.

You have a part to play in God's work.

For a long time, "the Church" was understood primarily as the pope, bishops, priests and religious. Baptised Catholics were simply expected to "pay, pray and obey": live the teachings, say your prayers, and do what the priest said. They did the "real" work.

The Second Vatican Council in 1963 challenged this. The church now teaches the "universal call to holiness and mission." The Church is not just for the religious professionals: pope, bishops, priests and religious.

The Church is <u>all the baptised working together</u>.

The pope, bishops, priests and religious are like the coaches and captains of a team.

Baptised Catholics are the players. You make things happen in society.

Jesus says to everyone in the marketplace in today's Gospel, "You go into the vineyard too."

The message of this homily is simple:

In a relationship with Jesus, **you have a part to play in God's work.**

There are 3 keys to God's work:

1. **Evangelisation**
2. **Experience of the power of the Holy Spirit**
3. **The best of leadership principles**

Evangelisation – Matthew: Jesus says, "pay them their wages." St Paul says, the wages of sin is death - the experience of separation from God. However, Jesus "takes away the sins of the world." Jesus' wage is forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:26–28). Eternal life (Jn. 3:16). Life to the full (Jn. 10:10). Jesus' wage is completely undeserved free gift. Evangelisation is to hear and receive Jesus' free wage of eternal life and God's love, through discipleship with Jesus. The reason we keep doing alpha is that it is a proven way of people hearing,

exploring, and responding to God's love in Jesus. Is God calling you to try it, or to invite someone? **You have a part to play in God's work:** through **evangelisation**.

Experience of the power of the Holy Spirit – Matthew: "'Do you begrudge my generosity?'"

There are times when I serve grudgingly.

I hear stories of other parishes that begrudge new Christians serving.

It's understandable to feel tired, unappreciated, or envious.

We need to experience the power of the Holy Spirit. Those who filled with the Holy Spirit joyfully serve. The Holy Spirit fills you and me with gratitude serve joyfully.

We do prayer ministry after Mass about once a month. People are welcome to receive and experience the Holy Spirit.

You have a part to play in God's in God's work: pray for others to **experience the power of the Holy Spirit**.

The best of leadership principles – Matthew: "about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them … "You go into the vineyard too."

Jesus constantly inspired, identified, and invited all people to serve in a team. That's the parish definition of leadership, "to inspire, identify, and invite everyone to serve in a team to build up the church and society."

Many of you already generously play your part/s in many aspects of parish life. Thank you for your generosity.

Jesus calls everyone to serve.

Have you ever asked Jesus how he might be calling you to serve?

It could be to serve in your family, your workplace, your friends, at school, or in church.

We have a service list on the noticeboard.

Our new 'Way of Life Coordinator' is Dennis Estrella. His job is to "inspire, identify, and invite everyone to find their gifts to serve." Please, speak with him about how you might **play your part in God's work: to be a servant leader.**

Friends, you may feel you can only contribute "2 runs" in God's work: in church, your family, at work, or school, or with friends, or with your varied responsibilities. If that is the case, **you are playing your part in God's work already.**

Jesus invites you to, "go into the vineyard too."

What does that mean to you? What's your answer?

Prayer

Jesus, you stand at the door of my heart and knock. You promise that whoever opens the door, you will come in. There is only one door, and it is on my side.

Jesus, I open the door of my heart to you. Come in.

Thank you that I can play a part in God's work:

- **to evangelise**
- **to share the experience the power of the Holy Spirit**
- **to be a servant leader**

What are you calling me to do?

Help me to say yes to serve you joyfully.

For the building up of the church and the salvation of the whole world.

Amen.