Sermon: “**pay Caesar what is due to Caesar, and pay God what is due to God**” (Matthew 22.21)

Opponents of Jesus try to trap him with a tricky question, like politicians often do. But Jesus, like a top batsman, treats the trickiest spinning ball with a confident ‘6’. Trouble is that his answer (TEXT) leaves us with a tough question: What is due to the ruling government? What is due to God? Is it always possible to tell the difference? As a charity we get from the government GST back – what is due to Government becomes due to ‘God’, if you like. When the parish supports the weak through brown bags is this not also supporting the government who might otherwise have to help them…?

We might, at some level, resent paying tax, not so much because we have less money, but more because we might not approve of how that money is spent.

But might this attitude be one God levels at us? How much of our parish energy (represented by the AGM reports) is directed at ourselves as beneficiaries, and how much to others? How much do we keep the Good News to ourselves, and how much is that Good News proclaimed beyond these walls?

Put another way – if we individually compare the amount we pay in taxes (including GST) with how much we give to the parish – how one-sided is the balance? Should this bother us? If the parish continues to spend more than it receives how long before we can no longer afford a full-time presbyter? So TEXT!