



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
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30th SUNDAY in Ordinary Time (A) 29th October 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: (on request)

ALL SAINTS & HOLY SOULS

Next week, Wednesday 1st November, we keep the **Solemnity of All Saints**.

Mass at 9:30am with the children from our Primary School

Mass at 6:30pm animated by youths from HAKUNA followed by Adoration until 8pm.

On Thursday 2nd November we remember the **Faithful Departed**, Mass at 8am & 12:30pm.

A **Book of Remembrance** is kept by the statue of the St Joseph, Patron Saint of a holy death. Write down, by hand, on a sheet of paper the names of your beloved ones who have died and place it in an envelope voluntary donation. A **blue envelope** (if you can gift-aid) or **brown envelope** (not gift-aided). Return it to Fr. Ivano or through the Presbytery letterbox.

We will pray for all our loved ones who have died.

Parents and grandparents. Husband and wife. Brothers and sisters.

Friends and all those whose memory we cherish.

We will pray for those who in life we have found hard to love, or impossible to forgive.

Those who hurt us and did cause us to suffer. Our enemies.

Through prayer and faith, we can be reconciled with those who have died.



On 2nd November, the Church allows us to gain **Plenary Indulgence** in favour of the faithful departed. Plenary indulgence for the souls in purgatory are also granted by visiting a cemetery on any day between 1-8 November, praying for the repose of the soul of those who have died, with the usual conditions of **Confession**, **Communion**, and **prayer for the intention of the Pope**.

Next Sunday, special year's collection for the sick & retired priests of our Diocese.

Please, take an envelope and be generous. The number of priests in need is increasing. Remember the priest who baptised you? Gave you First Holy Communion? Married you?

... and now what shall I do?

Let us assume, just for a moment, for the sake of this exercise, that you (yes, **you**) have just made a very, very stupid mistake. It happened. You did not see it coming or you did not want to; maybe someone tried to warn you, but you did not want to listen. To make things worse, it is a big mistake. You are left in disbelief, confused, puzzled: how did it happen? And especially, how could this have happened to someone like me?

I know, this may well be a very unrealistic scenario for many of you (!), but let us assume that this has happened to you, or at some point will happen to you, ... **and now what are you to do?** BE GENTLE WITH YOURSELF; yes, BE GENTLE.

Never grow irritated with yourself or your imperfections, for although it is but reasonable that we should be displeased and saddened at our own faults, yet we ought to guard against a bitter and angry feelings about them. Many people fall into the error of being angry because they have been angry and so keeping up a chronic state of irritation which adds to the evil of what is past and prepares the way for a new fresh fall.

Moreover, all this anger and irritation against oneself fosters pride and springs entirely from self-love which is disturbed by its own imperfections. What we need is a quiet, steady, firm displeasure at our own faults. So, when we judge our own heart guilty, if we treat it gently, rather with a spirit of mercy than anger, encouraging it to amendment, its repentance will be much deeper and more lasting than if stirred up anger or sadness.

For instance, let us suppose that I am specially seeking to conquer vanity, yet I have fallen conspicuously into that sin. Instead of taking myself to task as abominable and wretched, for breaking so many resolutions, calling myself unfit to lift up my eyes to Heaven, disloyal, faithless and such like, I would deal mercifully and quietly with myself. "Poor heart! so soon fallen again into the snare! Well now, rise up again bravely and fall no more. Seek God's Mercy, hope in Him, ask Him to keep you from falling again, and begin to tread the pathway of humility afresh. We must be more on our guard henceforth."

Perhaps, in the end, these scenarios are not so far from our real life. So then, when you have fallen, lift up your heart in quietness, humbling yourself deeply before God by reason of your frailty, without marvelling that you fell. There is no cause to marvel because **weakness is weak** and **infirmity infirm**. Lament, repent, but do not condemn yourself, do not punish yourself, accept that you are human, weak, frail, wounded. Be gentle, very gentle with yourself, with a very deep trust in God's Mercy.

In manus.

Father Ivano