



Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

30th AUGUST 2015
22nd SUNDAY of the YEAR



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The Pharisees, in today's Gospel, are followers not so much of God as of regulations. There are problems with reading too much into this and condemning all 'old testament religion' as hypocrisy. After all, the people are told by Moses to observe all the commandments God has given. The Pharisees, as a group, were not as bad as we might think. What Jesus is talking about is hypocrisy – his quotation from Isaiah offers the definitive explanation of this, how honouring God with your lips only and not your hearts is worthless. 'True religion' is defined in the letter of James; we might put more things on the list, but love of neighbour is at the heart of it. Jesus lists the things in our hearts which show we are truly, not just ritually, 'unclean'; the Psalm lists the things which show we are truly clean. The last verse is particularly relevant at a time of supposed financial crisis. Jesus was not attacking the institution of Pharisaism, which did a great service to an occupied people by maintaining its identity in the face of the colonial power. He is attacking all people who preach but do not have love - that could be us, too.

SMILE LINES

And the congregation replied...

Down in the southern United States, there are many churches known as ‘answer back’ churches. When the preacher says something, the congregation naturally replies.

One Sunday, a preacher was speaking on what it would take for the church to become better. He said: "If this church is to become better, it must take up its bed, and walk."

The congregation intoned: "Let it walk, Preacher, let it walk."

Encouraged by their response, he went further. "If this church is going to become better, it will have to throw aside its hindrances and run!"

The congregation chanted: "Let it run, preacher, let it run!"

Now really into his message, he declared: "If this church really wants to become great, it will have to take up its wings and fly!"

"Let it fly, Preacher, let it fly!" the congregation shouted.

The Preacher then bellowed: "If this church is going to fly, it will cost money!"

Whereupon the congregation murmured softly: "Let it walk, Preacher, let it walk."

* * * * *

QUOTE - Pope Francis

Jesus points to the need to go beyond the material gift. God himself is the

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 29th August

10.00

6.00pm

Sunday 30th August

8.30 Ints of Liam & Theresa Dooley

9.45 The People of the Parish

11.30 David Morley (RIP) Anniv.

Monday 31st August – BANK HOLIDAY

10.00 Canon Maurice O’Leary (RIP) Anniv.

Tuesday 1st September

9.15 Marty Stockman (RIP)

Wednesday 2nd September

9.15 Fr. Raymond Legge (RIP)

Thursday 3rd September

11.00 Service of the Word

Friday 4th September

9.15 Mgr Walter Drumm (RIP)

Saturday 5th September

10.00 Elizabeth Gibson (RIP)

6.00pm

Sunday 6th September

08.30

09.45

11.30 The People of the Parish

gift and the giver. And thus in that bread, in that gesture, the people can find the One who gives the bread, who is God. We shouldn’t get caught up in daily worries. Jesus wants us to understand that beyond physical hunger, man has a different kind of hunger – all of us have this hunger – a hunger that is more important and that cannot be satisfied with normal food. This is a hunger for life, a hunger for eternity that only He can satisfy as He is the ‘bread of life’.