Our Faith on Sunday

Liturgy
7th Sunday of OT (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Ps 12: 6
**O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.**

FIRST READING:
Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23
The Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand.

PSALM: Ps 102:1-4,8,10,12-13. R.v8

R) The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R)**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R)**

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R)**

SECOND READING:
1 Cor. 15:45-49
We who have been modelled on the earthly man will be modelled on the heavenly man.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia! Cf. Acts 16:14
**Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38
A man's words flow out from what fills his heart.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Ps 9: 2-3
**I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name,
O Most High.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION



At first hearing, Our Lord's teaching in today's Gospel passage seems very demanding. It IS very demanding! and very counter-cultural, in the sense that to *"lend without any hope of return"*, or to *'present the other cheek, to the anyone who slaps you"*, are not the accepted practices of our society. They are a very clear representation of another way of life. No wonder that Our Lord says that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for the rich (in money, or comfort, or self-importance) to enter or follow that other way of living, his own Way, to the Kingdom of Heaven. To follow Jesus requires such a turn-about of values, such an 'emptying' of self, a life's work, in fact, but a work always to be done in company with Jesus. And what an offer is made with the demand: to live and be rewarded with Jesus as children of God the Father; gifted richly by the Holy Spirit; friends and companions of the Son – and at the same time, transforming with peace and generosity the life here below.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



The Social Dimension Of Evangelization

179 (Cont'd) The way we treat others has a transcendent dimension: "The measure you give will be the measure you get" (Mt 7:2). It corresponds to the mercy which God has shown us: "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you… For the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Lk 6:36-38). What these passages make clear is the absolute priority of "going forth from ourselves towards our brothers and sisters" as one of the two great commandments which ground every moral norm and as the clearest sign for discerning spiritual growth in response to God's completely free gift. For this reason, "the service of charity is also a constituent element of the Church's mission and an indispensable expression of her very being".[144] By her very nature the Church is missionary; she abounds in effective charity and a compassion which understands, assists and promotes.

144 Benedict XVI, Motu Proprio Intima Ecclesiae Natura (11 November 2012): AAS 104 (2012), 996.

Day by Day with St Francis*

THE BEAUTIFUL LADY

One night, after praying for a long time, he gradually grew drowsy and fell asleep. Then his holy soul was brought into the sanctuary of God, and, among other things, he saw in a dream a lady who looked like this: Her head seemed to be of gold, her breast and arms of silver, her belly was crystal, and her lower parts of iron. She was tall in stature, slim and harmonious in form. But that very beautiful lady was covered by a filthy mantle. When the blessed Father got up the next morning he told this vision to the holy man, Brother Pacifico, but without explaining what it meant.

Many have interpreted it as they please, but I do not think it out of place to keep to the interpretation of Pacifico, which the Holy Spirit suggested to him as he was hearing it. 'This very beautiful lady,' he said, 'is the beautiful soul of Saint Francis. Her golden head is his contemplation and wisdom about things of eternity; her silver breast and arms are the words of the Lord meditated in the heart and carried out in deeds. The hardness of the crystal is his sobriety, its sparkle is his chastity, and iron is his steadfast perseverance. Finally, consider the filthy mantle as the little and despised body covering his precious soul.'

***Excerpts from Day by Day with St Francis: a Franciscan Breviary Published by New City** ISBN: 9781905039166
These writings by or about Francis of Assisi are from the time of Francis which means that the language is sometimes rather archaic but it reflects the true spirit of Francis.

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ST. JOHN FISHER, REDBOURN with FLAMSTEAD AND MARKYATE.

PARISH PRIEST: Father Michael Mannion Telephone 01582 792270

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 24TH FEBRUARY 2019

MASSES THIS W EEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm Nora King (RIP)
Sunday	9.00am Louis Kayum (RIP) & Family Intentions
Monday 25th February	11.45am feria
Friday 1st March	11.45am St. David, Bishop, Patron of Wales
Sunday 3rd March	8th **Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(Saturday)	5.30pm Theresa (Tessa) Abbott (RIP 20th Anniv.)
	9.00am Louis Kayum (RIP) & Family Intentions

Sunday Evening Churches Together in Redbourn
February 24th at St. John Fisher at 7.00pm (Prayer Service)

We welcome Bishop Paul McAleenan to our Parish for this weekend.

World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 1st March at 11.15am at the Methodist Church.
This year it has been organised by the people of Slovenia.
Everyone is invited, women and men. It will be followed by refreshments.

Advance Notice **Ash Wednesday 6th March**

Redbourn	**Wheathampstead**
11.45am Mass with Ashes	9.30am Mass with Ashes
7.30pm Prayer Service with Ashes	8.30pm Prayer Service with Ashes

Please remember in you prayers : Sick: Nigel Clark, Ivor Hopla, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt Mary Jones, Breda Iommi, Baby David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Lucy Swift.

Please remember in your prayers this week in The Churches Together List the Residents of:
St Mary's Close, Waterend Lane, Holts Meadow, Brache Close, Crown Street, Pipers Close,Cavendish Road, Dammersley Close, High Street, Old Watling Street, Summer Walk, Chequers Hill. Linnis Pond and River Hill.

Coffee Morning Rotas for 2019 are available at the back of the Church. We need some more volunteers. Please add you name to the list. This is a once the month community gathering.

Parish Breakfast Morning. Again this is for raising funds for the building of a water well through CAFOD. The previous one was extremely successful. The next one is scheduled for 10th March.
Tickets, £7.50 each, are available after Mass.

Church Cleaning Rota for 2019 in on the notice board in the porch. Please sign your name against one of the free months. Ideally two parishioners are required each month and you can do the cleaning at a time to suit yourself.

Kitchen area in Parish Room. Two pictures are on the notice board giving an idea of the redevelopment of the kitchen area. We are reminded that the money to pay for this is our parish money from the Giving in Faith project. Please do look at the pictures and the letter which gives details of the ongoing work in the Church. Any comments can be written on the back of the letter, copies of which are on the table in the porch.

Admission to Nursery – Academic Year 2019-20 St Dominic Primary School
Applications for entry to St. Dominic Nursey Academic Year 2019-20 will open on **Monday 4th February 2019** and close at **3.30pm on Monday 4th March 2019.**
The school will offer 30 places in the Nursery and, by working with *Friends Together (*our Breakfast and Afterschool provider) in the afternoon, we will be able to offer parents access to 30 hours free childcare, should it be required.
Nursery morning sessions will run daily from 8.45am – 11.45am. The school then offers a Lunch Club which parents of all Nursery children will have the option to use, at a small cost.