Our Faith on Sunday

Liturgy
25th Sunday of OT (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

Against those who 'buy up the poor for money.'

PSALM: Ps 112:1-2.4-8. R.cf.vv1.7

R) Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore! **(R)**

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth? **(R)**

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the dungheap he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people. **(R)**

SECOND READING: I Timothy 2:1-8

There should be prayers offered for everyone to God, who wants everyone to be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

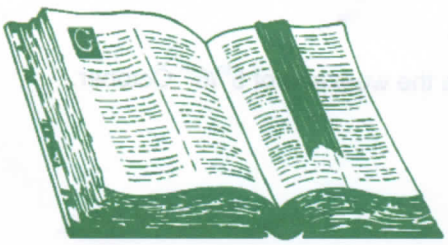
Alleluia, alleluia! Cf. Acts 16:14
Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son,
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Ps 118: 4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



What Jesus emphasizes in many different ways in the Gospels is that if we wish to receive the rewards of eternal life then we must first of all love God and then love our neighbour. The two things, love of God and love neighbour, are intricately linked. In today's Gospel Jesus warns us that "no servant can be a slave of two masters". The problem is that, often without realizing it, we are the "slaves" of many masters. Anything which takes hold of us and dominates our lives and our ways of thinking and behaving enslaves us. Once we are enslaved by something we are no longer free to love God and neighbour. The more enslaved I am, the more difficult it is to free myself. The extreme cases are addictions to alcohol, drugs, gambling or sex. But I can also be enslaved by my possessions, my hobbies, even my job, if they prevent me from loving those in need around me. In our consumer society we are constantly being persuaded to buy the latest mobile phone, Smart TV, computer, car etc., and it becomes very difficult to separate real needs from mere desires. Today's Gospel should provoke us into examining ourselves so as to recognize the things to which we are enslaved.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



The Social Dimension of Evangelization
The special place of the poor in God's people

202. The need to resolve the structural causes of poverty cannot be delayed, not only for the pragmatic reason of its urgency for the good order of society, but because society needs to be cured of a sickness which is weakening and frustrating it, and which can only lead to new crises. Welfare projects, which meet certain urgent needs, should be considered merely temporary responses. As long as the problems of the poor are not radically resolved by rejecting the absolute autonomy of markets and financial speculation and by attacking the structural causes of inequality,173 no solution will be found for the world's problems or, for that matter, to any problems. Inequality is the root of social ills.

173 This implies a commitment to "eliminate the structural causes of global economic dysfunction": Benedict XVI, Address to the Diplomatic Corps (8 January 2007): AAS 99 (2007), 73.

GOSPEL CHILDHOOD
The 'Little Way' of St Therese of Lisieux for everyone*

A WAY BASED ON SCRIPTURE

Whatever may be your own background or personal struggles, the answer is to base your picture of God on Scripture, not on what others may tell you, or the rules they insist that you keep. God calls us to freedom, not bondage to the Law. God loves and calls sinners, not those who have 'made it' under their own steam. Part of my own growth has been a serious reading of the gospels and a deep desire to put what I have understood into practice in daily life. Scripture is God's Word to us and Jesus shows us God's human face. Jesus was a child himself so he knows what children feel. He experienced poverty, pain and sorrow as he matured. Jesus welcomed sinners and healed the sick without choosing those who were 'worthy' of help. Jesus suffered in his Passion, and his face was bruised and bloody. Nobody wanted to stay with him unless he was a glorious and conquering Messiah.

I want to recognise Jesus even when others fail to recognise him; to discover his face beneath the bruises and spittle. I want to be open to him however and under whatever guise he comes to me: in littleness, in poverty, in daily life, in the cross, as well as in joyful 'resurrection' moments.

* Simplified and illustrated by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. First published in 2005 in Great Britain by:
New City Unit 1 Polaris Centre 41 Brownfields Welwyn Garden City AL7 1AN https://www.newcity.co.uk/book-tag/focolare/ ISBN: 13:978-0904287-94-3

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S. JOHN FISHER, REDBOURN with FLAMSTEAD AND MARKYATE.

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TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 22ND SEPTEMBER 2019

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	Noel Flannery (RIP Anniv).
Sunday	9.00am	Zara Fitzgerald Family Intentions
Monday 23rd September	11.45am	St Padre Pio, Priest
Friday 27th September	11.45am	St Vincent de Paul, Priest
Sunday 29th September	**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	Bridget Ward (RIP)
Sunday	9.00am	Santana Fernandes (RIP Anniv.)

Feast Days this week; 24th September – Our Lady of Walsingham
29th September – Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

Please remember in your prayers: Sick; Nigel Clark, Ivor Hopla, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Diane Boba.

Please remember in you prayers this week in The Churches Together List the residents of:
Vaughan Mead, The Park, Harpenden Lane, Woollams, Ver Meadow, Luton Lane, Aubrey Lane, Cheverells Close, Fullerton Close, Long Meadow, Pickford Road, the Dell, Delmer End Lane, Old Watling Street & Trowley Bottom.

Advance Notice: Walsingham Pilgrimage for the Sanctity of Life, Sunday 6th October.
Tickets: Adults £17.50, Children & Students £8.00. For more information: www.prolifepilgrimage.org
To book contact Geraldine 07971 028415/ mgeraldine_ward@hotmail.com as invitation letters are not being sent this year. See poster in the porch.

Watford, St.Albans & Hemel Hospital Chaplaincy.
Mass will be offered in the hospital once a month and everyone is welcome to attend; for more details about dates and times please contact the head of chaplaincy.
There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Litany of Lourdes in the hospital oratory on level 4 at Watford Hospital every Monday at 2pm, all are welcome to join us for this time of prayer for our hospitals.
If you have a relative in hospital who has requested to see a Catholic chaplain please do let us know.
Would you consider giving an hour a week to join our chaplaincy team – please contact us for details.
For more information about any of the above please email the head of chaplaincy –www.anthony.curran@nhs.net
Message from Deacon Anthony (Catholic Chaplain)

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers: New rotas are available at the back of the Church.

Gluton Free Hosts can be made available; see Fr. Michael.

Confessions are available after Saturday evening Mass and on request.

Cafod Harvest Fast Day is Friday 4th October. The retiring collection will take place the weekend of 5th/6th October.