Our Faith on Sunday

Liturgy
27th Sunday of OT (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Est 4: 17

**Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.**

FIRST READING:
Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

The upright man will live by his faithfulness.

PSALM: Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R.v9

**R) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R)**

SECOND READING:
II Timothy 1:6-8. 13-14

Never be ashamed of witnessing the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

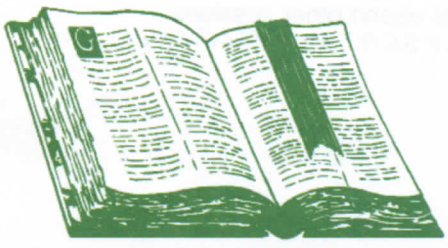
Alleluia, alleluia! 1 Sam 3:9; Jn 6:68
**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10

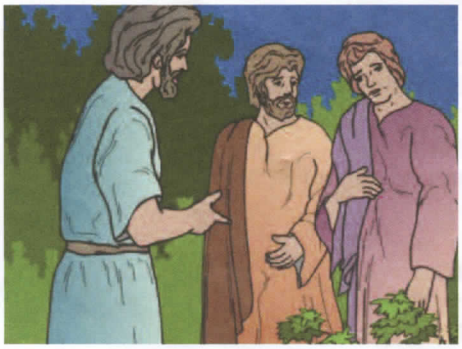
If only you had faith!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Lam 3: 25

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



At first glance it seems that Jesus is rebuking the apostles when they ask him to "increase their faith". In a way, he is correcting them, but his answer makes it clear that having "more" faith is not important. A tiny amount of faith is all that is necessary. As Jesus tells them, a tiny amount can do incredible things. We can see this too from other examples where people, often very simple, not particularly religious, people, are rewarded for their faith. One outstanding example would be that if the woman who feels it is enough just to touch Jesus' garment to be healed of her ailment. Another example is that of the centurion's servant. What the rest of the Gospel shows us is that what Jesus really requires more of from his followers is humility and obedience. When we love God and neighbour, it should not make us feel proud of ourselves or superior to others, but grateful to God for having let us serve him. So, Jesus is telling the apostles, and us, not to wait around until they have more faith, but make use of the little we already have – that is sufficient. We just need to be aware that through faith it is he, not us, who accomplishes great things.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



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

204. We can no longer trust in the unseen forces and the invisible hand of the market. Growth in justice requires more than economic growth, while presupposing such growth: it requires decisions, programmes, mechanisms and processes specifically geared to a better distribution of income, the creation of sources of employment and an integral promotion of the poor which goes beyond a simple welfare mentality. I am far from proposing an irresponsible populism, but the economy can no longer turn to remedies that are a new poison, such as attempting to increase profits by reducing the work force and thereby adding to the ranks of the excluded.

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

A WAY OF FREE CHOICE

I don't know whether you can think of something in your own childhood that gives the key to who you have become now? When I was a child my middle sister Leonie came by with her doll and doll's clothes in a basket and invited me and my other young sister Celine to help ourselves to whatever we wanted. Celine chose a pretty ball of coloured thread. I had a look at what was on offer then declared 'I choose the whole lot' and walked off with the doll, the basket and all that was left in it piled in my arms! That little episode has mirrored my life. When it comes to holiness, giving my life to God, I choose everything – yes EVERYTHING God wants to give me. It's no use trying to be a saint by halves, accepting some things but not others, picking and choosing here and there. I just allow God to look after me completely, giving or taking whatever God wants to give or take as my life unfolds. That way I have nothing to worry about.

Whatever God gives I choose to receive, not reluctantly but enthusiastically, with a smile rather than a scowl.

* 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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TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 6TH OCTOBER 2019

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	Patsy and Brian's Intentions
Sunday	9.00am	Iain Sharpe (RIP 1st Anniv.)
Monday 7th October	11.45am	Our Lady of the Rosary
Friday 11th October	11.45am	feria
Sunday 13th October	**28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	Mary Coates (RIP 2nd Anniv.)
Sunday	9.00am	

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:
Tassell Hall, Nichols Close, Hilltop, Rainbow Close, Ridgedown, The Terrace, Albert Street, Christina Court, George Street, Luton Road, Pipers Lane, The Ridings, Flamsteadbury, Parsons Close and Trowley Hill Road.

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 was Friday 4th October. There will be a retiring collection this weekend.
If you wish to Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of the Church.
Donations of non-perishable food will be accepted and passed on to the local food bank.

Favourite Hymn to sing at Mass. Maggy has left a list on the table at the back of the Church for anyone to write their favourite hymn to be sung at Mass on Sundays.

CELEBRATE! 19th-20th October (Catholic Charismatic Movement)
We are invited to celebrate our Faith over the weekend of 19/20th October in Loretto College School, St. Albans.
There are groups arranged to deal with all ages, child friendly groups allow parents to attend other sessions.
For information and nominal fee for attending one or both days contact WWW.CELEBRATECONFERENCE.ORG
or ring 07891 194853