Our Faith on Sunday

Liturgy
29th Sunday of OT (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 16: 6, 8

To you I call for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:8-13

As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage.

PSALM: Ps 120. R. cf.v2

R) Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. **(R)**

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. **(R)**

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. **(R)**

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. **(R)**

SECOND READING: II Timothy 3:14 - 4:2

The man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

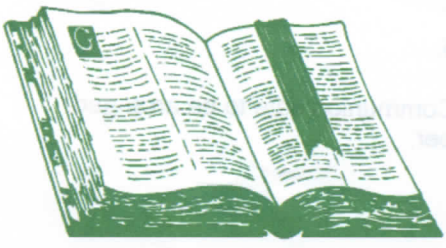
Alleluia, alleluia! Cf. Eph 1:17.18
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

God will see justice done to his chosen who cry to him.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 32: 18-19

Behold, the eyes of the Lord
are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



One mistaken interpretation of this Gospel is that if we are persistent in our prayers then God will eventually "give in" to our requests. What Jesus is saying is that, even a bad person, like the judge in this example, will eventually will give in to "pressure", but that God will reply speedily to our requests for justice. This may not seem to measure up to our experience of prayers of petition. Very often, people pray for things and do not receive them, or so it would seem. Jesus links all this to faith. He asks if, when the Son of Man comes, he will find any faith. If we have faith, then we believe that God will provide all our needs, and that if we don't get exactly what we ask for, we trust that it is because our heavenly Father either thinks it unnecessary for us or sends us something even better than what we asked for. The truth of the matter is that we don't really know what is best for us – only God knows that. So, if we have faith, we will learn to understand that what gives us or denies us, is exactly what we need to proceed on our journey towards heaven.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



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

205 (Cont'd) I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor! It is vital that government leaders and financial leaders take heed and broaden their horizons, working to ensure that all citizens have dignified work, education and healthcare. Why not turn to God and ask him to inspire their plans? I am firmly convinced that openness to the transcendent can bring about a new political and economic mindset which would help to break down the wall of separation between the economy and the common good of society.

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

A WAY FOR EVERYONE

Everyone is called to the Little Way that I follow, but each one does so in his or her own unique manner. I used to wonder why God seems to give different gifts to different people; why some are intelligent, even geniuses, while others are slow learners. Some have to cope with illness and disability, while others have all the blessings of health and strength. Some are brought up as Christians and some know nothing of God at all.

I received my answer when I considered the variety of nature around me. A garden contains all sorts of plants – roses and lilies to be sure (and they are indeed beautiful), but also violets, mosses and wild flowers. Each one adds to the beauty of the whole. If God has created us to be different it is so that all this variety can delight the Divine eyes. If God therefore gives me a less obvious and showy part to play, makes me a sprig of moss rather than a rose, that's fine with me. God has eyes for the big picture as well as for each one's part in it.

Perfection is just being who I am, and becoming who God wants me to be. It means accepting myself rather than comparing myself with others. I believe that God takes a particular interest, not only in me but in every other person too, because no two are exactly the same – thank God!

* 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

Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. The Psalms: A new Translation © 1963 The Grail (England) published by Harper Collins.
Excerpt from THE JERUSALEM BIBLE, copyright (c) 1966 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd. and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc. Reprinted by Permission.

S. JOHN FISHER, REDBOURN with FLAMSTEAD AND MARKYATE.

PARISH PRIEST: Father Michael Mannion. Telephone 01582 792270

TWENTY NINETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 20TH OCTOBER 2019

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	George Abbott (RIP Anniv.)
Sunday	9.00am	Peter Swift (RIP Anniv)
Monday 21st October	11.45am	**NO MASS**
Friday 25th October	11.45am	**NO MASS**
Sunday 27th October	**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	Colm Keane (RIP Anniv.)
Sunday	9.00am	

Our thanks to Fr. Peter Dwyer for celebrating Mass for us this weekend.

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:
Church End, Heybrigge Close, Long Cutt, Hemel Hempstead Road, South Common, Gertrude Peake Place, Becks Close, Cleveland Road, Grange Close, Manse Court, Roe End Lane, William Street, Gill Hill, Pie Corner and Vicarage Gardens.

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

Confessions are available after Saturday evening Mass and on request.

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.

Extraordinary Month of Mission. Pope Francis has declared that October 2019 will be a special month of prayer and action to strengthen and grow God's mission and the Church.
There is a retiring collection for World Mission Sunday this weekend. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church if you are able to Gift Aid.

Confirmation for 2020 Anyone in year 9 of secondary school needs to think about applying for the preparation course taking place in Harpenden Church. Application forms are available at the back of the Church. Completed forms should be handed in to Harpenden Church as soon as possible.

For the next week if a priest is needed, contact Harpenden Church. 01582 712245.

First Holy Communion Preparation for our children will begin after Christmas. Communion date to be arranged. Forms available at the back of the Church must be returned by the end of November.