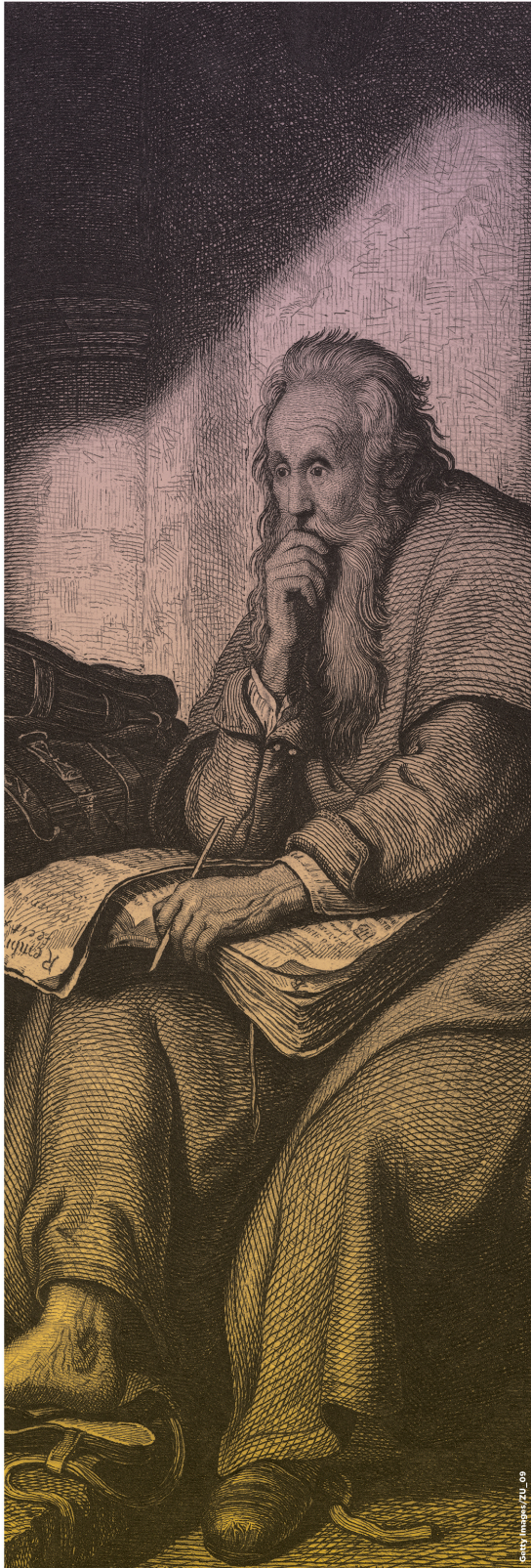


28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Please note that the reflections sometimes use examples that come from an American context



Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

October 11, 2020

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 25:6-10A | Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 | Mt 22:1-14 OR 22:1-10

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I would guess we've all experienced lean times along with better times. Ramen noodles and boxed mac and cheese in college, fine dining with "rich food and choice wines" once we got real jobs, then back to pizza and beer when balancing school tuition, car payments, and kids' growing feet. Paul has seen it all and much worse; after all, he is writing from a prison cell! Yet, rather than focus on his own troubles, he expresses gratitude for the support of the Philippians and assures them that God will provide. Paul is not writing about food, fine wine, or financial security, but the "glorious riches in Christ Jesus." No matter our circumstances, we, too, can trust that God will give us what we need.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Imagine Paul, stuck in a prison cell - hungry, thirsty, and probably in pain. And yet he seeks to bolster the Philippian Church, assuring them, "I can do all things in him who strengthens me," and *thanking them*: "Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress." What a powerful faith, and a witness to gratitude of God's gifts - including the gift of people who love us. I've been fortunate to have met people who, facing a chronic disease, the loss of a loved one, or physical challenges, still seem to be looking out for everyone else. Nearly to a person, they say they draw on their faith - and I've had the rare opportunity to hear their stories as an editor for a Catholic magazine. They inspire me to keep talking to God every day, so when that next challenge comes - and it will - I, too, can turn to my faith for strength. And it doesn't stop there. By our example, we can accompany those around us as they carry their burdens, assuring them that they don't face their trials alone.

ACTION St. Paul says: "I can do all things in him who strengthens me." Keep a gratitude journal and write down the ways God has provided for you. Thank God, and then reach out and thank the people who have supported you when things got tough.

Annual St. Conval's Cemetery Mass Sunday 1 November 2.00pm

Bishop John will celebrate the Annual Cemetery Mass as usual this year but according to the Government's infection control guidelines which limit numbers to 200 for outside ceremonies, seating and socially distanced. We would ask as many of those attending to endeavour to come in cars and remain in them for the duration of the Mass. A small number of outside seating will be available. Mass will be a ticketed event and if you would like to book a place please go to our Eventbrite site. Please bring your ticket to the Mass.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-convals-annual-cemetery-mass-tickets-124527443937>

Tickets are free and available from Monday 12th October (Limited to 2 tickets per application)

Community Circle of Prayer

Every Friday evening people gather on line at 7pm for The Community Circle of Prayer. This half hour event simply consists of a little music, some readings and the opportunity to share our prayer petitions and support others in theirs. Each week there is a different broad theme; we have explored The Call to Discipleship, Care of our Sick, Forgiveness, Guardian Angels, The Faithful Departed, The Way of the Cross to name but a few. Last week was our 6 month anniversary!

Why not spend half an hour with us this Friday in community and fellowship? You would be most welcome! To join please use the Zoom link below

<https://zoom.us/j/8510142970?pwd=UUtVa2ZhOFUxa2NSZmJCckZOek0rUT09>

Just click and you are in! All Welcome from wherever you are.

Mass Bookings

Mass Booking for the coming week will normally become available on a Friday evening. These can be made through using the link on our website or by phoning **07593 825035**. Please don't use the normal parish phone number for bookings.

Since only about one eighth of our parishioners can get to Mass each weekend, please consider allowing others to have an opportunity secure a booking for Mass.

If you need to cancel then please do so as early as possible so that others may be able to come to Mass. For online bookings, all those contained within the booking can be cancelled by using the link on the confirmation email. If you wish to cancel just one person from a booking with multiple attendees then please call the mobile number above. If you made the booking by phone then use the mobile number above to cancel.

Confirmations

The priests of our cluster are having a meeting on Monday to discuss some possibilities for the Sacrament of Confirmation and, hopefully, have a common approach across the area.

Second Collection 18 October 2020 Missio Scotland

Please note there will be an online second collection on 18th October for Missio Scotland. Missio Scotland is the Scottish branch of the Catholic Church's mission aid agency. This enables missionaries to help communities in need through grassroots projects. They build and maintain hospitals, schools and seminaries, care for people in need and act for justice in the developing world, regardless of race, stigma, religion or gender. In 2018 this collection raised £27,557 which is fully remitted to Missio

Scotland. To date for 2019 you have raised £30,705.

Missio Scotland in conjunction with the various National Offices of the Pontifical Mission Societies throughout the world have today launched our **#WeAreStillHere** initiative, which aims to not only shine a light on our missionaries who have continued to serve in the mission countries and territories in which they work in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also to encourage both prayers and generosity for their work, especially as we head towards **World Mission Sunday on October 18.**

The press release regarding the initiative can be found here:

<https://www.missioscotland.com/single-post/2020/09/09/Remember-We-Are-Still-Here>

The video can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FBCKwHsCbU>

Children's Liturgy Zoom Day for Advent Preparation

There will be a zoom meeting for all those involved in Children's Liturgy on **Saturday 24th October, 2020 from 11am- 1.00pm.**

The zoom link has been triple checked this time! Apologies for it not working last time. The meeting on the 24th October will look at the Season of Advent. There will be a talk about online resources to use, an input on the Sunday readings for Advent, and some background and information on the Advent wreath, Jesse Tree and other advent symbols. The link below WILL take you to the meeting on the 24th October. No need to register, just sign into Zoom using the information below. Click on the link which will take you straight to the meeting. Any questions, contact Fr Paul Brady stmargaret@rcdop.org.uk, or 01505320198

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7247466974>

Meeting ID: 724 746 6974

Publication of In God's Image v.2

'In God's Image' - the document which is an 'Instruction on **Safeguarding**' from the Bishops of Scotland to all Catholic jurisdictions in Scotland - was published in March 2018 initially for a three-year period. The Bishops are now preparing for the publication of version 2 of this document to reflect any significant **Safeguarding** developments that have occurred since first publication. The intended publication date is June 2021. Until then, 'In God's Image' V1 will remain valid.

The Bishops are seeking views from all interested groups and individuals on any changes they would propose to the current text in the light of their experience. This invitation extends to dioceses, parishes, religious congregations, organisations, to clergy and laypeople, to professional **Safeguarding** staff and volunteers, to those in Scotland and beyond, to those in other churches or faith groups and to all who are interested in keeping children and vulnerable adults safe in every Church environment.

Above all, the Bishops are keen to hear from survivors or victims of abuse so that the Church can learn from past mistakes and plan to ensure appropriate and sensitive responses to all allegations and concerns.

If you wish to offer any suggestions for changes to the current text of 'In God's Image', please use this form <https://bit.ly/3cuTsnP>.

NB. The closing date for submission of comments is 30th November 2020.

Beware Protect Scotland App Scams

If you are contacted by NHS (test and protect) it will be by phone on a single national telephone number **0800 030 8012**.

Scammers are contacting the public advising them that they have been in near contact with someone who has tested positive with Coronavirus and must get a test and self-isolate.

They then ask for payments for various services. **If the call is not from the above number please ignore it.**

Letter from the Bishops' Conference re. Covid 19

The Covid-19 Pandemic has presented the Church with unprecedented challenges. It has brought about the temporary closure of parish churches and, following the resumption of public worship, the introduction of rigorous health and safety measures to prevent transmission of the virus.

Since the resumption of public worship our parishes have been meticulous in controlling infection to ensure the safety of all those who cross the threshold of a Catholic church. The tireless work and cooperation of priests, parishioners and volunteers whose extraordinary efforts have ensured that Catholic churches are among the safest places for people to attend in the midst of this Pandemic, has been commendable.

We are now at a fragile point. The rate of Covid-19 infections appears to be on the rise and public anxiety is increasing. At this critical moment, Scotland's bishops have written to all our parishes urging that they redouble their efforts to reduce the risk of transmission and ensure that we all adhere to the infection control measures that we have put in place.

Our discussions with the Scottish Government assure us that they are aware of our excellent protocols and trust us to see to our public worship and parish life with the discretion of good citizens and partners.

Although no evidence has emerged of cases or clusters connected to our churches, we are not blasé and continue to assure the Government that we employ discretion and caution in full cooperation with the intentions of their advice.

On that basis, we have every confidence that, if parishes continue their high standards of infection control, then public worship and parish life can carry on and we will continue to be able to attend to the spiritual welfare of the nation.

Among the many terrible effects of this pandemic is a surge in cases of depression, hopelessness and suicide. The loss of normality in all its facets has left many feeling bereft and desolate, in need of spiritual solace, like never before. From long experience of plagues and disasters, the Church knows how the want of prayer and faith can do great harm to the spiritual wellbeing of our nations, and how our public worship - owed to God - can bring His special divine assistance in times of national trouble.

It is in times of greatest peril that we need the spiritual comfort of public worship most, now, more than ever, our church doors need to be open, so that worshipping in safety can continue. If we can safely visit a supermarket to feed our bodies, we can safely visit a church to feed our souls.