

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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



October 18, 2020

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 45:1, 4-6 | 1 Thes 1:1-5B | Mt 22:15-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I took up distance running some years ago, thanks largely to a group of friends who encouraged me along the way. We'd share the peaks and valleys of our lives as we tackled rolling hills. Those long runs come to mind when I hear Paul give thanks to the Thessalonians for having "endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul here speaks of hope in Jesus – a hope that has the risen Christ as its foundation, and is central to the Christian life. When I think of what lies at the end of a long run, such as water and blissful rest, and how grateful I am for these simple pleasures, I cannot help but rejoice in the hope that St. Paul refers to today. Our catechism makes it clear: "We firmly believe, and hence we hope that, just as Christ is truly risen from the dead and lives forever, so after death the righteous will live forever with the risen Christ and he will raise them up on the last day." (989)

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

During a particularly challenging time, I confided in a close friend over the phone. She didn't just offer to pray for me, she actually prayed *with* me on that phone call. I don't recall her exact words, but she called on Jesus to help me trust that God would see me through. So often, it can be hard to find the words to encourage others in their faith. When that happens, why not bring Jesus into the conversation? It may seem awkward at first, but offering to pray with another person in real time can be a powerful witness and encouragement. As Christians, we don't rely on "hoping" that everything will work out in the end; instead, we know that our hope is in Christ Jesus. As the catechism says: "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness." (1817) It doesn't get much more direct than that. Reflect on what "hope" looks like for us as Christians. And then tell a friend about it.

DID YOU KNOW? The source of our second reading today, the First Letter from Paul to the Thessalonians, contains the earliest mention within Christian literature of the three theological virtues: "faith, hope and love." Reread today's passage, and then read 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8. In prayer, we can ask God to help us grow in all three virtues and show us ways to share them with others.

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>

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 met this week and I will be speaking with the High School this week. In the near future the parishes and the school will be able to give further details.

Food Bank Collections

St Charles' SSVP intend to collect donations for the Food Bank before every public Mass, beginning with the Vigil on Saturday, 24th October. A member of SSVP will be available to collect donations, which should only be placed into the bag provided by the SSVP member. Please note that nothing can be left in or around the church area. Sincere thanks for your ongoing generosity.

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)

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

Zoom Music Day

The Diocesan Liturgy Commission will host a Zoom music day on Saturday 7th November at 11.00am- finishing at approx. 1.00pm or before. The group will look at learning some Mass parts to be used by cantors during these covid times, and for

parish choirs to use once restrictions are lifted. Everyone is invited to join the meeting. Musicians, cantors and choirs are all welcome. Details of the zoom meeting will follow next week.

October Month of the Rosary

Please join in the **October Rosary Whirlwind of the British Isles**. You can join in: Daily 8.00pm Online Rosary around Britain (Bishop John will lead from our Cathedral on Sundays); the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima Whirlwind Rosary Day on Tuesday 13 October; the Halloween 9.00am-9.00pm Rosary Rally around the Dioceses of Britain; and the All Saint and All Souls Thanksgiving Online Rosaries at 8.00pm. For all the details go to www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk 'One day, through the Rosary and the Scapular, Our Lady will save the world.' Saint Dominic.

Justice and Peace Scotland – A Conversation on Migration

On **Tuesday 27 October**, Justice and Peace Scotland will be hosting an evening hearing from inspirational people serving on the frontline of the UK's hostile border environment. Our speakers include: Clare Mosely, Founder, Care4Calais, Br Johannes Maertens, Founder, Maria Skobtsova, Catholic Worker House, and Alex Holmes from Calais Catholic Worker. To join this online event please register here <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/conversation-on-migration-tickets-122206736639>

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.