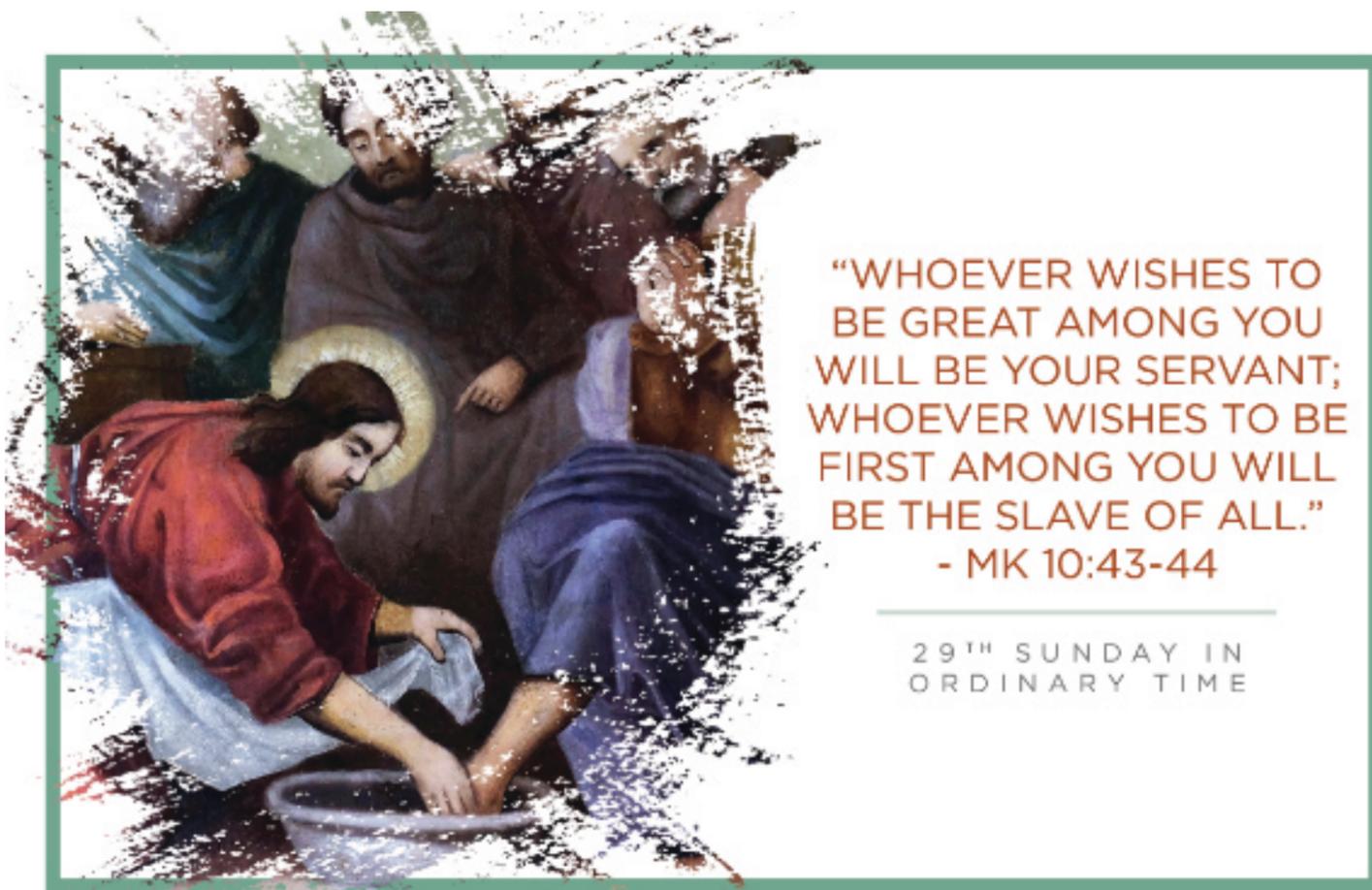




parish newsletter

17 October 2021 | Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)



“WHOEVER WISHES TO BE GREAT AMONG YOU WILL BE YOUR SERVANT; WHOEVER WISHES TO BE FIRST AMONG YOU WILL BE THE SLAVE OF ALL.”
- MK 10:43-44

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Reflecting on the Gospel

“What do you wish me to do for you?” Whether we realize it, this is a question God is always asking. It’s an important question because the answer we provide will reveal a great deal about where our hearts lie. Our requests of God can often appear very noble and altruistic. They consist of requests for healing for someone in need of prayers, successful resolution of a personal conflict, assistance in overcoming a disease and myriad other desires for both ourselves and others. We are especially concerned about those we love and can easily find ourselves bringing their struggles to God for a hearing in our prayer.

Is that really all that prayer is about? The woman in today’s Gospel, having been put in her place by Jesus, was only looking out for the wellbeing of her sons. She was doing what mothers

do, protecting and securing the livelihood of her children. But she was sadly mistaken, her request was not granted. We all make this same misguided mistake from time to time. The goal of prayer is not to convince God of the worthiness of our agenda or to gain a hearing. Sometimes we believe that the more we multiply our prayers or discover the right combination of supplications that we will receive more of God’s attention. That’s not how it works. Even though God desires to hear, know, and be an intimate part of what is on our minds, it goes much deeper.

What we need from God is a relationship. It’s a relationship that guides and immerses us in the very stuff of life and in the direction of the Gospel. This relationship sees God’s kingdom and agenda, not our own, as what is most

asking if you’ll take over the grocery shopping this week. Often, our first reaction to one of these requests is a heavy sigh and the thought: “If I do this, what will I get?”

Sometimes it surprises us to realise that the Apostles were no different. We tend to idolise these contemporaries of Christ as giants who walked with the Saviour. But in reality, these individuals were merely human beings struggling to commit to the task of everyday stewardship.

In the Gospels, we see glimpses of them longing for praise and affirmation. We see them jockeying for positions of power within the group of twelve. We see them expect earthly rewards like honour and admiration. We see them acting a lot like us.

important. It builds the strength of character necessary to bring God’s Gospel into a world that may not receive it with open arms. It may cause us discomfort and suffering. We are asked to heroically journey with God through suffering, hardship, ridicule, and even death! Ultimately, our desire from God must become our desire for God. It is only when this happens that the powerful words “thy will be done” will be found with sincerity and humility on our lips. Whatever God wishes becomes what we wish as we see this glorious union of wills. Our humble lives will then become powerful witnesses, and what happens to us in God’s eternal kingdom the result of his mercy. We become true servants and find ourselves discovering God’s definition of success. That definition has nothing at all to do with status, income, or privilege.

But in the end, we see them transformed by the grace of God. Like all the saints, their holiness stems from their commitment to their call. They stumble through, and as they stumble, they keep trusting God. They keep turning to Him. They keep asking for help. They don’t give up just because they keep failing at it.

We are defined by what we give when we have no hope of being reimbursed, rewarded, or recognised. The Apostles understood this, eventually, and they gave accordingly. Most of them gave their very lives.

Remember, they’re just like us. If they can do it, we can too.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Live the Liturgy

Inspiration for the Week

It’s the positions of power and great authority that people often admire. We equate success with six figure incomes, high positions, management, and influence. We even go



beyond to find favor with our bosses so that we can get a little extra recognition and maybe the next promotion when it comes up. This is the way of the world. Those who have their values set on earthly things are going to work by earthly rules. We forget that it doesn’t work that way in the Kingdom of God. Success is measured not from the place of status, influence, or prestige but from the place of humility, service, and sacrifice. The authority that one hopes to achieve is not an authority over others but an authority that comes from wisdom and developing one’s relationship with God. Jesus flips the tables on our priorities. Even the first disciples had a tough time understanding this. They really thought that they would somehow receive a privilege or bonus from being faithful. We often operate under that same illusion.

First Reading

If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life. (Is 53:10)

Psalm

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. (Ps 32)

Second Reading

So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. (Heb 4:16)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one can come to the Father except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

“For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mk 10:45)

Everyday Stewardship

Recognise God in your everyday moments



What’s in it for me?

I think we’ve all been guilty of looking at a situation and wondering what’s in it for us. It doesn’t matter if it’s a particular work assignment, someone at the parish asking for help with the mission trip bake sale, or your spouse

This Week

17 TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY (B) Ps Wk 1	Is 53:10-11/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [22]/Heb 4:14-16/Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45
	10.30 Mass St Mary's Ints of Sheila Nolan
	17.00 Mass St Mary's Nathaniel (RIP)
	18.30 Parish Pastoral Council St Mary's
18 St Luke	2 Tm 4:10-17/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Lk 10:1-9
	08.00 Breakfast with God Mercy Chapel & Upper Room
	12.05 Mass St Mary's John Lithgoe (RIP)
	17.00 RCICCA Upper Room
	18.30 Alpha St Mary's Catholic Centre
	20.00 Prayer Group St Cecilia's Hall
19 Tuesday Sts. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues & comps.	Rom 5:12, 15, 17-19, 20-21/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 17 [8 and 9]/Lk 12:35-38
	12.05 Mass St Mary's Ints of Joan Blythe
	10.00 Requiem Mass Francis and John Hurst
	12.45 Over 60's St Mary's Hall
20 Wednesday	Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1-3, 4-6, 7-8 [8]/Lk 12:39-48
	11.00 Open for Students Upper Room open until 2pm
	12.05 Mass St Mary's Sheila Burnikell (RIP)
21 Thursday	Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5]/Lk 12:49-53
	10.00 Confessions St Cecilia's
	10.30 Open House St Mary's
	10.30 Mass St Cecilia's Adrian Finn (RIP)
	12.05 Mass St Mary's Tommy Smith (RIP)
22 Friday St John Paul II	Rom 7:18-25/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94 [68]/Lk 12:54-59
	12.05 Mass St Mary's Tom Joyce (RIP)
	18.00 Evening with Jesus & Friends Mercy Chapel & Upper Room
23 Saturday	Rom 8:1-11/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf 6]/Lk 13:1-9
	10.15 Confessions St Mary's
	11.00 Mass St Mary's Deceased of Hungarian Uprising
	12.00 RCIA St Mary's Catholic Centre
	18.00 Vigil Mass St Cecilia's Kevin Fitzgerald (RIP)
24 THIRTIETH SUNDAY (B) MISSION SUNDAY	Jer 31:7-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52
	10.30 Mass St Mary's Janet Atkinson (RIP)
	17.00 Mass St Mary's People of the Parish
	18.30 Parish Pastoral Council St Mary's



Bernadette, Jean Maureen, Christopher, Paula, Peter, Emilia, Jean, Teresa, Cath and Norman, the sick sisters at Oaklea, David, Marion, Dave, Neil, Paul, Andrew



Patricia Rutter
Kathleen Blackmore
Sheila Wilson
Mother Enda
Liz Rodwell
James Hurst
John Paul Hurst

If you would like a name added to our prayer list, please email or call the parish office.



Questions for the Week

First Reading: Isaiah speaks of our redemption through the suffering of the Lord's servant. When have you experienced God's presence in your suffering?

Second Reading: Hebrews tells us that Jesus is able to sympathise with our weaknesses because he, too, "has been tested in every way." What are some ways that you are tested in life?

Gospel: Jesus uses the request of James and John as a teachable moment for his disciples on the importance of humility and service to others. What other qualities do you think are necessary for true discipleship?

Why do we do that?



Question: Are Catholics allowed to visit psychics? Why or why not?

Answer: It's part of human nature to experience some sense of unease and fear about the future. This can lead

some people to seek out the services of psychics or consult horoscopes or turn to other occult practices or resources (e.g. Ouija boards or tarot cards). The Catechism of the Catholic Church is very clear that Catholics should avoid such practices: "Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honour, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone" (no. 2116).

Despite the uncertainties we might feel, we are called to have faith and trust in God, confident of God's desire for what is best for us. This means that we are called to surrender, to pray and to reflect on how we can best move into the future in hope, knowing that God is with us.

Announcements

Mission Sunday

Next Sunday is Mission Sunday, an important celebration for the Universal Church, but particularly important also for our parish as our priests are Mill Hill Missionaries from different countries and whom have worked in different countries before coming to Sunderland. We've organised several activities for next weekend so we can share more about the Church's mission 'to make disciples of all nations.' After the Vigil Mass in St Cecilia's and 10.30 Mass in St Mary's there'll be tea and coffee and a chance to learn more about the missionary experiences of our priests. We'd love to see you there!

On Saturday, 23 October at 12.00 there's a meeting of Missio Local Secretaries in St Mary's Catholic Centre.

On Sunday, 24 October at 6.30pm in the Cathedral there's a special Mass for Mission Sunday with Bishop Robert, the Mill Hill Missionaries and Missio.

Our parish reflects the face of the Church: interna-

tional and multi-cultural. Every time we gather we are celebrating the work of missionaries over the past 2000 that has brought the faith to every corner of the world. That work, however, is not over. Join us next weekend in praying for this essential aspect of our life as Christians.

Mission Appeal

This weekend we welcome Sr Anne Moore to the Parish. St Anne is a member of the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph. She'll be sharing with us about the work of her sisters throughout the world. I know we'll be as generous as usual in supporting her and her sisters' work. Welcome Sister Anne!

Day of Prayer with St Teresa of Avila and Icon Exhibition

Tuesday, 19 October at Oak Lea Centre, at 10.30am, there's a special day of prayer with St Teresa of Avila lead by Fr Stephen Watson.

Wednesday to Sunday afternoons in October from 1.30-4pm there's an exhibition of icons on the mysteries of the rosary also in the Oak Lea Centre.

Flock Notes

Every one of us believes in Jesus because at some point another person shared their belief with us: a parent, a friend, a catechist, a priest or religious. Perhaps it happened gradually as we were growing up, or in a dramatic moment of conversion, but we all 'caught' the faith from someone else before we could make it our own. The one from whom we caught the faith, of course, must have caught it themselves from someone else who chose to share their faith, and so on, back in an unbroken line to

those first disciples who gathered round an itinerant preacher in first-century Palestine and wondered if perhaps he could actually be the promised Messiah.

Our culture tries to sell us the lie that faith is a private matter and that it must only be displayed in certain 'appropriate' situations. That's not a new thing, of course, and Christianity has run into variations of that argument many times in the past. Perhaps what's new is that increasingly Christians believe it themselves.

Eternal life is not a private matter. As much as we have received the gift of faith from others, so too we are obliged to hand it on ourselves.



Saint of the Week



St. John Paul II | Feast Day October 22

St. John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyla in the small Polish town of Wadowice. During World War II, when the Nazis invaded Poland, Karol secretly studied for the priesthood in an underground seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1946, appointed Archbishop of Krakow in 1964, and three years later he was made a cardinal. In 1978, he was elected the 264th pope, where he took the name John Paul II.

St. John Paul II made evangelisation a key part of his papacy and made pastoral visits to all parts of the world. In 1981, he was shot twice in an assassination attempt. Following Jesus' example of compassion, he later met with his would-be assassin in his prison cell, where he forgave him for what he had done.

St. John Paul II was well-known to be an active sportsman throughout his life, hiking and skiing well into his 60s. In 1992, his health began to decline, and it was later discovered that he suffered from Parkinson's disease, a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system.

Near the end of his papacy, it became difficult for him to speak, and his poor health and physical suffering made public appearances difficult. Still, he continued his pastoral work. He died April 2, 2005, and he was declared blessed on May 1, 2011. He became a saint on April 27, 2014.

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