

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.**

COLLECT

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain,
the Lord of Hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine
wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps22

Response:

**In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.**

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
- 2 He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your
staff;
with these you give me comfort. (R.)
- 3 You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. (R.)
- 4 Surely goodness and kindness shall follow
me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING 4:12-14.19-20

*A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians.*

I know how to be poor and I know how to be
rich too. I have been through my initiation
and now I am ready for anything anywhere:
full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or
plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with
the help of the One who gives me strength.
All the same, it was good of you to share with
me in my hardships. In return my God will
fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as
lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our
Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Word was made flesh and lived
among us; to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL 22:1-14

*A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew*

Jesus said to the chief and elders of the
people: "The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who gave a feast for his
son's wedding. He sent his servants to call
those who had been invited, but they would
not come. Next he sent some more servants.
"Tell those who have been invited" he said
"that I have my banquet all prepared, my
oxen and fattened cattle have been
slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the
wedding." But they were not interested: one
went off to his farm, another to his business,
and the rest seized his servants, maltreated
them and killed them. The king was furious.
He despatched his troops, destroyed those
murderers and burnt their town. Then he said
to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as
those who were invited proved to be
unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town
and invite everyone you can find to the
wedding." So these servants went out on to
the roads and collected together everyone
they could find, bad and good alike; and the
wedding hall was filled with guests. When
the king came in to look at the guests he
noticed one man who was not wearing a
wedding garment, and said to him, "How did
you get in here, my friend, without a wedding
garment?" And the man was silent. Then the
king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand
and foot and throw him out into the dark,
where there will be weeping and grinding of
teeth". For many are called, but few are
chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful
with the sacrificial offerings,

that, through these acts of devotedness,

we may pass over to the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no
blessing.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O
Lord, that, as you feed us with nourishment
which comes from the most holy Body and
Blood of your Son, so you may make us
sharers of his divine nature.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



How is the invitation to join in heaven like
the invitation to the wedding in today's
gospel?

Are you free to accept or reject God's
invitation to the kingdom? If you accept the
invitation, what will it require of you?

Does your acceptance of the invitation mean
you can readily accept the values of our
society? Or will you continually have to test
those values against the words of the gospel?
Why?

How do you indicate your positive response
to God's invitation to the kingdom?

Is it enough to simply invite others to partake
in a good Christian life? What more must you
do to extend the invitation to others?

*In your own words, describe Jesus' invitation
to the banquet in heaven. How would you
explain this to someone who is not a
Christian?*

If you have accepted the invitation to the
kingdom, how should you model Christianity
for others?

GOSPEL ACTION

*Write out what you think Jesus' invitation to
the kingdom is and how are you going about
accepting the invitation. Share with another
person in your family what your faith means
to you.*

Readings – 29th Sunday Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 45:14-6
Second Reading: Thessalonians 1:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Homily

11th October 2020 – 28th Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A

Dear friends, today we hear about 2 feasts, the banquet feast of Heaven in the First Reading and the parable of the wedding feast in the Gospel.

I wonder when the last time was that you went to a wedding and how many guests were there? The last wedding that I went to was in summer 2019 when my niece got married and I think there were well over 200 people there as the bride and groom came from big families. Sadly, at present, Government restrictions require that a maximum of 15 people only are allowed to attend a wedding.

In the Gospel we hear about a royal wedding and how servants delivered personal invitations to the wedding of a king's son; but not one of those who were invited by the servants would come to the wedding. When the banquet was ready the king sent more servants to tell them to come, but they made excuses and actually beat and killed the servants. The story then becomes even more strange, the furious king despatched troops to burn down the town where the murderers lived.

The king then sent another group of servants out into the streets to invite anyone at all, everyone good and bad alike. These people responded to their invitation with joy and eventually the wedding hall was filled with guests.

The theme is a familiar one and indeed one that we have been reflecting on over the last few weeks; the failure of God's chosen people to respond to what God expected of them, God's invitation and then their replacement by others who did respond. The story makes the point that those to whom the invitation was originally sent, the Jews, rejected it and their place was taken by others, the Gentiles.

I think that the beauty of this story, this parable, is that it presents the Kingdom of God as a wedding banquet, a feast, something that is highly desirable and attractive. And more than that, a banquet to which **all people** are invited; we are all called to be the Lord's guests, we are all called to be members of God's Kingdom and to feast at his banquet. We don't have to be worthy, because none of us are worthy of God's invitation. But in the eyes of God we are all equal and we are all invited to the banquet table.

Homily

11th October 2020 – 28th Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A

The banquet stands for the fullness of life to which God is calling us. It is an invitation to intimacy with God and a deeper and a more authentic personal life. In the first reading from the prophet Isaiah we hear Isaiah speak of the Lord's banquet, the banquet feast of Heaven, a banquet of rich food and fine wine and the Eucharist that we are fed is a foretaste of that Heavenly banquet.

Unlike the guests in the Gospel let's respond positively to the Lord's invitation to the banquet feast and nourished by the Eucharist lets pray that we will grow closer to the Lord and to one another as members of God's family.

Sending my love and prayers. Please stay safe and let me know if you need anything. God bless, **Fr Phil x**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

11th October 2020 – 28th Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A

We bring all our prayers before our Heavenly Father:

For the Church and for Christians everywhere: may they respond positively to the Lord's invitation to the banquet feast.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For our human family; may we learn to value God's Creation and care for and protect Our Common Home. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For true friendship in our world: may there be tolerance and mutual respect among people of all races, faiths and cultures.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, especially those affected by the coronavirus; may they know the grace and healing of Jesus, the Lord.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry and the poorest and most vulnerable in our world; may we be generous in sharing what we have with others.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves; may we encourage and support one another through lives of mutual love and service and may we be good and faithful stewards of creation.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace and reconciliation in our world.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Frank Dorr, June Palmer and Peter Jones** who have died recently: **"Eternal rest grant upon them..."**

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **"Hail Mary..."**

God our loving Father,
we offer you these and all our prayers
through your Son who is Christ our Lord, **Amen**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

11th October 2020 – 28th Sunday Ordinary Time, Year A

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things and

I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,

come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.

Amen.