

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

COLLECT

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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 4: 1-2. 6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation". And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps14

Response:

The just will live in the presence of the Lord

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain? He who walks without fault; he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart. (R.)
2. He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)
3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan and accepts no bribes against the

innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

1: 17-18. 21-22.27

A reading from the letter of St James

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change.

By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves. Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL 7: 1-8. 14-15. 21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round him, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.'

He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacred offering, O Lord, confer on us always the blessing of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery it may accomplish in power. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



What is contained in God's law? Are any of us outside the law of God?

Do you say one thing and do another when it comes to complying with God's law? Are you quick to judge others for doing the same?

Gospel Action

Christ teaches us that we must firstly love God our Father and secondly love our neighbour as ourselves. Let us really make an effort to show our love this week.

Readings – 23rd Sunday Year B

First Reading:	Isaiah	35:4-7
Second Reading:	James	2:1-5
Gospel:	Mark	7:31-37

Homily

29th August 2021

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Today we resume the reading of Mark's Gospel and we have a dispute between the scribes and Pharisees and Jesus over ritual cleanness.

All three readings today link in with one another. In the First Reading Moses urges the people to be faithful to God's Law, without adding to it or subtracting from it. The Law is not to be a burden that is endured but rather a source of life and wisdom.

However, the Gospel shows what happened in practice. To the Law of God (given through Moses) the people added their own traditions, which came to be regarded as equally authoritative and binding and eventually they got in the way and even, for some, became more important than God's Law. A teaching that the Church still needs to be aware of today perhaps?

What Mark is trying to do is to make clear to Gentile Christians that being followers of Jesus does not involve them in the observances of Jewish practices and laws.

The Second Reading from the Letter of St James shows the essential link between faith and love and James makes it very clear we must do what the word tells us.

Jesus calls the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites because they only pay lip service, he tells them that their hearts are far from him. He accuses them of clinging to human traditions and offering worship that is worthless. The Gospel places great emphasis on the heart and we can see why. The heart is the source from which all our thoughts, words and deeds flow; if the heart is clean then all that flows from it will be clean and pure.

The Pharisees paid more attention to the external than the internal, they were preoccupied with having clean hands rather than clean hearts. What was important to them was all external, observance of laws and show. I think most of us can see when someone is not genuine and merely going through the motions and not committed to something.

Only God can see what is really in our hearts, God is the one that knows us intimately and loves us more than we could ever know. Let us pray that we will not be like the Scribes and Pharisees and merely go through the motions and pay lip-service, but that all that we do will be sincere and genuine, for the right reasons and with hearts full of love.

Enjoy this summer Bank Holiday weekend.

Sending love and prayers, **Fr Phil x.**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

29th August 2021 – 22nd Sunday Ordinary Time Year B

Priest:

We bring all our prayers before the Lord in faith and trust.

Reader:

For Christians everywhere: may they be sincere and genuine and follow the Lord faithfully in their lives bearing witness to the truth.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: may we reach out in faith and love to all especially those in need. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all in our school communities who are returning this week: refreshed and renewed may this new year be a good time of learning, love and support of all. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all people that they may be drawn together in unity and peace, we pray for the people of Afghanistan especially at this time. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those in our parish who are sick, housebound or finding life difficult that they may experience the power of the healing peace, love and grace of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Harry Turner** and all who have died recently: **“Eternal rest grant unto them...”**

We ask Our Lady to join her prayers with ours as we say: **“Hail Mary...”**

For a moment in silence we bring our own private prayers and intentions before the Lord.

Priest:

Loving Father,
We offer these and all our prayers to you,
through Jesus your Son,
who is Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

29th August 2021 – 22nd Sunday Ordinary Time Year B

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.

CAFOD Prayer for Glasgow

Creator God,
We cry out to you
The earth is damaged and in chaos
People in poverty are suffering the most
Greed and consumerism are a disease
And your Church is too often asleep

Merciful Lord,
Protect your people and restore your earth,
Embolden governments to take action,
Awaken Church leaders
Give the youth influence
And guide businesses to change

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord
May we unite and be bold
Take heart and find hope in you,
Worship you with our lifestyles
Walk in your truth
and see justice and renewal in the earth

Amen