

First reading**Wisdom 2:12,17-20**

The godless say to themselves:

'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us
and opposes our way of life,
reproaches us for our breaches of the law
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.

'Let us see if what he says is true,
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.
If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.
Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,
and thus explore this gentleness of his
and put his endurance to the proof.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death
since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 53(54):3-6,8

The Lord upholds my life.

O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of my mouth.

The Lord upholds my life.

For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God.

The Lord upholds my life.

But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good.

The Lord upholds my life.

Second reading James 3:16-4:3

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Jn8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Homily

19th September 2021

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Last weekend we were reflecting on discipleship and the invitation from Jesus to take up our Cross and follow him.

In the Gospel today we hear Mark's second prediction of the Passion and once again the disciples don't understand. Instead, motivated by selfish ambition, they get involved in an argument as to which of them is the greatest.

The apostles were arguing over who was going to be the first in Jesus' kingdom. That they are driven by selfishness and false ambition shows how little they had learned from Jesus. It shows how poor their understanding of his mission was and Jesus called them together and talked to them about the meaning of true greatness.

It's interesting that today the Second Reading fits perfectly with the Gospel, St James tells us how jealousy and ambition lead to disharmony and 'wicked things being done'; on the other hand he says kindness, compassion and consideration for others will lead to peace and holiness.

I don't think that there's anything wrong with being ambitious. It's good to have goals, to be good at what we do and to succeed. But ambition can get out of hand, it can get in the way and cause us to forget everything else in its pursuit, if this happens it can often lead us to treat others badly.

Jesus did not tell the apostles that they should not seek greatness in his Kingdom. He just showed them where true greatness was to be found. It is not to be found in being the masters of others, but rather in being the servants of others, especially the weaker members of the community.

Jesus took a little child and said, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children welcomes me.' Welcome means loving service, and the child stands for the weakest and most needy members of society. At the last judgement scene we hear the words; "As long as you did it to one of the least of these brothers or sisters of mine you did it to me."

Jesus set the example himself, throughout his ministry his service was directed towards the poor, the sick, the marginalised and the outcasts of society and at the Last Supper he gave us that great act of service by washing the feet of his disciples.

Homily

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I'm sure we can all think of really great people, Saint Teresa of Calcutta or Mother Teresa is an obvious example for her outstanding loving service. But closer to home I am sure we all know or have known people in our lives who have not worried about themselves or their own interests, but rather have devoted themselves to helping and serving others in a quiet and unassuming way. This is what Jesus is talking about and referring to in the Gospel and we are all called in this way to be people of true love and service.

Ambition, power and status count for nothing in God's eyes, Jesus says to us today 'If anyone wants to be first, they must make themselves last of all and servant of all.' Let's pray that we may be people of true love and service following the example of Jesus, because this is how we will be judged great in God's Kingdom.

Sending my love and prayers to all, God bless **Fr Phil x**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

19th September 2021 – 25th Sunday Ordinary Time Year B

Priest:

Lord you are the light of the world and offer us the light of life; listen to our prayers that we offer you today.

Reader:

For Christians everywhere: may they always love and serve God's people with humility and joy in their hearts. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: may we be good stewards of Creation as we speak God's Truth and encourage one another in ways of living on Earth wisely, sustainably, justly and reverently. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are hungry or in need: may we hear and respond generously to the Cry of the Poor among us and around the planet.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For unity and peace, we pray particularly for the troubled areas of our world.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those in our parish who are sick, housebound or who have a heavy cross to carry that they may experience the power of the healing peace, love and grace of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the faithful departed especially **Harry Lockwood** 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

19th September 2021 – 25th 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

Items discussed at the co-ordinators meeting on 7th September 2021

- 1. Paul McKean's belated birthday celebration (40 +2)** - Rachael O'Sullivan and Mick Brown have been liaising with Jenn McKean and have been checking out venues for the party in April 2022, we will have a parish collection in the New Year for a gift to present on the night. Party is a surprise for Paul, please don't mention it to him.
- 2. Heritage Fund (HF) application** – Tony Mossman gave a brief update. The main contractor is now mobilising the sub-contractors and it is hoped the site build-up will start in the next few weeks. Our project team are looking at the role of the volunteers – do we need to recruit more/training/who will work on which activities/need for DBS clearance? Sean Henry is meeting Andrew O'Brien and will ask for guidance on the safeguarding issues. HF are financing the appointment of Lisa Keys, for three days, to work with the team to help plan the launch of the various activities; Lisa was funded by the HF to advise us on preparation of our second-round application.
- 3. Our Common Home Project** – Mick Brown gave an update and Fr Phil shared an email received from Anne Litherland asking how the parish and parish groups can take into account the cry of the earth and of the poor. It was agreed that Mick would take the lead on this and we will contact all parish group leaders to explore, Tony Mossman will liaise with Mick re parish carbon footprint.
- 4. Garden Project** – Tony Mossman gave an update and highlighted upcoming events.
- 5. Coming out of Lockdown** – The gradual process seems to have gone well, numbers are steadily increasing although some people are still anxious. We are using two sets of hymn Books for the Masses at 6pm and 11am, 9.30am Mass will continue to be a quiet Mass. More helpers needed for tea & coffee rota after 11am Mass. There is a need for welcomers at all Masses, Val Ward to contact the welcomers to see if they are still available and they will work with stewards. Sean Henry to check on the transmission of the Covid virus on surface areas. There will be a Eucharistic Minister to assist Fr Phil at all weekend Masses with Sean assisting while he is here. Val Ward will contact Kath Ryan to check the availability of the Eucharistic Ministers. The Offertory collection will begin again with 4 collectors offering baskets from the end of each row. Children's Liturgy will begin again within the next few weeks. Mass Cards will be put out this week. Communion & visits to sick and housebound, Sean has been doing some visiting and Fr Phil is putting a new list together, Val will liaise with Fr Phil.
- 6. Synodal Process** - This is a 2-year process. The whole church is to be consulted. The process in England and Wales is from 17th October 2021 to April 2022; the information gathered in dioceses will be given to the CBCEW and then onto the European Bishops and finally to the Universal Church. We are awaiting guidelines from the Bishops Conference/Diocese.
- 7. SVP Appeal** – It was agreed that the annual SVP appeal would be the weekend of 9/10th October.
- 8. Other Parish News** i) National Trust Heritage open days –17th/18th/19th September. ii) 2nd/3rd October Family Fast Day - CAFOD. iii) 9th/10th October SVP appeal. iv) 24th October Mission Sunday. v) 14th November Clergy education fund. vi) 15th November Bereavement Mass. Confirmation – date not decided on as yet, Fr Phil to contact St Albans and see how many candidates they have. (We have 8)
- 9. Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 2nd November after evening Mass.