

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come before you, Lord; listen, and answer me.

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. 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 17:10-16

A reading from the book of the Kings

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said, but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

The women went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

This is the word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 145

Response: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

1.It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2.It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.

(R.)

3.The Lord upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever,

Zion's God, from age to age. (R)

SECOND READING 9:24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

This is the word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL 12:38-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving devotion. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered, Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



What does it mean to be poor? What measure do you use to judge the wealth of others?

How does wealth equal power in today's society? Why are the poor powerless? Who represents the poor in the halls of power, particularly in the government and in the business world?

Why does poverty exist? What can we do to reduce its effects on the people of the world?

Why are those with power and wealth usually unwilling to help raise others to the same level?

Why do most people who do something to help the poor give money or goods instead of time and presence? Which is more valuable in helping to alleviate poverty: material goods and services, or time and presence? Why?

GOSPEL ACTION

What can I do to directly aid the poor this week?

Readings – 33rd Sunday Year B

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14.18

Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

Homily and introduction to self w/e 6/7th Nov 2021 HAM Parish

Born in 1960 in the Lancashire mill town of Ramsbottom, I grew up in the parish of St Joseph's there. I was taught by the Salesians at Thornleigh, their grammar school in Bolton and after A levels I went to study mechanical engineering at Leeds University. On graduating in 1981 I married my wife Carolyn and so happily, we have just celebrated our 40th anniversary this year too. We moved to Huddersfield to take up my first engineering job and then in '86, we discovered the delights of the Wirral, moving to Neston to take up another job and joining the parish of St. Winefride's.

Most of our children grew up in Neston attending the Catholic primary school and the Catholic High school in Chester. We have been blessed with 6 children, 4 boys now in their thirties, a daughter in her mid-twenties and our youngest daughter now 17 and we are also happily blessed with 3 grandchildren.

After 18 years in Neston, we moved South in 2004 for me to take up a new engineering challenge in Oxfordshire. It was in the diocese of Portsmouth that I felt called to become a Deacon and in 2014 was accepted onto the 4 year training by Bishop Philip Egan, spending a weekend a month at the seminary St Mary's College, Oscott, near Birmingham. After two years though, the prospect of retiring prompted Carolyn and I to consider whether to continue in the South or return to the North-West. So it was, that Bishop Mark kindly agreed to take me on for my last two years at Oscott and I was ordained at the Cathedral in July 2019.

We have closed the circle and returned to the Wirral and now live in the village of Puddington where my ministry as a Deacon started in the parish of St Winefride's but after a few years there, Bishop Mark has asked me to continue my ministry here in Wallasey where I look forward to getting to know you, serving this parish and supporting Fr Phil as best as I can.

Homily on the readings 32nd Ord Sunday Year B

In scripture today we are called to a deep, strong sense of faith in God our Father to provide for us, his children. We are called to a letting go of the things of this world, placing our trust in God and the love and mercy of Our Lord Jesus and this image, this message is worked out through the actions of two women who are widows. Two people who in biblical times were among the poorest in society.

Elijah in the Old Testament has a strong link with Jesus and of course at the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor, Elijah appears alongside Moses, talking with Jesus. Elijah representing the prophets and Moses the Law. Jesus even refers to Elijah saving the widow in a Sidonian town when preaching at the Synagogue in Nazareth, reminding the Jews that God saves all people, including the Gentiles.

Elijah has called down a drought on the land of Israel because the Jewish people have turned their back on God and are worshipping the pagan god Baal and this drought will last for 3 years.

Baal was the pagan god of storms and fertility, and by calling down a drought, Elijah is directly challenging this pagan belief, determined to show that the one true God of Israel controls the rain.

There is another parallel between Elijah and Jesus. The widow at Zarapheth, a Sidonian town is a Gentile, a non-Jew and Elijah's opening words to her are asking her to fetch him some water, just like Jesus asking the Samaritan woman, another Gentile, to give him a drink from the well.

The widow has a couple of sticks and the last of some corn-meal and some oil, all she has to live on, but she is willing to share her last meal with Elijah before lying down with her son to die of famine. The reward for her generosity is her life on earth being saved since Elijah prays to God that the jar of corn-meal will not run out, nor the flask of oil run dry until the drought and famine come to an end. She is rewarded with continuing food for life for her faith in God and trust in Elijah, this man of God.

In the Gospel, Jesus warns us all against the show and pride of wealth as those who can afford to seek to outdo each other with their fine clothes and apparently generous gifts to God in their temple offerings. But Jesus sees not the outward show, but the inward disposition of each person. Jesus sees to the very core and can tell whether the heart of each person is truly generous or mean?

The widow in the Temple comes forward and puts two copper coins in the treasury, the equivalent of a penny and bear in mind, a labourer's daily wage at that time was about 64 pence, so this contribution is tiny, but as the widow at Zarapheth, it was 'all she had to live on'.

This is the radical generosity of the widow in the Temple. It was all she had to live on, but she is willing to give it all to God, having that deep faith, trusting in God to provide for her needs each day. And Jesus, watching her humble generosity will reward her, not just in this life but will reward her generosity with eternal life.

This Gospel often referred to as 'The Widow's Mite' offers us a challenge too in our lives today. It is for each one of us, informed by our own conscience to answer a question on how generous we can be in offering our God-given time, our talents and our treasure back to God and in his service. How much more like the widow can we be in letting go of the things of this world and deepening our own faith and trust in God's providence and in our loving saviour Jesus Christ?

Bidding Prayers and CAFOD and Synod Prayers

7th November 2021 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

Priest:

In the Gospel we are called to be generous and put our faith and trust in the Lord.

Reader:

For Pope Francis, Bishop Mark and Christians everywhere: may they be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as they journey together.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For COP26 and all those meeting in Glasgow: may they be inspired by the Holy Spirit as they discuss how to tackle the climate crisis and commit to the protection and care of Our Common Home. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: may we take seriously our important roles as good stewards of Creation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in our world who are rich: may they not exploit the poor but always act with love, generosity and compassion.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace in our world and an end to division and violence everywhere.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those in our parish who are sick, housebound or in any kind of need: may they come to know the love and the comforting presence of Jesus.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the faithful departed especially all who have died recently, those whose anniversaries occur around this time and those named on our November Lists:
“Eternal rest grant unto them...”

We pray through the intercession of Mary our mother: **“Hail Mary...”**

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 your Son Jesus,
who is Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Bidding Prayers and CAFOD and Synod Prayers

7th November 2021 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

A PRAYER for the COP26 Climate Talks

Loving God,

We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of creatures.

We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society. Instill in them the courage and the gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable, and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, **Amen**.

Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. **Amen**