

Entrance Antiphon**Cf. Ps 17: 19-20**

The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

Collect

Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion. 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

Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8

A Reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where a tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

The word of the Lord**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 91(92):2-3, 13-16

Response: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night.

Response: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord

The just will flourish like the palm tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar.

Response: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord

Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong.

Response: It is good to give you thanks, O Lord

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

A Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: *Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?* Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on

working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

The word of the Lord**Gospel Acclamation**

cf.Ac16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:39-45

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told a parable to his disciples: 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. 'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord**Prayer over the Offerings**

O God, who provide gifts to be offered to your name and count our oblations as signs of our desire to serve you with devotion, we ask of your mercy that what you grant as the source of merit may also help us to attain merit's reward. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 12: 6

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by your saving gifts, we beseech your mercy, Lord, that by this same Sacrament with which you feed us in the present age, you may make us partakers of life eternal. Through Christ our Lord.

Readings for next week, First Sunday of Lent, Year C**First Reading:** Deuteronomy 26: 4-10**Second Reading:** Romans 10: 8-13**Gospel:** Luke 4: 1-13

Homily

27th February 2022 – 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

Dear friends, this weekend our thoughts and prayers are very much with the people of Ukraine as their country has been invaded this week by Russia. During his General Audience on Wednesday Pope Francis made a heartfelt appeal for peace in Ukraine. He said, 'God is the God of peace and not of war, the Father of all, not just some, who wants us to be brothers not enemies.'

Speaking at the end of the General Audience, Pope Francis invited everyone to make 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace. 'I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war,' he said. This weekend we join in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and we pray for peace and an end to the war and violence currently taking place in their country, as Pope Francis has asked us let's make Ash Wednesday particularly a special focus of prayer and fasting for peace in Ukraine.

Last weekend we heard Jesus say '*Love your enemies, treat others as you would like them to treat you, be compassionate, do not judge, do not condemn, grant pardon.*'

In the Gospel this weekend we conclude our reflections on Jesus' 'Sermon on the Plain' and Jesus gives us two warnings. The first is about the splinter and the plank where Jesus tells us to use the same standards in judging ourselves as we use in judging others. The second is about the good and the rotten fruit, where Jesus tells us to judge people only by their deeds and their actions.

I've said for the past 2 weeks that the Gospels have been challenging for us and today is no different, I'm sure in many ways we can all relate to what Jesus is teaching here in the Gospel.

We live in a world that can be very judgmental and I think we are encouraged in many ways to be judgmental in our society today. The media in presenting the news can give a particular slant on stories that can certainly encourage people to be judgemental.

Homily

27th February 2022 – 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

I have said before, with the advent of reality TV we are encouraged to judge others after we have watched a cleverly edited 40 minute episode of what is presented as real life. The worry for me is that particularly for our young people, who can be easily influenced, they see behaviours that are often extreme and they think that it is normal.

In the Gospel, Jesus warns us about being critical and judgmental and he says **‘Hypocrite, take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother’s eye.’**

The greatest sin of the scribes and Pharisees was hypocrisy. Jesus, time and again condemned them because of this. Hypocrisy comes from a Greek word which means *‘actor’*. An actor portrays a role that is different from their true self. They perform only for show, for others to see. Someone may portray an image of holiness and piety, but in their daily life, they act or perform very differently just like the Pharisees and scribes did whom Jesus condemned.

Jesus warns the disciples and us today against this way of behaving. We are not to have a *‘holier than thou’* attitude and not to be judgmental or critical of others.

The plank that Jesus refers to is the blindness or the inability to see the failures and wrongdoings in our own lives. This is what Jesus is warning us of in the Gospel. This week we begin Lent on Ash Wednesday when we are invited to *‘come back to the Lord with all our heart’*, and *‘turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel’*.

Lent is a penitential season, a time for conversion and renewal, to turn away from anything in our lives that is keeping us from the Lord and holding us back from being true and faithful disciples of the Gospel and followers of Jesus.

Together, let’s use the opportunity this Lent to take the plank from our eyes and remove any blindness that exists in our lives.

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

Bidding Prayers and Synod Prayer

27th February 2022 – 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

Priest: We are praying this weekend for the people of Ukraine, we pray especially for an end to the war and violence that has been devastating their country this week

Reader:

For the leaders of our world: in solidarity with the people of Ukraine may they work for peace in Ukraine and throughout our world.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For peace in Ukraine; we remember especially all our sisters and brothers who are living in fear and yearn for security and safety.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all in our parish: may we be true witnesses to the Gospel as we journey together as the Body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For ourselves: may we be good stewards of Creation as we encourage one another in ways of living simply. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

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

For the faithful departed especially **Tony Fraser, Fr David Craig, Sr Frances Pollard** and all who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur around this time: **“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 Synod Prayer

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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**