

"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts,
keep encouraging one another" (Heb 3:13))

**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings p. 112**

Genesis 18:1 - 10

Sarah is rewarded for her hospitality. What she is promised seems impossible.

Colossians 1:24 - 28

Paul speaks of the mystery of Christ, our 'hope of glory'.

St. Luke 10:38 - 42

Jesus is welcomed at the home of Martha and Mary.

'Martha,
Martha, you
worry and
fret about so
many things,
and yet few
are needed,
indeed only
one.'



Jesus visits the home of Martha. For such a short Gospel passage, this text has created much discussion among biblical scholars. It seems everyone in this story is breaking the rules: Jesus rebukes his host, Mary does not help her sister, and Martha is not sitting at Jesus' feet like a good disciple. Luke's gospel is all about 'reversal': what you expect to happen does not happen, often the opposite happens! Confused? Mary is positioned here as a disciple learning from her Teacher. Martha as one who is trying to serve through 'many tasks.' Throughout his Gospel, Luke places a special emphasis on the wider circle of Jesus' disciples, and names the women who follow Him. Luke is perhaps reminding us in this text that being a follower of Jesus requires an upset of the norms and a reversal of roles.

This story occurs in Luke immediately after the Good Samaritan, where the importance of service and action are clearly emphasised. It seems unfair that Martha is being told off for serving those who come to her. If Jesus arrived with a hungry entourage, what host would not be stressed out! Jesus frees Martha from these duties, not because they are not important, but so that she too can be nourished by him. Frantic activity is never good or sustainable for us.

Let today's Gospel be a reminder that when we are bogged down in the craziness around us, we can sit and listen to Him. Then we may be better prepared for the challenges that we face, whether they be in our homes or our wider communities.

**Today's Psalm
Psalm 14**

Abraham, Martha and Mary opened their doors to the divine presence. The accompanying psalm belonged to pilgrims ascending the hill before entering the temple. They ask, Lord, who dwells on your holy mountain? Then follows a challenging examination of conscience.

How can one walk without fault? For starters, we must act with justice and do no wrong to another. Then our speech must be truthful and our tongues never sullied by slander or slurs about our neighbour. We should avoid godless company and situations or reading likely to harm our faith: while honouring the good influence of those who fear the Lord. We should have the integrity to keep our pledges and our promises in marriage or religious commitment. Don't cash in on another's misfortune or accept bribes which prejudice the rights of others.

Mother Teresa was inspired by five words of Jesus: you did it to me. Every day of life we are opening or closing our doors on the presence of the Lord in how we behave. The response to the psalm repeats the key message: *The just will live in the presence of the Lord.*

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton - Tel: (01257) 262665

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday, July 217 2022

Sun: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Ray Miller

10.30.am. Rosemary Russell

Mon: Weekday

9.30.am. Veronica and Walter Steele

Tues: Weekday

9.30.am: Farrington Family

Wed: Requiem

1.00.pm: Maurice Kobelt

Thurs: Requiem

1.30.pm: Andrew Dickinson

Fri: St.Mary Magdalene

7.00.pm. Fergus & Kieron Toman

Sun: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Gwenda Hayhurst

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

Confessions

At your request

On Admittance to Hospital or Nursing Home

Staff need to be made aware by you: that you, or the member of your family, or the person you accompany, are Catholic, and require the services of the Catholic Chaplaincy.

Let nothing disturb you;

nothing dismay you;

all things pass,

but God never changes.

Whoever has God lacks nothing:

if you have only God,

you have more

than enough

(St. Teresa of Avila)

Mass Intentions received upto 15/07/2022

Eileen O'Donoghue 28/07

Our sympathies go to the families and friends of Andrew Dickinson , and Maurice Kobelt, who have died recently. May they rest in Peace.

We pray for all the Sick, especially the sick of the parish Ryan Troop, Catherine Thompson, Maureen Beardsworth Desmon d Gorman, and John Bracken.

Day of Prayer Churches across Britain and Ireland are asked to pray on this day for those affected by youth violence. Pray for organisations working to end youth violence. Pray for the families and communities affected by youth violence. Pray for the work being done to restore peace www.ctbi.org.uk/

Jesuits are contemplatives in action, rooted in the rich tradition of our spirituality, and living lives of service all around the world. They invite us too to live a life of faith in action. On their website you will find a list of online retreats, talks and courses which is continuously updated. Early booking is advised. Visit www.jesuit.org.uk/events

Fri:Saint Mary Magdalene is perhaps the most maligned and poorly understood figure in early Christianity. The whole story of Mary as a prostitute, who is fallen and redeemed, is a very powerful image of redemption. Powerful as this image may be, it is not the story of Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene is mentioned in each of the four gospels in the New Testament, but not once does it mention that she was a prostitute or a sinner. At some point Mary Magdalene became confused with two other women in the Bible: Mary, the sister of Martha and the unnamed sinner from Luke's Gospel (7:36-50) In 1969 the Catholic Church declared that Mary Magdalene was not the penitent sinner of Luke's Gospel but the reputation still lingers.

Care for Our Common Home Summer Heatwave

Eco TipsThe best time to water the garden is early in the morning or in the evening after the sun has gone done. Watering the garden when the sun is high in the sky is less efficient because the water will evaporate. Leave saucers of water out for the thirsty bees. Line the saucers with pebbles or marbles so that they have something to stand on.

· Put a clothes line out and dry your washing in the sun. Give the dryer a holiday.

Fairtrade PicnicTop summer holiday tip for getting the children off their computer games and doing something more productive:-

Look at the Fairtrade website or take a trip to the supermarket and ask the children or grandchildren to list as many Fairtrade picnic items as they can spot. Ideas might include juices, fruit, side salads, chocolate. Take a Fairtrade picnic into the garden or the park.

“You can hear the footsteps of God when silence reigns in the mind.” (Sri Sathya Sai Baba)