

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

September 25th 2022
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings & Prayers p. 140

Amos 8:4 - 7

The prophet Amos alerts us to the evils of greed.

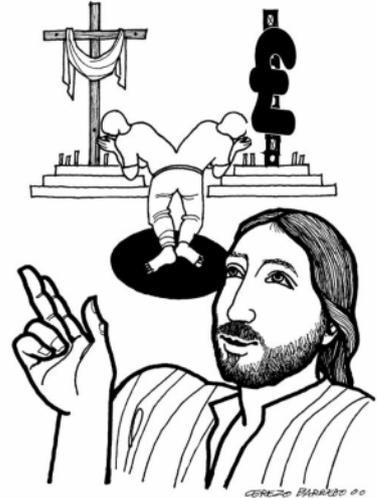
1st Timothy 2:1 - 8

We are urged to be honest citizens and to pray for our civic leaders.

St. Luke 16:1 - 13

Today's gospel invites us to make prudent choices.

"You
cannot be
the slave
both of
God and
money."



If you think that all the parables Jesus told were nice stories about people of integrity then today's Gospel might make you think again. The manager has been put on notice by his CEO and he decides to even up the tables, while he still can, for those who are struggling to pay their debts to the company. He is happy to let debt go and redistribute the finances. The only value the money really has is in the way it is disposed of. Yes, he is a bit of a scoundrel, but Jesus liked scoundrels, once their efforts were put to good use.

During this past year we have seen young people rise up and challenge the governments of the world to take immediate action on climate change. In March 2019, the Global Protest for Climate involved over 1.2 million young people worldwide. Initiated by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, the climate protests shine as a beacon of hope in dark times. Greta stands up to world leaders and calls them to account. She is a modern prophet inspiring millions of young people into political action and challenging all of us to raise our voices for our common home. During this Season of Creation, what can your community do to support these young people? As church, what do we have to say to this powerful movement? The manager in today's parable invites us to 'holy mischief.'

'What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? ... Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with disdain. We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth.' (Laudato Si', 160-161).
Jane Mellett

Today's Psalm
Psalm 112

Today's readings carry a severe warning to the rich but the psalm gives hope to the poor. Amos lists a variety of ways in which injustices are done to the poor but he warns that nothing escapes the eye of God.

Care for the poor and the downtrodden is one of the great themes of Luke's gospel. In the follow up to the parable of the astute steward, Jesus warns that money is tainted with temptation and easily enslaves the owner. But, on the other hand, it affords one the opportunity to help the poor who in turn, will form heaven's welcoming committee.

The psalm exhorts us to praise the Lord, who raises the poor. God is pictured high above all nations, above the heavens his glory. Yet, so great is the compassion of God for the poor that he stoops from on heights to look down upon heaven and earth. The psalmist would have been surprised at the extent of this coming down of God in the poverty of the incarnation, what Paul called the self-emptying of Christ.

From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the dungheap he raises the poor.

A conscientious decision to work for justice at the side of the poor is more than an option extra for a Christian. Without that commitment, prayer runs the risk of being an escape from harsh reality.

Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.

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

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday September 18 2022

Sun: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Brian Pennington

Mon: Weekday

9.30.am. Teresa Woodcock

Tues: The Korean Maryrs

9.30.am: Mary & John Fishwick

Wed: St. Matthew

9.30.am. Private Intention

Thur: Weekday

9.30.am.: JC

Fri: Thanksgiving Mass: At Leyland St. Mary

7.00.pm.: Private Intention

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am.: Parishioners

10.30.am: Christopher Drinkwater

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.

Cemetery

All visitors are asked to help keep the Cemetery
tidy and to use the appropriate waste bins.

Mass Intentions received upto 17/09/2022

Teresa Woodcock (Ld; Mary & John Fishwick;
Winifred Walmsley 23/10

We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish including Ryan Troop; JC; Catherine Thompson; Maureen Beardsworth; Desmond Corman; Thomas Halligan.

The State Funeral of Her Majesty The Queen will take place at Westminster Abbey on Monday 19th September at 11.00hrs BST. Pray for The Queen Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

18th September 2022 Peace Sunday, organised by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, is a 'chance for the Church to pause and reflect on what it means to follow the Prince of Peace today'. Churches are encouraged to celebrate this day on the Sunday closest to the UN International Day of Peace (21st September). This year's theme is 'A Harvest of Peace', exploring some of the links between climate change and peace. Children have an innate sense of justice, and a wonderful talent not to overcomplicate the obvious. Try involving your children with a peace making initiative on this day. Link your initiative to justice and climate.

St Matthew 21st September. One day, as Our Lord was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw, seated in his customs bureau, Levi the publican, whose business it was to collect the taxes from the people for their Roman masters. Jesus said to him: "Follow me," Leaving all behind, Matthew arose and did so, thereby giving us all an example of the way in which we should respond to grace. The humble Matthew, as he was thereafter called, tells us himself in his Gospel that he was Levi, one of those publicans abhorred by the Jews as enemies of their country, outcasts and notorious sinners, who enriched themselves by extortion and fraud. Other than this, we know little about St. Matthew as a person, but we know for certain that he was a worthy and faithful disciple, unquestionably a gifted writer and one of the better educated of the apostles.

Friday, September 23, 7pm. There will be a Mass to celebrate at St Mary's Leyland the presence of the Benedictine Monks in St. Mary's Leyland. I'm sure many of us have memories of the ministry for many, many, years both in the parish, and schools.

"We can tell our values by looking at our checkbook stubs." (Gloria Steinem)