

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

31st July 2022

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings & Prayers p. 118

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21 - 23

The Preacher tells us that it is easy to fall into the trap of vanity.

Colossians 3:1 - 5, 9 - 11

Paul reminds us of the blessings that follow from walking in the Christian way.

St. Luke 12:13 - 21

Today's gospel warns us against greed and the futility of amassing earthly goods.

'A man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs'.



Do an internet search for 'middle class problems' or 'first world problems', and you'll find lists of complaints about just how challenging modern life can be. There are gems such as 'I can't believe I bought a toaster with no bagel setting'; 'Had to turn down the brightness on the iPad because it hurt my eyes'; or 'My freezer is too full and stuff falls out every time I open it'.

They are tongue in cheek, of course, but they do highlight our tendency to worry about material things, and to forget what is important. Most of us do tend to accumulate possessions over time. Many of us like to have the latest phone or laptop, furniture, clothes or car. The character in today's Gospel had such a good harvest of crops that he ran out of space. He built bigger barns and then sat back to 'eat, drink, have a good time' – a phrase which is often translated into the popular expression 'eat, drink and be merry!' Yet things did not go according to plan.

Today's readings offer us an opportunity to examine our relationship with possessions. The Vikings believed you could take riches with you when you died, and filled boats with treasures to take into the afterlife. We know that we come into this world with nothing and leave with nothing. Rather than collecting riches for ourselves, our thoughts should be on 'heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth'. What treasures are important to us?

Tríona Doherty

**Today's Psalm
Psalm 89**

In biblical language, the opposite of the wise person is a fool, one who denies the existence of God. 'Fool', is what God calls the man who amassed a great fortune but forgot about his soul. 'A man's life is not made secure by what he owns.' Ecclesiastes stresses the transitory nature of every possession, accomplishment or pursuit. Paul told the Colossians to focus on the real meaning of life which is revealed in Christ.

To your eyes a thousand years are life yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. As fleeting as a dream, as transitory as the grass, is the span of human life in comparison with God's eternity. Yet the wisdom of being in touch with eternity also has an awareness that today, this tiny twenty-four hours of eternity, is a precious gift from God.

In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days.

The psalmist is resolved to make the most of each day with God's help. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:

give success to the work of our hands.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap.

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

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday, 31 July 2022

Sun: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Andrew Dickinson

Mon.: Funeral Service:

1.00.pm. Eileen Rowntree

Tues.: Weekday

9.30.am.: Peace in the Ukraine

Wed.: Weekday

9.30.am A Tenth

Thurs: St. John Vianney

9.30.am. Rose Mary Russell

Fri: Vigil of the Transfiguration

7.00.pm. Eva and Fred Wignall

Sun: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Special Intention JC

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.

Do all the good you can

By all the means you can

In all the ways you can

In all the places you can

To all the people you can

As long as ever you can.

Mass Intentions received upto 29/07/2022

We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish including Ryan Troop;

Catherine Thompson Maureen Beardsworth, Desmond Gorman and John Bracken.

August is the best month for taking your foot of the 'work pedal' a bit and concentrating on family. Older member families won't be around forever, and if we are not careful we will be left with regrets that we left things un-said. All too quickly our children grown up and leave the nest, and if we are not careful we will have missed out on things we wished we had shared. The 'here and now' is the best time to celebrate family life. Family life is important. It's within our own families that we build each other's sense of value. It's within our own families that we grow stronger. It's within the family that our children learn what is important and what isn't. This month we are invited to share **Pope Francis' prayer intention**, "... That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly 'schools of true human growth'."

On August 5th 1945, Hiroshima became the first city in the world to suffer a nuclear attack. On August 9th Nagasaki became the second city to be hit by an atomic bomb. The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and

Nagasaki commemorate the bombings every year. Use the anniversaries as a focus for prayer reflection and action on behalf of peace and nuclear disarmament. "To remember the past is to commit oneself to the future. To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. To remember Hiroshima is to commit oneself to peace." **Pope John Paul II, Hiroshima, Japan, 1991**

Care for Our Common Home **More Trees Please We're facing a climate emergency.** Trees should be our

natural defence against runaway climate change – absorbing carbon emissions, as well as providing a home for wildlife. But over the centuries we've cleared our forests, leaving the UK with some of the lowest levels of woodland in Europe. If the government is serious about climate change it needs to act now to bring back our lost trees. Please add your voice to ours and demand a government commitment to double the UK's tree cover as soon as possible. It's time to ask for #MoreTreesPlease. Sign the online

Petition www.act.friendsoftheearth.uk/petition/tell-uk-government-double-tree-cover

"Wealth is the slave of a wise man. The master of a fool." (Seneca, Roman philosopher (5 BC - 65 AD))

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