

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

30th October 2022
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings & Prayers p. 158

Wisdom 11:22 - 12:2

Our creator God is all merciful.

2nd Thessalonians 1:11 - 2:2

St. Paul offers a prayer for the new converts at Thessalonika.

St. Luke 19:1 - 10

Zacchaeus invites Jesus into his house and begins a new way of living.

"Zacchaeus,
come down.
Hurry,
because I
must stay in
your house
today.'



It was because of the crowd that Zacchaeus could not see Jesus. Today's Gospel brings up questions for us about who we are preventing having an experience of Jesus because we deem them unworthy or 'sinner'. Zacchaeus as a chief Roman tax collector would have been seen as part of the Roman regime and an exploiter. Zacchaeus does not let that stop him, and climbs a tree to make sure he can get a glimpse of the preacher that everyone is talking about. Jesus seeks out the lost and sees Zacchaeus. He reaches out to him immediately and with urgency saying he 'must' stay at Zacchaeus' house. It is God's plan, it is a necessity.

Zacchaeus offers the strictest requirement in the Old Testament for restitution 'four times the amount'. But notice that Jesus reaches out before Zacchaeus offers compensation for his crimes. God's love is unconditional and eternal. The encounter with Jesus has led Zacchaeus to be witness to restoration and solidarity. He wants to restore justice to the situations he has created. Whether it was the crowd, greed, politics or corruption that was preventing Zacchaeus from seeing Jesus, he has been welcomed back to the table with urgency. Jesus is waiting to be invited in 'today'. The complaints and negativity continue in the background, suggesting he is not good enough... but none of that matters. This man is a 'son of Abraham'. It was the affection of Christ, not the condemnation of the town that reversed the situation.
Jane Mellett

Today's Psalm
Psalm 144

*I will give you glory,
O God my King,
I will bless your name for
ever.*

This psalm gives us the language to respond to the beautiful sentiments of the First Reading. God is the Lord and lover of life. 'You love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it.'

In the psalm we have the litany of the favours experienced by those who enjoy God's friendship. Seven times the word all occurs in these verses. God is the lover of all kind and full of compassion: slow to anger and abounding in love. *The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds.*

The day's gospel story about Zacchaeus is an instant of this all embracing love of God. Those who did not understand the unconditional nature of God's love complained that Jesus had gone to stay in the house of a sinner. But his love for all embraced the lost.

*The Lord supports all who fall and
raises up all who are bowed down.*
Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFMCap

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

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday October 30 2022

Sun: 21st. Sunday of Ordinary Time

8.30.am: Parishioners

10.30.am: World Peace

Mon: Vigil of All Saints

7.00.pm: Private Intention

Tues: All Saints

9.30.am: Parishioners

Wed: Holy Souls

9.30.am: November Lists

Thurs: Weekday

9.30.am: JC

Fri: November Lists

7.pm.:

32 Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am: November Lists

10.30.am: Thanksgiving to St Anthony

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

Email stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

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.

Do what you can

Do all the good you can

By all the means you can

In all the places you can

To all the people you can

As long as ever you can

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

Catherine Thompson; Maureen Beardsworth; Desmond Gorman; Thomas Halligan.

Tuesday: All Saints When something seems too difficult, we have a tendency to 'switch off'. If something is seemingly beyond our reach, we don't even try. Following in the footsteps of the saints, for most of us is like attempting rocket science or brain surgery ... it's just simply not for us. But following in the footsteps of the saints is not about becoming a saint overnight. Saints are just real people who have struggled through crisis and frustration to live their faith. Like the concert pianist who began his career with simple scales, so following God's blueprint for discipleship is about starting out with small steps. Take one element from the Beatitudes and practise it. You might choose to be more patient with your relatives, less at work or heal a family rift. Today, take one small step towards making the Beatitudes your way of life.

Wed: All Souls On this day we remember all those who have died. We remember their kind deeds, the things they did for us and for other people; we remember how we loved them and how they loved us, and we pray we will be united with them again on the last day. We also pray for those who have died that we never knew. We pray for those who have died for our freedom, and we pray for all those who have died alone with no one to remember or pray for them. By remembering those who were loved, they are never really gone from us. November remembrance lists are available now.

1st Thursday of Month **Coffee & Chat 10.30.-12.30.** Come along to St. Mary's Hall for a warm and welcoming place, every 1st Thursday.

Fri: Saint Charles Borromeo Born in 1538 in Arona, Italy, Charles Borromeo founded schools for the poor, seminaries for clerics, and hospitals for the sick. He instituted children's Sunday School and worked tirelessly among the sick and dying during the plague.

SaT: 5th November AT 2PM JUMBLE AND BOOKSALE - Raising funds for CAFOD AND MARYS MEALS ON: AT: St Mary Church Hall, Mt Pleasant, Chorley

"If we wish to make any progress in the service of God we must begin every day of our life with new eagerness. We must keep ourselves in the presence of God as much as possible and have no other view or end in all our actions but the divine honour." St. Charles Borromeo