

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

**October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022**

**30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Readings p. 155**

**Ecclesiasticus 35:12 - 14, 16 - 19**

God hears the prayers of those in need.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:6 - 8, 16 - 18**

Paul looks forward to receiving the reward of his labours.

**St. Luke 18:9 - 14**

Jesus tells the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector.

"God,  
be  
merciful  
to me,  
a sinner."



How easy it can be to judge. The Pharisee in the parable does not come across as a pleasant man, with his superiority complex and his judgemental attitude towards the tax collector. He knew nothing of the other man praying alongside him in the temple, of his joys or his struggles. Yet he was ready to dismiss him and others as 'grasping, unjust, adulterous'. The tax collector, on the other hand, was humble enough to admit to his shortcomings, and to simply ask God for his mercy and help.

Like the Pharisee, our attitude towards others can leave room for improvement. We can be all too ready to judge others and to feel ourselves somehow superior to them, without knowing anything about their situation.

Today's Psalm tells us that the Lord is close to the broken-hearted. We are all broken-hearted in our own way, and we all need God's help. We all have our challenges and struggles. If we could remember this about each other, we would be a lot kinder to those we meet. Triona Doherty

**Today's Psalm  
Psalm 32**

In this psalm each letter of the Hebrew alphabet is used to begin a verse. These three verses match the humble prayer of the tax collector, contrasted with the arrogant boasting of the Pharisee. Notice the wry observation that he said these words to himself. In contrast, as the first reading says, the prayer of the humble person pierces the clouds. The tax collector recognises that he is a sinner with nothing to boast about. But he trusts in the mercy of God. 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' If he were to boast it would be about God, not himself.

*In the Lord  
my soul shall make its boast,  
the humble shall hear, and be glad.*

The psalmist has experienced injustice but he is confident that the justice of God will prevail.  
*The just call and the Lord hears and rescues them in their distress.*

The tax collector was rescued and justified by the Lord's mercy for he went home at rights with God. Humility flourishes when personal unworthiness is balanced with belief in God's merciful goodness. It nurtures the prayer which pierces the clouds.

*The poor man called;  
the Lord heard him.*

**Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap**

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

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday October 23 2022

**Sun: 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8.30.am. Teddorica Geralde

10.30.am. Winifred Walmsley

**Mon: Weekday**

10.00.am. JC

**Tues: Weekday**

**Wed: Weekday**

9.30.am. Patrick Maguire

**Thurs: Weekday**

9.30.am.: Private Intention

**Fri: All Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles**

7.00.pm: Bridget, Mary, and Michael Keegan

**Sun: 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. World Peace

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

Email [stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk](mailto: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.

### **In the small hours**

Don't fret when You can't sleep,  
or worry about the next day.

Draw near to God  
and peace will come,

when you use this time to pray.

Those things that have been on your mind.

The worry and the care,  
now in the stillness of the night.

**Bring them to God in prayer.**

**Mass Intentions received up to 21/10/2022**

Hunter Family 15/11; Patrick Maguire (Ld)

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

World Mission Sunday 'You shall be my witnesses' – Acts 1:8 World Mission Sunday is celebrated in every Catholic community in the world. It's a moment of grace to express solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in situations of poverty, violence and oppression. Every parish, school and community is invited to join this special event. And every penny, pound and prayer you give to Missio helps missionaries everywhere continue their work.

October 24 - 30 One World Week. Since 1978, each year, thousands of people have taken part in One World Week events. The purpose is to share understanding about some of the global issues that affect us all and to recognise we can all make a difference. The emphasis this year is on the conflict in Ukraine, peace and refugees. Continue to support the people of Ukraine. Millions of people in the country still have no safe place to call home, and more than 10 million have fled Ukraine completely. You can donate online

at [www.donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal](http://www.donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal)

Friday. Saint Jude of Thaddaeus, not be confused with Judas Iscariot, is invoked in desperate or hopeless situations because his New Testament letter stresses that the faithful should persevere in the environment of harsh and difficult circumstances. Saint Simon was surnamed the 'Zealot' for his enthusiastic adherence to the Jewish and Canaanite laws.

"If thou desire the love of God and man, be humble, for the proud heart, as it loves none but itself, is beloved of none but itself. Humility enforces where neither virtue, nor strength, nor reason can prevail." (Francis Quarles)