

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

**Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> 2023**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Readings & Prayers p. 136**

***Ecclesiasticus 15:15 - 20***

God has given us freedom to choose to do good or evil, to choose life or death.

***1st Corinthians 2:6 - 10***

True wisdom comes from God, and reveals the wonderful things God has prepared for those who love him.

***St. Matthew 5:17 - 37***

Jesus proposes new standards of goodness for the disciples.

All you  
need say is  
"Yes" if you  
mean yes,  
"No" if you  
mean no.



**B**e honest – are there times when you approach Mass with a niggling feeling that something is not quite right? Perhaps you've fallen out with someone, or been less than fair in your dealings with a friend or colleague. Then there are times when we happily go along to Sunday Mass without so much as a thought to how we have lived that week. Jesus has some strong words for us all in today's Gospel. We must first reconcile with our brothers and sisters and even be on good terms with our opponents before we approach the altar. How can we be in communion with God if we are not in communion with our neighbours?

If we believe that all that is expected of us is to go to Mass on Sunday and 'follow the rules', we have missed something important along the way. Jesus does not want us to merely follow the letter of the law. Where is the joy or the challenge in that? There is more to living out our Christian life than obeying the rules. This is what Jesus challenges us to see in today's Gospel.

I read a comment recently about Pope Francis: 'He seems to have read the book'. His actions are speaking just as loud as his words, and even his words are challenging us to look at how we live and how we treat others. The Gospels are not a rule book; they are a blueprint for a radical way of life.  
Triona Doherty

**Today's Psalm**  
**Psalm 118**

Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law.

We do not usually consider law as an area of wonder. Laws are regarded as boundaries we ought not to transgress rather than as thresholds of wonder. In Jewish mentality, however, what was called the law was more than a collection of laws and decrees. The whole was greater than the sum of the parts. The law of God meant the revelation of God's will. For the people, the law was the precious statement of God's covenant of love with his chosen people.

In the law would be found God's word, God's wisdom, God's love. Pondering on the law would bring truth and wisdom: promise and trust: light and direction. Today's responsorial psalm is a short selection from the long psalm in which each couplet is a gem of wise and holy reflection on the gift of the law. The law provides a light for my path and a lamp for my steps. It revives the soul and teaches wisdom to the simple. Seeking God's law leads to a blameless life and makes one's footsteps firm.

To a people who held God's law in sacred regard, Jesus announced that he had not come to abolish it but to complete it. In him, the Word made flesh, the revelation of God's loving covenant with us is complete.

Train me to observe your law,  
To keep it with my heart.

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM Cap

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

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday February 12 2023

**Sun: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Barbra Belcher

**Mon: Weekday**

9.30.am. Fr. Dan Cadogan

**Tues: Saints Cyril, and Methodius**

9.30.am: Turkey/Srya earthquake

**Wed: Weekday**

9.30.am. Rev. Thomas Keeley

**Thurs: Weekday**

9.30.am. Doctors without Borders (MSF)

**Fri: 7 Holy Founders of the Servite Order**

7.00.pm. JC.

**Sun: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8.30.am. SParishioners

10.30.am. Fr. Kevin Snape

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**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.

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

Refreshments will be served this Sunday (12th) after the 10.30 Mass.

**Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal** Two earthquakes struck south-eastern Turkey early on Monday, devastating wide areas in the country and in neighbouring Syria. The quake toppled hundreds of buildings and killed thousands of people. The death toll has already exceeded 11,000, and the figure is expected to grow significantly. Pope Francis has appealed for help for quake victims of Turkey and Syria during his General Audience in the Vatican on Wednesday morning.

Consider donating online. Every donation however small will count. You can donate at CAFOD, Trocaire, Sciaf, and Christian Aid. Don't forget to add a gift aid declaration if you are a UK taxpayer.

**Today** World Marriage Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of February. Set the day aside to re-affirm the qualities we first saw in each other and to recognise the qualities we've developed since.

**Thursday:** St Cyril and St. Methodius, brothers and now called the apostles to the Slaves. Pioneers of the use of the vernacular in the liturgy.

**Friday:** Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order: Were devout Florentines.

**Cost of living crisis** No it hasn't gone away, though we're talking about it a little less. Have a half term wardrobe clear-out and donate to charity. Polish up old shoes and donate those too. Children particularly quickly grow out of shoes and football boots that can be still considered 'new'. Donate text books to the next year group at school.

**Keep Healthy February** This month consider how caring for our common home is also about caring for our health. Invest in a good vegetarian cookbook. Abstaining from meat will eventually help the planet if we all abstain. Eating vegetarian meals involves a bit of a mind-shift, especially if you are a 'pie and mash' kind of person, but it's worth the effort.

(The heart never becomes wrinkled.)

Marie de Rabutin-Chantal