

- Holy God, grant us the grace to see the best in ourselves and in all those we meet. Help us to stay away from gossip and hurt, always being mindful of your unconditional love.
- Saving God, shower us with the courage and strength to stay faithful, love wholeheartedly and forgive always.



Sunday, 26 October • Matthew 25:31-46
Theme: Treat others with respect and dignity, always

Sacred Space: Symbols of different people and cultures/pictures of many people from different cultures

Homily: In this Sunday's gospel Jesus metaphorically depicts judgement day, where the virtuous will be eternally separated from those who lack selflessness. Interestingly, those who are judged virtuous and those who are judged selfish seemed confused at their particular position on either side of the throne of the Son of Man. Jesus thanked the virtuous for feeding him, clothing him, nursing him and visiting him, but the virtuous did not recall doing any of these good deeds for him. Jesus also condemned the selfish for failing to feed him, failing to clothe him, failing to nurse and failing to visit him, but the selfish did not recall failing to do any of these good deeds for him.

Jesus answers both the selfish and the virtuous telling them, just as they acted towards the least of all people on earth, they have acted towards the Son of Man. The difference between them is that the virtuous cared for all, including those who were perhaps not cool, fashionable, good looking or perceived as interesting. On the other hand, the selfish disregarded these, the least of all people, caring only for those who could offer them something in return.

Do we treat people differently based on their popularity or social status? Do we have a tendency to exclude the less interesting or attractive? This gospel urges us to act towards all people with the same respect and dignity that Jesus showed and lived for all. Following this example we should strive to treat all our fellow humans with the compassion, respect and dignity they deserve, no matter what their life situation.

Prayer of the Faithful

- Gentle Jesus, we are guided by your compassionate love, your unyielding selflessness for all you meet, help us respond to your love with all of our might.
- Gracious Jesus, we pray for all of those who suffer with illness of one sort or another. Ease their pain and bring them special healing for their mind and bodies.
- Loving Jesus, you give us everything, you love us unconditionally, you bless our lives with bountiful abundance. Allow us the eyes to see and the heart to be open and true.



The gospel resources were written this month by Orla's son, Oisín Walsh. Oisín is studying communications at DCU.



Resources

Feast of All Souls

MUSINGS

The death of a Christian is an event of grace, having, as it does, a positive value and significance in Christ and through Christ. According to the faith of the Church, 'to die in Christ' begins at baptism. In baptism, the Lord's disciples sacramentally die in Christ so as to live a new life. If the disciples die in the grace of Christ, physical death seals that 'dying with Christ' and consummates it by incorporating them fully and definitively into Christ the Redeemer.

The just encounter God in death. He calls them to himself so as to share eternal life with them. No one, however, can be received into God's friendship and intimacy without having been purified of the consequences of personal sin. 'The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect.'

Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy



Sunday, 5 November 2017

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 21:28-32

- It is possible to be a dutiful and observant Christian, and yet feel there is something missing. It makes such a difference when your heart is in what you are doing – so much better than just going through the motions. Where do you experience that most in your life?
- The desire of Jesus for us is that we grow in that kind of committed, enthusiastic involvement in life. What encourages you to grow in this way?
- The elders probably thought well of themselves in contrast to the tax collectors and sinners. Perhaps you know some unconventional people, ones who appear to ignore the 'right' way of doing things, and yet they have taught you something about true goodness.

John Byrne OSA

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MUSINGS

Why does Jesus choose this person or that one? Look, Jesus doesn't choose a crowd. He chooses each person, one by one. So he chose the first twelve as his apostles. But we – you and I – are also chosen, with a first name and a family name. I have been chosen as Jorge Mario and you as Juan Pablo. We have been chosen to be Jesus' friends and to do something in this life.

Pope Francis.

Dear Pope Francis: The Pope Answers Letters from Children Around the World



for your Newsletter

Sunday, 12 November 2017

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 25:1-13

1. While the parable has clear end-of-time applications it can also be applied to any moment of grace. It reminds us that moments of grace come unexpectedly, and we need to be awake to receive them. Recall times when you were alert for such a moment. What were the consequences for you?
2. Grace can also be disturbing. We can be coasting along in life and suddenly an opportunity or a graced moment arrives and we are shaken out of our routine in order to respond. Perhaps you can recall both moments when you were unprepared, and moments when you were able to respond. What lessons have you learned from such experiences?
3. We may be tempted to judge the wise virgins as being selfish for not sharing with the others, but perhaps Jesus is teaching us that there are some things that other people cannot provide for us. We have to acquire them ourselves. What qualities in life do you see as the essential oil that you must provide for yourself?

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MUSINGS

Each fresh meditation on the life of our Lord impresses on me more and more the necessity of conforming my life to his in every detail if I wish to please him and become holy. To do something great and heroic may never come, but I can make my life heroic by faithfully and daily putting my best effort into each duty as it comes round.

Fr Willie Doyle, SJ [1873-1917]



Sunday, 19 November 2017

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 25:14-30

1. A gift given in love is given to be enjoyed, treasured, and used. Through fear, one servant failed to recognise the loving trust being shown to him and buried the talent. When have you found that overcoming fear helped you to make the most of opportunities in life?
2. On the level of our own personal life, faith is not given to us to be locked away, but to be 'traded' with. We trade with it when we believe in its value, trust it, and use it, bringing it into the experiences we have in daily life. Can you recall times when relying on your faith has brought you rewards?
3. Likewise with our own personal gifts and talents. We can fall into the trap of seeing these as our personal possession so that we can do with them as we like, rather than share them as gifts so that they can be multiplied. What is your experience of hoarding or sharing your own gifts? When did you feel most alive?
4. Pope Francis in his letter *Evangelii Gaudium* wrote, 'I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelisation in their respective communities. ... The important thing is to not walk alone, but to rely on each other as brothers and sisters' (EG, 33). How is your parish responding to this call?

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MUSINGS

Alone with none but thee, my God,
I journey on my way:
what need I fear when thou art near,
O King of night and day?
more safe am I within thy hand
than if a host should round me stand.

My destined time is known to thee,
and death will keep his hour;
did warriors strong around me throng,
they could not stay his power:
No walls of stone can man defend
when thou thy messenger dost send.

Anonymous



You are welcome to use these resources in any parish newsletter distributed free of charge. These resources, along with *The Deep End*, may be downloaded from the *Intercom* pages on the Veritas website: www.veritas.ie and from www.intercommagazine.ie

Items included in the Liturgy Preparation pages may also be used (e.g. short summaries of the readings, homily thoughts, etc.) Please give credit to the author and this magazine. — Ed

Sunday, 26 November 2017

SEEING YOUR LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF THE GOSPELS

Matthew 22:15-21

1. The story sees a mixture of religion and politics, a potentially explosive combination. Jesus does not ask us to avoid politics, but that our involvement in the affairs of the world be informed by the perspective of the reign of God. How does the gospel give you a vision of how your involvement in society should be?
2. Pharisees and Herodians were not natural allies but a shared dislike of Jesus brought them together in an attempt to discredit him. Perhaps you experience the same opposition in society today when you profess to being a Catholic. Jesus did not get into an argument with them but simply professed his belief in the priority of God in his life. What have you found helpful in bearing witness to the fact that you are still a Catholic?

3. Jesus recognises that we can be faced with conflicting claims for attention. He does not tell us how to solve that dilemma, but challenges us to make sure that our allegiance to God takes priority. When have you been faced with a conflict of loyalties? What helped you to get your priorities right?

John Byrne OSA

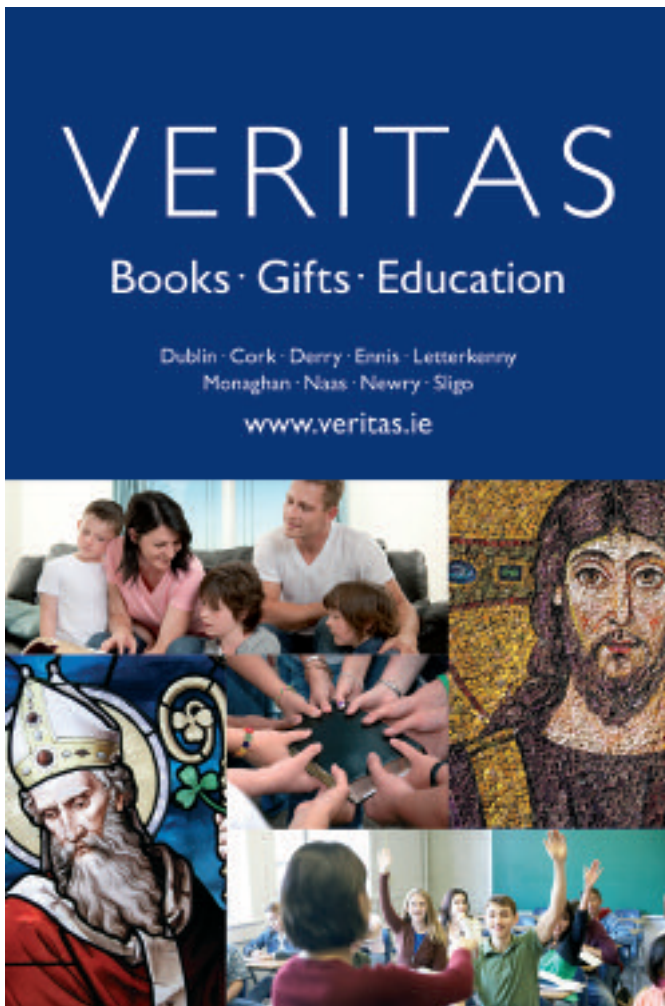
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MUSINGS

The greatest evil is that in our own hearts, but God is greater than our hearts. When we sin against our brother or sister we sin against God. Charles de Foucauld spoke of seeing Jesus in every person: 'Above all see Jesus in every person and consequently treat each one as an equal and as a brother or sister, but also with great humility, respect and selfless generosity.' The other person is the brother or sister for whom Jesus died (1 Cor 8:11f).

John O'Brien OFM, *With Thee Tender is the Night*



Sabbatical Programme

18 March to 13 April 2018

(Offered by Presentation Sisters North East Province, Ireland)

Providing a breathing space in your on-going Faith Journey to 'Reflect, Refresh & Renew'.

This 4-week programme will provide an opportunity to reflect on your life journey, to be refreshed by new experiences and to be renewed by the variety of perspectives presented. The content is designed to support personal growth & spiritual renewal in the welcoming and beautiful environ that is **Mount St Anne's Retreat & Conference Centre, Killenard, Portarlington, Co. Laois.**

The Programme Schedule offers time for orientation, reflection & celebration built around formal inputs by invited contributors, as well as field trips to local places of significance. **Fee: €3,700 (incl. all meals, tuition & field trips).**

You are invited to contact the Sabbatical Programme Co-ordinator by email or phone, in the first instance: msasabbatical@gmail.com Tel: +353 (57) 862 6153.