

First reading Deuteronomy 30:10-14**‘The word is very near you, so that you can do it.’**

Moses spoke to the people: ‘Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ‘For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?” Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?” But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.’

Responsorial Psalm 69(68) 14-17, 30-34, 36-37 R33**Seek God, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive.**

I pray to you, O Lord,
at an acceptable time.
In your great mercy, answer me, O God,
with your faithful salvation.
Lord, answer, for your mercy is kind;
in your great compassion, turn toward me.

As for me in my poverty and pain,
let your salvation, O God, raise me up.
Then I will praise God’s name with a song;
I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

The poor when they see it will be glad,
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord attends to the needy,
and does not spurn his own in their chains.

For God will bring salvation to Sion,
and rebuild the cities of Judah.
The children of his servants shall inherit it;
those who love his name shall dwell there.

Second reading Colossians 1:15-20**‘All things were created through him and for him.’**

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the Church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Gospel Acclamation Cf. John 63,68**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Your words, O Lord, are Spirit and life;
you have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.**Gospel Luke 10:25-37****‘Who is my neighbour?’**

At that time: Behold, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, ‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? How do you read it?’ And he answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.’ And he said to him, ‘You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.’

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, “Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.” Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You go, and do likewise.’

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Feast Days this week**Monday 14th July: St Camillus of Lellis****Tuesday 15th July: St Bonaventure****Wednesday 16th July: Our Lady of Mount Carmel****Saturday 19th July: Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary****The Cycle of Prayer
Seafarers****Prayer**

*Lord God, Redeemer and inspiration of souls,
in the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea,
you have provided a light in the storm;
by her favour and prayer,
grant that we may set a course through these times
to reach our safe haven in heaven with you.*

Feast of Stella Maris

The Samaritan Impulse

In our racially diverse and pluriform country, the English have largely retained values which were rooted in Christianity. Many of them take seriously the message of the good Samaritan parable. The Samaritans were started in 1953 by a London vicar, Chad Farah, in order to help people in trouble and on the verge of despair. It is a very Gospel-based movement.

The impact of the parable of the “Good Samaritan” is extraordinary when we remember that for the Jews the Samaritans were anything but good. What does the parable mean for us here and now? Jesus used it to illustrate the most important quality he wants in his followers. It was his answer to a specific question: “Who is my neighbour?” The answer is that everyone without exception, must be treated with love and respect.

We might wonder what the Samaritan had to gain personally from doing this act of charity. The answer, in material terms, is precisely nothing. Love that is really and truly love, is disinterested. What merit is there in being good only to our friends, who will reward us in return, should the need arise? Christian love must be more inclusive than that. Furthermore, if we do not show love to the neighbour whom we see, then no matter what commandments we keep, what ritual sacrifices we join in, as did the priest and Levite in the parable, we become incapable of loving the God we cannot see. If we join in the Eucharistic meal and receive God’s Son into our hearts, we must first cleanse our heart of hatred, bitterness, ill-will, because the God we receive in this sacrament is love.

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Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Lord of life, love and hope, we thank you for the election of our new Pope.

Watch over, protect and bless Pope Leo XIV

We pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, his faithful witness will be a beacon of hope in our fragile and often divided world.

May the joy of the Gospel inspire him with compassionate understanding so that, together, we can be peacemakers and life-givers.

May Pope Leo be a good and courageous shepherd, concerned for “the least, the last and the lost” of “every tribe and tongue and people and nation”. Guide him to be a leader after your own heart, which is more loving than we can possibly imagine.

We ask you, Lord, to surround Pope Leo with people of pastoral wisdom as he adjusts to his new role. Fill him with confidence in the power of prayer. Help us to help him.

Amen.