

First reading Amos 8:4-7**Against those who 'buy the poor for silver.'**

Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, 'When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain?

And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and sell the chaff of the wheat.'

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: 'Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.'

Responsorial Psalm 113(112):1-2, 4-8, Rcf.1a,7b**Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.**

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blest
both now and for evermore!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who dwells on high,
who lowers himself to look down
upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the ash heap he raises the poor,
to set them in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.

Second reading 1 Timothy 2:1-8**'Prayers should be made for all people to God, who desires all people to be saved.'**

Beloved: First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an Apostle — I am telling the truth, I am not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Corinthians 8:9**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus Christ, though he was rich,
yet for your sake he became poor,
so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Alleluia.**Gospel Luke 16:1-13****'You cannot serve God and money.'**

At that time: Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager." And the manager said to himself, "What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He said, "A hundred measures of oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty." Then he said to another, "And how much do you owe?" He said, "A hundred measures of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and write eighty." The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.' And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

'One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful with the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.'

Copyright: The readings are from the Jerusalem Bible published by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd 2019

Feast Days this week

Tuesday 23rd September: St Pius of Pietrelcina (padre Pio)

Wednesday 24th September: Our Lady of Walsingham

Thursday 25th September: St Finbarr (Ireland)

Friday 26th September: Sts Cosmos and Damien

Saturday 27th September: St Vincent de Paul

No pockets in a shroud

“The love of money is the root of all evil” says St Paul. He did not call money itself the root of all evil, but rather the love of money. Of course money is needed as a means of exchanging goods in every organised society. But a person can become its slave through excessive love of money. It can become a substitute for God in one’s life. In George Bernard Shaw’s play, Major Barbara, when the rich industrialist was asked what was his religion he answered, “Why, I’m a millionaire. That’s my religion!” but life is far more precious than the money we have, the food we eat or the clothes we wear. Possessions are only on loan to us, and in time we must leave them all behind. “Naked I came from my mother’s womb,” (Job 1:21), “and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away.”

The story about the Unjust Steward is about the fair and just use of money. Great personal wealth is rarely acquired without some sharp practice, and so Jesus regards money as somehow tainted. The laws and structures of society still seem to cater not so much to the common good but to the benefit of the wealthy and the privileged few. We need to keep in mind the words of Jesus, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are the merciful, blessed are those who strive for justice.” This brings true fulfilment and the greatest reward of all, the friendship of God for all eternity. Deep down, we know that there are no pockets in a shroud. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

The Cycle of Prayer**The Spread of the Gospel**

especially on *Evangelii Gaudium* Day: 3rd Sunday in September & World Mission Day: the penultimate Sunday in October

Background

Home Mission day is on the 3rd Sunday in September. There may be a collection to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship.

World Mission Day is on the penultimate Sunday in October. A Mass 'for the Spread of the Gospel' may be celebrated on this Sunday. Each year the Holy Father writes a message for World Mission day. In England and Wales material is produced for parishes by the Pontifical Mission Societies. There may be a collection for their work on this day.

Prayer

*O God, whose will it is that all should be saved
and come to the knowledge of the truth,
look upon your abundant harvest
and be pleased to send workers to gather it,
that the Gospel may be preached to all creation
and that your people, gathered by the word of life
and sustained by the power of the Sacraments,
may advance in the path of salvation and love.*