

**First reading Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4****‘The righteous shall live by his faith.’**

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?

Or cry to you ‘Violence!’ and you will not save?

Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise.

And the Lord answered me:

‘Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,  
so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its  
appointed time; it hastens to the end — it will not lie.  
If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not  
delay. ‘Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright  
within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.’

**Responsorial Psalm 95(94):1-2. 6-9. R7c,8a****O that today you would listen to his voice!****‘Harden not your hearts.’**

Come, let us ring out our joy to the Lord;

hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;

let us hail him with a song of praise.

O come; let us bow and bend low.

Let us kneel before the Lord who made us,

for he is our God, and we the people,

the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

as on that day at Massah in the desert

when your forebears put me to the test;

when they tried me, though they saw my work.’

**Second reading 2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14****‘Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord.’**

Beloved: I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God,  
which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for  
God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love  
and self-control. Therefore do not be ashamed of the  
testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but  
share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,  
Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have  
heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ  
Jesus. By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the  
good deposit entrusted to you.

**Gospel Acclamation 1 Peter 1:25****Alleluia, alleluia.**

The word of the Lord remains for ever  
and this word is the good news that was preached to  
you. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel Luke 17:5-10****‘If you had faith.’**

At that time: The Apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase  
our faith!’ And the Lord said, ‘If you had faith like a  
grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry  
tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea”, and it would  
obey you.

‘Will any one of you who has a servant ploughing or  
keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the  
field, “Come at once and recline at table”? Will he not  
rather say to him, “Prepare supper for me, and dress  
properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and  
afterwards you will eat and drink”? Does he thank the  
servant because he did what was commanded? So you  
also, when you have done all that you were commanded,  
say, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what  
was our duty.” ’

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**Feast Days this week****Monday 6th October: St Bruno****Tuesday 7th October: Our Lady of the Rosary****Thursday 9th October: St John Henry Newman**

**Friday 10th October: St Paulinus of York, St Denis  
and his Companions (Wales)**

**Saturday 11th October: St Pope John XXIII****The Cycle of Prayer****Justice and Peace in the World**

especially on Harvest Fast Day: 1st Friday on October

**Background**

The Harvest Fast day is one of two such days organised  
by CAFOD. The money offered from the fasting is  
usually collected at Mass on the following Sunday.

**Prayer**

*O God, who show a father's care for all,  
grant, in your mercy,  
that the members of the human race,  
to whom you have given a single origin,  
may form in peace a single family  
and always be united by a fraternal spirit.*

**Roman Missal**

***If they could only see me now***

*"If they could only see me now." What would our parents or friends think of us if they saw how we behaved in various circumstance, whether we were generous or mean. Many feel this need for the opinion by others, especially to be valued or praised. Unless there's an audience of some kind to validate us, we hardly think it worthwhile to make the effort. How easy it is to dress up things with a veneer of virtue. Yet only God sees the heart and knows our thoughts.*

*The opinions of others do matter to some extent. But what counts in the long run is not human opinion but how God sees us. Nothing compares with that judgment. The basic issue is whether we have been authentic human beings. Because of fidelity, the righteous will live. Life in the state of grace, does not depend on social reputation, but on our inner quality. As Paul says, one cannot even fully judge oneself. About righteousness, we can only trust in God's mercy, while making an honest effort to do what is right. Then the principle applies: "for those who loves God, all things work together unto good."*

*If we did things simply for God's approval, would we be exploited by others? So we won't commit to being just and generous until others doing so too. The rat-race is nobody's fault, and yet it's everybody's. Social solidarity can only begin when individuals choose it for its own sake. "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask rather what you can do for your country." Ultimately, this is the way to salvation. When our race has been run, and the Master comes to judge our service, only those who have been generous will feel at home in God's company. Then we will see that this was the right way to live. "Well done good and faithful servant," and we will say "It was no more than our duty."*

*Unprofitable servants? A better word might be "ordinary". The servants had just done their job, what was expected; they made their due contribution to life, to God and to others. With Jesus as our guide, we would do this as normal. The standards he sets for us are high. Our lives will be worthwhile and noble, if we also choose them for ourselves.* [associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://associationofcatholicpriests.ie)