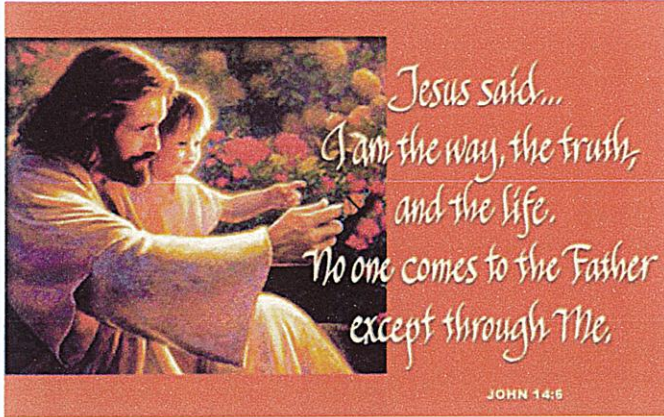


Our Faith on Sunday

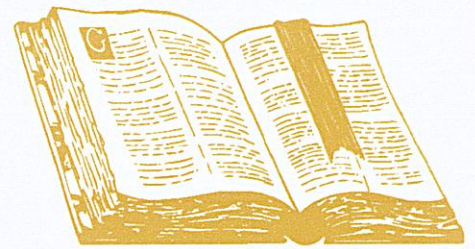
GOSPEL REFLECTION



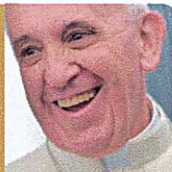
One of the central themes of the gospel of John is the relationship of Jesus with his Father. It is this very relationship which Jesus offers to his disciples. He tells them: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be" (Jn 14:3). Our access to the Father

is through Jesus. As he tells Thomas: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). Here on earth Jesus models for us the journey to the Father. Jesus is constantly turned towards his Father. He has come on earth to do the will of his Father. He wants us to know that his Father is not only all powerful but above all, He is all loving. This is the message of the parable of the Prodigal Son, or we could say, the parable of the Merciful Father. No matter how far we stray from Him, our Father is always there waiting for our return. The Greek

philosopher, Aristotle spoke of God as the "unmoved mover". Today there are those who speak of God as some type of transcendent "cosmic energy". For us Christians, "God is love" (1 John 4:8). God is "our Father". And because of this we can truly say that we are all brothers and sisters of the one human family. Isn't this what we mean by the "good news" of the message of Jesus? What greater mission could we have as Christians than the one of giving witness to this through our love for one another?



POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



RELIGION AND VIOLENCE

282. It follows that "we believers need to find occasions to speak with one another and to act together for the common good and the promotion of the poor. This has nothing to do with watering down or concealing our deepest convictions when we encounter others who think differently than ourselves... For the deeper, stronger and richer our own identity is, the more we will be capable of enriching others with our own proper contribution".²⁷⁹ We believers are challenged to return to our sources, in order to concentrate on what is essential: worship of God and love for our neighbour, lest some of our teachings, taken out of context, end up feeding forms of contempt, hatred, xenophobia or negation of others. The truth is that violence has no basis in our fundamental religious convictions, but only in their distortion.

279. Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Querida Amazonia* (2 February 2020), 106.

Pope Paul VI
Homily, 29 November 1970

[Jesus] is the centre of history and of the world; he is the one who knows us and who loves us; he is the companion and the friend of our life. He is the man of sorrows and of hope. It is he who will come and who one day will be our judge and - we hope - the everlasting fulness of our existence, our happiness. I could never finish speaking about him: he is the light and the truth; indeed, he is «the way, the truth and the life» (Jn. 14:6). He is the bread and the spring of living water to satisfy our hunger and our thirst. He is our shepherd, our guide, our model, our comfort, our brother. Like us, and more than us, he has been little, poor, humiliated; he has been a worker; he has known misfortune and been patient.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.**

Cf. Ps 97:1-2

disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 6:1-7

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parnenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Psalm 33(32):1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R.22

**R. May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.**

or: Alleluia.

Ring out your joy to the LORD, O you just;
for praise is fitting from the upright.
Give thanks to the LORD upon the harp;
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

The word of the Lord is upright,
and all his works to be trusted.
The LORD loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

SECOND READING

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter. 1 Peter 2:4-9

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL**Alleluia, alleluia.**

John 14:6

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.**No one comes to the Father except through me.****Alleluia.****GOSPEL**

John 14:1-12

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

- R.** O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to know your truth,
R. we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Jn 15:1,5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.**Whoever remains in me, and I in him,
bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Graciously be present to your people, we pray,
O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with
heavenly mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.