

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION

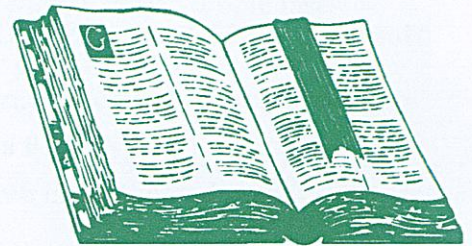


Fear is a primeval human emotion. It is linked to the precarious nature of our existence in this world and the instinct for self-protection rooted in our ego.

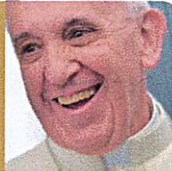
When the fear is prolonged in time it becomes anxiety and in these uncertain times in which we live it has almost reached epidemic proportions, particularly among young people. It is in this context that once again the gospel is truly “good news”. And what is this “good news”? It is that God is love and even the very hairs on our head do not escape his loving concern for us. That does not mean that we won’t have to face difficulties in this world, and in certain situations almost automatically we will find that the fear response has been triggered. It is at this point that our faith as Christians in God’s

love comes into play. It is a cosmic love which encompasses the whole of God’s plan for creation which extends beyond space and time in which our ultimate

fear which is death is swallowed up in victory. It is common to find an atheist who faced with the annihilation of death adopts a form of stoic resignation which could in human terms be considered “heroic”. The Christian has no need of this type of heroism. We believe that God’s love has foreseen a “new heaven and a new earth” where as the book of Revelation says: “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” (Rev 21:4). In reality Christians have nothing to fear, except that with our human freedom we might reject the offer of God’s love for us.



POPE FRANCIS’ ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



A PRAYER TO THE CREATOR

Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.

Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen.

Pope Benedict XVI

Meeting with young people 27 May 2006

To build on Christ and with Christ means to build on a foundation that is called “crucified love”. It means to build with Someone who, knowing us better than we know ourselves, says to us: “You are precious in my eyes and honoured, and I love you” (Is 43:4). It means to build with Someone, who is always faithful, even when we are lacking in faith, because he cannot deny himself (cf. 2 Tim 2:13). It means to build with Someone who constantly looks down on the wounded heart of man and says: “I do not condemn you, go and do not sin again” (cf. Jn 8:11). It means to build with Someone who, from the Cross, extends his arms and repeats for all eternity: “O man, I give my life for you because I love you.” In short, building on Christ means basing all your desires, aspirations, dreams, ambitions and plans on his will.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 27: 8-9

**The Lord is the strength of his people,
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,
and govern them for ever.**

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.
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 Prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah 20:10-13

Jeremiah said: I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! 'Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' say all my close friends, watching for my fall. 'Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.' But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 69(68):8-10. 14, 17. 33-35. R.14c

R. In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame has covered my face.
To my own kin I have become an outcast,
a stranger to the children of my mother.
Zeal for your house consumes me,
and taunts against you fall on me.

But 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 towards me.

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.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the seas and everything that moves in them.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.
Romans 5:12-15

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Alleluia, alleluia.

John 15:26b, 27a

**The Spirit of truth will bear witness about me, says the Lord,
and you also will bear witness.**

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:26-33

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus instructed his Apostles: 'Have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father knowing. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action,

R. we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Ps 144: 15

**The eyes of all look to you, Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.**

R.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished
by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son,
we ask of your mercy, O Lord,
that what we celebrate with constant devotion
may be our sure pledge of redemption.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.