

Our Faith on Sunday

GOSPEL REFLECTION



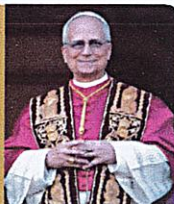
Being an authentic Christian starts with an encounter with Jesus. At the heart of this encounter will be Jesus's invitation to follow him. He will offer to "save" our life, but on condition that we are willing to "lose" our life. This "losing" is symbolised by taking up our "cross". It would be wrong to identify this cross

with nothing but suffering. We are made for happiness and not for suffering and our final destiny is not death but resurrection. So when Jesus offers us the way of the cross he is inviting us to share in nothing less than his own death and resurrection. It is an essential part of our human condition that physical death awaits us all. But for a Christian the death that is required is the spiritual death of the self-centred ego with all its vices of jealousy, envy, deceit, arrogance, bitterness, hatred. When we look at the lives of people who are deemed "successful" in this world in business, entertainment, politics we

often find that they share some common traits: an inflated ego, a ruthless pursuit of power, a total disregard for the feelings of others. In all of this we can recall the words of Jesus: "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?". As a contrast to those who forfeit their souls we can look at saints like St. Francis of Assisi, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Maximilian Kolbe, Mother Teresa and a host of others. A simple definition of a saint is: someone who takes the words of Jesus seriously and acts on those words. And let us make no mistake: we are all called to be saints.



POPE LEO XIV THE HOLY SEE APOSTOLIC EXHORTATIONS



THE CRY OF THE POOR

9. The condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church. On the wounded faces of the poor, we see the suffering of the innocent and, therefore, the suffering of Christ himself. At the same time, we should perhaps speak more correctly of the many faces of the poor and of poverty, since it is a multifaceted phenomenon. In fact, there are many forms of poverty: the poverty of those who lack material means of subsistence, the poverty of those who are socially marginalized and lack the means to give voice to their dignity and abilities, moral and spiritual poverty, cultural poverty, the poverty of those who find themselves in a condition of personal or social weakness or fragility, the poverty of those who have no rights, no space, no freedom.

Saint Alphonsus de Liguori Uniformity With God's Will

Mortification, meditation, receiving Holy Communion, acts of fraternal charity are all certainly pleasing to God—but only when they are in accordance with his will.... If we would completely rejoice the heart of God, let us strive in all things to conform ourselves to his divine will. Let us not only strive to conform ourselves, but also to unite ourselves to whatever dispositions God makes of us. Conformity signifies that we join our wills to the will of God. Uniformity means more—it means that we make one will of God's will and ours, so that we will only what God wills; that God's will alone, is our will. This is the summit of perfection and to it we should always aspire; this should be the goal of all our works, desires, meditations and prayers. To this end we should always invoke the aid of our holy patrons, our guardian angels, and above all, of our mother Mary, the most perfect of all the saints because she most perfectly embraced the divine will.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Ps 85: 3, 5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.

COLLECT

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
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 20:7-9

O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived;
you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have
become a laughing-stock all the day; everyone mocks
me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, 'Violence and
destruction!' For the word of the LORD has become for me a
reproach and derision all day long. If I say, 'I will not mention
him, or speak any more in his name', there is in my heart as
it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary
with holding it in, and I cannot.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**PSALM**

Psalm 63(62):2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9. R.2b

R. For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water.

I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise.

I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you.

For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me.

SECOND READINGA reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.
Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of
God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and
acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do
not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the
renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what
is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.**ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Cf. Ephesians 1:17-18

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-27

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 began to show his disciples that he
must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the
elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and
on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and
began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from you, Lord! This
shall never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter,
'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you
are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the
things of man.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come
after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and
follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but
whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will
it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his
soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For
the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the
glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person
according to what he has done.'

R. The Gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

R. May this sacred offering, O Lord,
confer on us always the blessing of salvation,
that what it celebrates in mystery
it may accomplish in power.

R. Through Christ our Lord.**Amen.****R. COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Ps 30: 20

**How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table,
we beseech you, Lord,
that, being the food of charity,
it may confirm our hearts
and stir us to serve you in our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.