

# *St Teresa & St John Southworth Churches, Cleveleys*

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## **Sunday : 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Contents:** The Gospel

Reflection

Notices

Reflections for the coming week

### **Gospel:**

#### **Matthew: 14:13-21**

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food." Jesus replied, "There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves." But they answered, "All we have with us is five loaves and two fish." "Bring them here to me," he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

### **Reflection :**

#### **Gospel Reflection : "At Last, A Bit Of Peace And Quiet"**

How often have you thought, or even said, those words, only to find something happens to disturb the rest you longed for, and usually needed?

As we hear in today's Gospel, it happened to Jesus too. And he too had to take on another responsibility, and let others dictate how he spent his time - which really wasn't what he had planned, nor probably wanted.

We are not to send people away either. We are to feed them, whatever that means at the time. And Jesus shows us how that can be done - through prayer, trust and the support of each other. Even when our hearts are about to sink, what we do or say can make another's heart rise.

All the world can be fed, can be made to feel whole and satisfied. But God doesn't let down food, or love, in baskets from above. He uses each one of us now.

## Notices

**We remember in our prayers** Helen Evans and Catriona Benzie whose Funerals were last week, and Vivien Hopcroft whose Funeral is on Monday, 10th August. We remember them and their families, and all those whose anniversaries are at this time. May they rest in God's peace

**We congratulate and pray for every blessing** for Ronnie and Eamon Brady who next Wednesday, 5th August. celebrate 50 years of married life. A very happy Golden Wedding Anniversary!

## The Times of Masses for Sundays and Weekdays

### St. Teresa's :

Saturdays (Vigil Mass) : 6.30 pm

Sundays : 9 am and 10.30 am

Weekdays : Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30 am

### St. John Southworth :

Sundays : 5pm

Weekdays : Wednesday : 9.30 am

## Daily Reflections for this week

### **Monday (A New Catechism)**

The coming of the Kingdom of God is God's grace decreed and given. But grace demands that we should give ourselves up to it. Those who thus become as little children, who allow themselves to be given grace and who surrender themselves in turn, receive the joy that comes from God. The joy is the joy of those who know much has been given them. The Kingdom of God is sublime and divine, yet it never loses touch with the everyday world, with the here and now, with us. The Kingdom which was first manifested in simplicity and love in the countryside of Galilee is to reach its fulfilment in a great love among all that exists.

### **Scripture (Matthew 14:14-20)**

*As Jesus stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples said, 'This is a lonely place, send the people away so they can buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' All they had was five loaves and two fish, which they brought to Jesus. He took the five loaves and two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves, he handed them to the disciples, who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and there were twelve baskets of scraps left over.*

### **Tuesday (C.S.Lewis)**

The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. God became man. Every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this. Every particular Christian miracle manifests at a particular place and moment the character and significance of the Incarnation. There is no question in Christianity of arbitrary interferences just scattered about. It relates not a series of disconnected raids on nature but the various steps of a strategically coherent invasion – an invasion which intends complete conquest and 'occupation'.

### **Scripture (John 1:1-5,14)**

*In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came into being, not one thing came into being except through him. What has come into being through him was life, life that was the light of men; and light shines in darkness, and darkness could not overpower it. The Word became flesh, he lived among us and we saw his glory, the glory that he has from the Father as only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

### **Wednesday (Carlo Carretto)**

Jesus is the 'Holy One of God'. But the Holy One of God realised his sanctity, not in an extraordinary life, but one impregnated with ordinary things: work, family and social life, obscure human activities, simple things shared by all people. The perfection of God is cast in a material which people almost despise, which they don't consider worth searching for because of its simplicity, its lack of interest, because it is common to all people.

### **Scripture (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-16)**

*The Lord says this: Look, I myself shall take care of my flock and look after it. As a shepherd looks after his flock when he is with his scattered sheep, so shall I look after my sheep. I myself shall pasture my sheep, I myself shall give them rest—declares the Lord. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the injured and make the sick strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them.*

### **Thursday (Julian of Norwich)**

The love of God for us is so wonderful that it surpasses all knowledge. No created being can know the greatness, the sweetness, the tenderness of the love that our master has for us. By his grace and help, therefore, let us in spirit stand and gaze, eternally marvelling at the supreme, single-minded, surpassing, incalculable love that God, who is goodness, has for us. When we possess him in fullness and joy, we shall have no further wants. Meanwhile his will is that we go on knowing and loving until we are perfected in heaven.

### **Scripture (Isaiah 55:1-3)**

*Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty: though you have no money, come! Buy and eat: come, buy wine and milk without money, free! Why spend money on what cannot nourish and your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and you will live. I shall make an everlasting covenant with you in fulfilment of the favours I promised to David.*

### **Friday (Pope Paul VI)**

We cannot form an adequate concept of humans unless we include God. He is mysterious, transcendent and ineffable, the eternal principle of the universe. But he watches over us, knows us and observes us, penetrates and preserves us unceasingly. He is our Father.

### **Scripture (Psalm 145:13-19)**

*Your kingship is a kingship for ever, your reign lasts from age to age. The Lord is trustworthy in all his words, and upright in all his deeds. The Lord supports all who stumble, lifts up those who are bowed down. All look to you in hope and you feed them with the food of the season. And, with generous hand, you satisfy the desires of every living creature. Upright in all that he does, the Lord acts only in faithful love. He is close to all who call upon him, all who call on him from the heart. He fulfils the desires of all who fear him, he hears their cry and he saves them.*

**Martin Bennett**