

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

Fr Chris Cousens—Phone: 853340

Rev Bernard Ward (Deacon) (Tel: 858346)

Enquiries for St John Southworth: Phone: 853340

18 October 2020

<http://www.st-teresas-church.co.uk>

Email: [st.teresas.cleveleys@gmail.com](mailto:st.teresas.cleveleys@gmail.com)

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity Number 23433

## **Sunday : 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Contents:** The Gospel

Reflection

Notices

Reflections for the coming week

## **Gospel:**

### **Matthew: 22:15-21**

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, “Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man’s rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, ‘You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.’ They handed him a denarius and he said, ‘Whose head is this?’ ‘Caesar’s’ they replied. He then said to them, ‘Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.’

### **Gospel Reflection : Rich Man, Poor Man, Beggar Man, Thief**

Most of us value and budget our money and possessions, and feel powerless without them. Understandably, in the current crisis, this might be on our minds at the moment, and we must be aware of anything that we need to share, even something as basic as food.

We also value, but perhaps do not fully appreciate, the wealth that friendship gives in the currency of love between us. Without friendship we are emotionally and spiritually penniless. It cannot be bought, borrowed, begged or stolen.

In the scale of things there must be a balance between material and spiritual wealth, between money and grace.

In this balance, after looking at a coin with Caesar's head on it, Jesus reminds us that we must be faithful servants of the State, and the community it should support, *and* of God and the creation He sustains.

## **Notices**

**We Remember In our Prayers** Bill Delaney whose Funeral Mass is at St. Teresa's on Thursday 29th October. We remember him and his family, and all those whose anniversaries are at this time. May they be in God's peace.

**This Sunday Is World Mission Sunday** when Pope Francis invites all Catholics to contribute to a special collection for Missio, his charity for world mission. This charity in this country has for years been organised by the Mill Hill Missionaries, who still organise the 'red boxes' many of us have in our homes. Please support Missio in helping missionaries to work alongside communities throughout the world that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. Join in on this special day, which unites Catholics all over the world in prayer, and in celebration of our Church's mission to share God's love with all people. See the website [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk)

Fr. Anthony Chantry, the National Director of Missio, writes : "The theme of this year's Mission Sunday is 'Here I am, send me'. These words challenge me again to think about what mission means in 2020. I like to think that I am open to God's call, but I also want to ask God, 'What are you actually sending me to do?.'

In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Francis reminds us that God always loves us first, and comes to us and calls to us with this same love. God sends us to witness to the saving power of Jesus. This allows God to show through us his love for others, a love that transforms hearts and minds in every place and time.

In these very difficult times, and with so much uncertainty about our own future here, we must not lose sight of the needs of others in areas of poverty and persecution. All donations will go to helping our brothers and sisters in greatest need."

### **A Big Thank You For All Your Recent Support In Two Other Charity Appeals :**

**CAFOD** have written to us with their great thanks for our contributions to this year's Family Fast collection - £745.01 at St. Teresa's and £132.50 at St. John Southworth. They said "Our support will ensure our global family can 'survive, rebuild and heal'. Thank you for your generosity, and please keep our global family in your prayers at this time."

'**The Ripple Effect**' Charity has written to both our parishes : "Over the last few weeks, we have collected and sorted aid for Refugees in Moria (the huge Refugee Camp on the Greek island of Lesbos which burnt down). So far we have sent 8 pallets with specific items which were requested and donated, and we have received notification that these have now arrived and are being distributed to the families in crisis.

*The response to this appeal has been amazing from the people of the Fylde Coast. We are so grateful for each item donated, and which has been issued out to the refugees in their replacement camps.*

On behalf of all those displaced people who are not able to provide for themselves or their families due to the appalling circumstances they find themselves in.....THANK YOU."

[The 'Ripple Effect Charity' has as its Motto - "A Drop of Care. An Ocean of Change". That says it all about the good effect we can all have, in such simple but compassionate ways!]

### **100 Club Winners for September :**

Frances O'Mara, £15; Muriel Woods, £10; Sue Ward, £5

## **Daily Reflections for this week**

### **Monday (Cardinal Basil Hume)**

We are to serve God. How we do this will depend on each one's personal vocation. One factor is common to all of us. Everything human has a new significance since God became man. It is an idea rich in consequences, for it means that whatever we do looks different to the Father than it does to us. You have that floor to sweep. God sees more than the sweeping. He sees it as a service of him. Your daily work is your daily service of God. To make that service a loving one adds to it, both in giving honour to God and in the joy you will experience.

### **Scripture (1 Cor. 12:4-7,11)**

*There are many gifts, but it is always the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord. There are many different forms of activity, but in everyone it is the same God who is at work in them all. The particular manifestation of the Spirit granted to each one is to be used for the general good. At work in all is one and the same Spirit, distributing them at will to each individual.*

### **Tuesday (Rabindranath Tagore)**

At midnight, the would-be ascetic announced: "This is the time to give up my home and seek for God. Ah, who has held me so long in delusion here?" God whispered "I," but the ears of the man were stopped. With a baby asleep at her breast lay his wife, peacefully sleeping on one side of the bed. The man said, "Who are you that have fooled me so long?" The voice said again, "They are God", but he heard it not. The baby cried out in its dream, nestling close to its mother. God commanded "Stop, fool, leave not your home," but still he heard not. God sighed and complained "Why does my servant wander to seek me, forsaking me?"

### **Scripture (Psalm 139:1-6)**

*Yahweh, you examine me and know me, you know when I sit, when I rise. You understand my thoughts from afar. You watch when I walk or lie down, you know every detail of my conduct. A word is not yet on my tongue before you, Yahweh, know all about it. You fence me in, behind and in front, you have laid your hand upon me. Such amazing knowledge is beyond me, a height to which I cannot attain.*

### **Wednesday (Ignatius of Antioch)**

I have been impressed by the godly qualities of your mind—anchored, as it seemed, to an unshakable rock. You must do justice to your position by showing the greatest diligence both in its temporal and spiritual duties. Spend your time in constant prayer and beg for ever larger gifts of wisdom. The very reason you are given a body as well as a soul is to help you gain the favour of this outward and visible world; though at the same time you must pray for insight into the invisible world as well. Critical times like these need you as the storm-tossed mariner needs a haven, if people are ever to find their way to God.

### **Scripture (Mt. 22:15-21)**

*The Pharisees' disciples said to Jesus "Master, we know that you are an honest man and that you teach the way of God in all honesty. Give us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?. But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied "You hypocrites! Why are you putting me to the test? Show me the money you pay the tax with." They handed him a denarius. "Whose portrait is this?" They replied "Caesar's." Then Jesus said to them "Very well, pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar—and God what belongs to God."*

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

I saw in truth that God does all things, however small they may be. And I saw that nothing happens by chance, but by the far-sighted wisdom of God. If it seems like chance to us, it is because we are blind and blinkered. The things planned before the world began come upon us suddenly, so that in our blindness we say they are chance. But God knows better. Constantly and lovingly he brings all that happens to its best end. All that is done is well done, for it is done by God.

### **Scripture (Isaiah 45: 1,4-6)**

*Thus says the Lord to his anointed, Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more: It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know you from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.*

**Friday (Fr. Daniel O’Leary, from his farewell letter)**

When I equate God with life itself, a transformation takes place in the way I understand our Catholic Christianity. Once I remove everything that separates divinity and humanity, Heaven and Earth, grace and nature, I begin to live and move in another milieu. And once I commit to identifying God’s intimate presence in my evolving perception of the world’s most beautiful artistry and creativity, in my darkness and in my invincible light, and in my very breath, then I am living the incarnation of God in Jesus in my life – and living it now with a passion “at the hour of my death”. This is not spiritual vagueness. It is a kind of heart-wisdom that touches the most substantial parts of me this very day.

Into the restless, relentless distress of these, my last January nights, there is a final all-embracing vision, a kind of gradually forming vision, a perspective, a radical paradigm shift. It is the moment when you know for sure that the birth and death of everything, the sustaining and empowering of all that works towards good, the source of all beauty, the precious energy that creates, heals and quickens our souls and our tumours, the invisible unimaginable, universal energy of the cosmos –is Love.

**Scripture (Ecclesiasticus 39: 16-20, 33-34)**

*How wonderful the actions of the Lord! Whatever he orders is done at the proper time! At his command, whatever he wants is done, no one can stop him if he intends to save. His gaze stretches from eternity to eternity, and nothing can astonish him. The works of the Lord are all good, when the time is right he gives whatever is needed. You must not say “This is worse than that” for, sooner or later, everything proves its worth.*

**Martin Bennett**