

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Priest's Tidings

We admire parents and educators who are so patient with the young that when they make mistakes or refuse to take up their responsibilities, they give them the time to change their mind. That is what God is doing all the time with us. He patiently waits for us. He gives us new chances. Could we do the same with one another? Let us ask Jesus in this eucharist that with him we may always say Yes.

Quite often we feel within us the tension between what we know to be right and our own interests and inclinations. We usually know what our faith demands and yet we act against it or give only a reluctant Yes. Let us ask Jesus in this eucharist that we may always say Yes with him.

Fr Hugo



Entrance Hymn: -765 - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation,

Collect:

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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:

Reading from the book of Ezekiel 18

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R./ Remember your mercy, Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.**R/**

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.**R/**

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, He guides the humble in the right path, He teaches his way to the poor.**R/**

Gospel Acclamation :

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers of Intercession

R/ Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Loving Father, we give you thanks for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ for in him you have opened the gate to eternal life. Bless all who seek to proclaim the Good News, all who preach the word and go out in mission. We remember all who witness in their daily life and all who seek to serve you faithfully. **R/**

Loving Father, we ask your blessing upon all who have important decisions to make this week. We pray for those who are rulers and politicians, for scientists and research workers, for judges and all who strive to bring peace. We remember all who find it hard to remain faithful and loyal and pray that they may be given new strength and courage. **R/**

Loving Father, we give thanks for our homes and our loved ones. We pray for all who have influenced our lives through their example and teaching. We remember all families where relationships are breaking down or life has become hard. We ask your blessing upon those who have to make difficult decisions about their homes, their relationships or their way of life.**R/**

Loving Father, we remember all who are confused by the many choices in life and who find it hard to cope. We pray for those who have lost their freedom and all who suffer from tyranny. We ask your blessing upon all who are ill and those who have decided they need to go into care.**R/**

Heavenly Father, we lift St Matthew's Elephant and Castle to You. By Your Spirit, grow Your church in number, faith, and love. Draw those who are searching to Christ, equip us to share the Gospel with boldness, and make us a welcoming community where lives are transformed. May all who come encounter Your presence. In Jesus' mighty name we pray. Amen.**R/**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Offertory 754 - O worship the King, all glorious above,

Communion Hymn: 775 - Seek ye first the kingdom of God,

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelu, hallelujah!

2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

3 Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Post Communion Prayer:

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

ALL: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Strengthen us by the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. **Amen.**

Recessional 763 - Praise to the Holiest in the height,

Prayer and Meditation

Reflection Reading:

Jesus tells a story about a father who asks his two sons to work in his vineyard. The first son initially refuses but later changes his mind and goes. The second son agrees to go but never does. Jesus asks which son did his father's will, and the answer is the first.

Jesus then applies the story to the religious leaders. He explains that tax collectors and prostitutes, who initially lived sinful lives but responded to John's message and changed, are entering God's kingdom. Meanwhile, those who claimed to follow God but refused to believe and change their ways did not do the Father's will.

Personal Questions:

- Which point in this story of the two sons most caught your attention? Why?
- To whom does Jesus address Himself? Why does He tell this parable?
- What is the main point underlined by Jesus in the attitude of the two sons?

- What kind of obedience does Jesus suggest through this parable?

Concluding Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the word that has enabled us to understand better the will of the Father. May Your Spirit enlighten our actions and grant us the strength to practice that which Your Word has revealed to us. May we, like Mary, Your mother, not only listen to but also practice the Word, You who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.



What's happening in our Parish!

Sunday

Mission WhatsApp Groups

We have a series of WhatsApp groups with activities voted for by the congregation. Please have a look and see if you would like to join one: if you are already in one, please think of ways you can proactively help run the activity you have volunteered for.

Welcoming at our Eucharist

Are you able to arrive at 9.15am to help welcome people into our church? If so, it would be lovely to have you join the welcoming team! Please chat to Cynthia so we can add you to the rota



Regular Giving

Many thanks for your generous giving to the ministry of St Matthews' each week. If you have taken home a red envelope please fill out the form and return it so we can plan our future developments of St Matthew's

Youth Club

Our Youth Club runs on Fridays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road, SW9 6BE. All 14-18 year olds are welcome!

CONTACT US

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