

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

25th of October



Priest's Tidings

Do we love God? Of course, we say; what a queer question! Is it really so self-evident that we love God with our whole heart and soul and mind? There is a good test of our love of God: How patient are you with your cranky husband or wife? Can you forgive the former friend who cheated you in an important deal? Can you still love the neighbour who unjustly brought you to court about the boundary of your property? Your neighbour is the visible shape of the invisible God. Ask Jesus in this eucharist to recognise him in your neighbour.

Do people say of our Christian communities today what they said about the first Christians, "See how the love one another"? How different our world would be if we had put into practice a love like that of God and the first Christians! Christian love, the one with which we love God and people and ourselves is a love that has God as its source and force. It is this love which Jesus teaches us and asks of us here in this eucharist.

Fr Hugo



Entrance Hymn: 621 - Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,
increase our faith, hope and charity,
and make us love what you command,
so that we may merit what you promise.
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.

First Reading:

Reading from the book of Exodus 22

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this:

You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans. If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him. If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 17

R./ I love you, Lord, my strength

I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise, when I call I am saved from my foes. **R/**

Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be the God who saves me, He has given great victories to his king and shown his love for his anointed. **R/**

Gospel Acclamation :

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

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

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers of Intercession

R/ Lord in your mercy, Hear our prayer

Lord God, Creator of all, we give thanks for those who have taught us the faith. We ask your blessing upon the mission of the Church, which is your mission. Guide and strengthen all who reach out to others in faith and with the Good News. We pray for all evangelists and all who witness to your love. **R/**

Lord God, Creator of all, we give thanks for all you have given us. We ask your guidance on all who are led astray by the glitter of gold and the false promises of consumerism. We pray for all who are impoverished in spirit. We ask your blessing upon the governments of the world and their striving for justice and fair dealing. **R/**

Lord God, Creator of all, we ask your blessing upon our home and our loved ones. We pray for all who provide us with water, electricity and gas, for those who collect our refuse and clean our streets. We remember all who help to maintain law and order. **R/**

Lord God, Creator of all, we ask your blessing upon all hospitals, care homes, home visitors and the social services. We remember before you all suffering and impoverished peoples. We pray for the world poor and all who are without the basic needs of life. We bring before you friends and loved ones who are ill.**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 Joyful, Joyful we adore thee,

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before
You,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and
sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

2 All thy works with joy surround
You,
Earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around
thee,
Centre of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and
mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,

Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in thee!

3 Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er
us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Communion Hymn: 725 - Make me a channel of your peace.

Post Communion Prayer:

Most gracious God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom:
renew thy people with thy heavenly grace
and in all our weakness
sustain us by thy true and living bread;
who liveth and reigneth, now and for ever. **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: 787 - Take my life, and let it be
Verses 1,2, 3,5 & 6

Prayer and Meditation

Reflection Reading:

In the Gospel of the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Pharisees ask Jesus which is the greatest commandment of the Law. They want to test Him because people often debated which commandment was the most important. Jesus answers that the first and greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, and strength. The second commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself.

Jesus explains that these two commandments are the foundation of the whole Law and the teachings of the Prophets. This means that loving God is not only about praying, going to Mass, or being baptised, but also about showing love to others through our actions. Being a good Christian means caring for other people, treating them with kindness and respect, helping those in need, and practicing justice and fraternity. The main message is that love for God and love for our neighbour are connected, and both are essential to living a true Christian life.

Personal Questions:

- “What did you like most in this text or what touched you most? Why?”
- Who were the Pharisees then? Who are the Pharisees today?
- How could the question asked of Jesus by the Pharisees put Him to the test?
- What is the relationship between the first and the second commandment?
- Why is it that the love of God and the love of neighbour constitute a summary of the law and the prophets?

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 what 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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