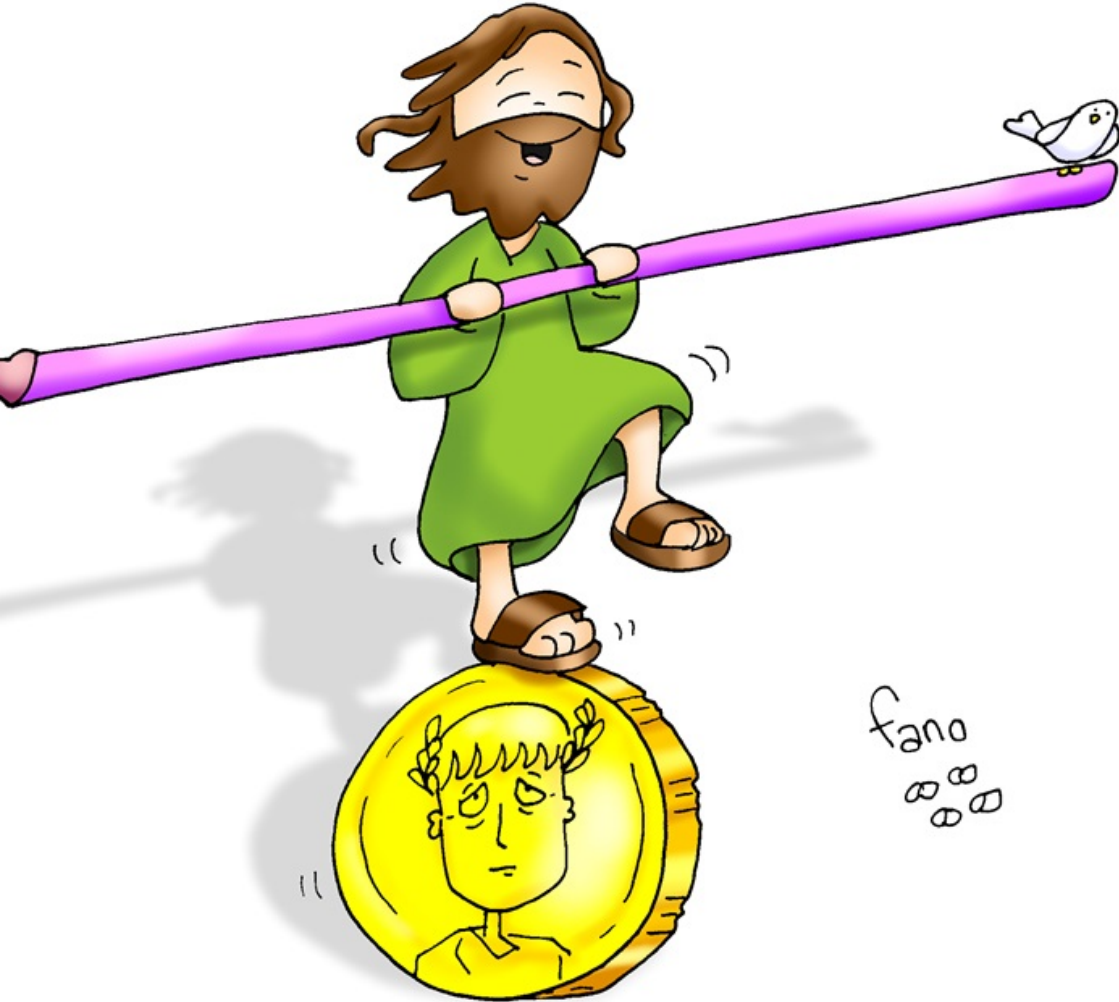


29th Sunday in Ordinary Time



18th of October

Take me home!

Priest's Tidings

We love our country, and it is good we do so. But should we agree with everything that happens in it and with all its structures? A lot of times we don't know what is best for it. A Christian should learn to be discerning and to judge what happens among us and what we should do in the light of the gospel. For we are citizens both of our country and of the Kingdom of God. Let us pray with the Lord in today's eucharist that we may be good citizens of both.

Sometimes the Church is accused of meddling in politics or the affairs of the state. But the Church has to raise a prophetic voice to form the consciences of its members regarding the moral aspects of political and economic questions, to see to it that the laws of God and human rights and dignity are respected. A good Christian must be a good citizen and take up his responsibilities toward the human community. Church and state must respect each other without trying to control each other. Let us give to the state what belongs to the state and to God what belongs to God.

Fr Hugo



Entrance Hymn: -357 - All people that on earth do dwell,

Collect:

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
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 Isaiah 45

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to 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 from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm 95

R./ Give the Lord glory and power.

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.

Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.**R/**

The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught, It was the Lord who made the heavens, **R/**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts.**R/**

Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him.

Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R/**

Gospel Acclamation :

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word is truth, O Lord:

consecrate us in the truth.

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

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? Whose name?' '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.

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 589 - Angel-voices ever singing
1,3,4 & 5

Communion Hymn: 494 - I, the Lord of sea and sky.

Post Communion Prayer:

God our Father, whose Son, the light unfailing,
hath come from heaven that he may deliver the world from the
darkness of ignorance: may the eyes of our understanding
be opened through these holy mysteries
that we, knowing the way of life, may walk in it without stumbling;
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: Praise the Lord! Ye heavens, adore him;

1 Praise the Lord! ye heavens, adore Him;

praise Him, angels in the height;
sun and moon, rejoice before Him,
praise Him, all ye stars of light.

Praise the Lord! for He hath spoken;
worlds His mighty voice obeyed;
laws which never shall be broken
for their guidance He hath made.

2 Praise the Lord! for He is glorious;
never shall His promise fail;
God hath made His saints victorious;
sin and death shall not prevail.

Praise the God of our salvation!
Hosts on high, His power proclaim;
heaven and earth and all creation,
laud and magnify His name.

3 Worship, honour, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer unto Thee;
young and old, Thy praise
expressing,
in glad homage bend the knee.
All the saints in heaven adore Thee;
we would bow before Thy throne;
as Thine angels serve before Thee,
so on earth Thy will be done.

Prayer and Meditation

Reflection Reading:

The prayer asks Jesus to send His Spirit to help us understand the Scriptures and recognise God's presence even in times of suffering and difficulty. It invites us to listen in silence to God through His Word, Creation, events, and especially the poor and suffering. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we are called to experience the power of Jesus' resurrection and share His message of fraternity, justice, peace, and hope with others. Amen.

Personal Questions:

- Which part of the text touched you most? Why?
- Which groups in power are getting ready to set a trap for Jesus? What kind of trap?
- What did Jesus do to get out of the trap laid by the powerful?
- For today, what does the saying, "Pay Caesar what belongs to Caesar and God what belongs to God" mean?"

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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Parish Administrator : Yesenia Espinosa **Ingles:** admin.eng@stmatt.co.uk - Office Hours: 10:00 am to 4:00