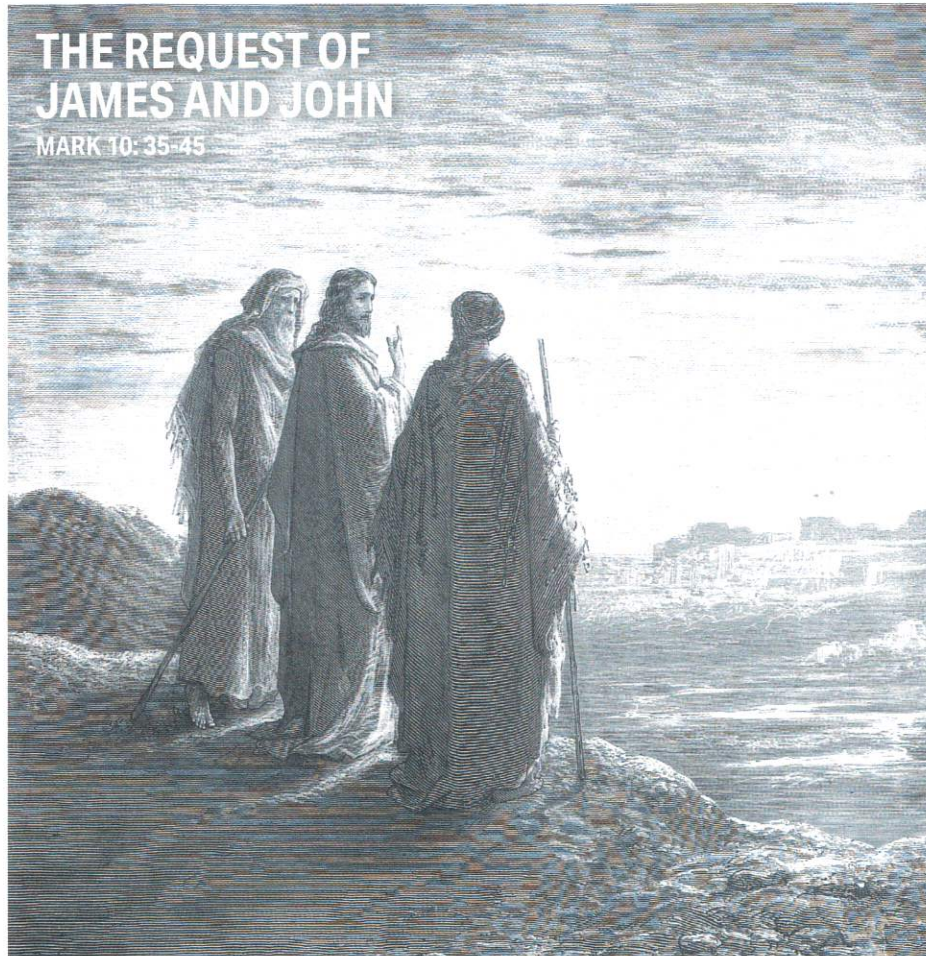


# Sunday Message

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 20 October 2024 • Psalter Week 1



## REFLECT

Irish Television Broadcaster RTE, has a programme that appears regularly called 'Reeling in the Years'. It's a look back at a particular year in Irish history and through music and videos, gives an often informative and reflective account of a specific point in time. On one of their more recent programmes, it showed clips of the great famine in Biafra back in the late 60s. Naturally some of the videos and scenes are still shocking to watch but the striking thing about the images shown, was the number of Irish missionaries and aid workers who made a conscious decision to stay with the people and help them in whatever way they could. Millions of people died of hunger but amidst the devastation, people were also helped. As I write this, aid workers are assisting the people of Gaza, with food and medicine. Medical aid is being delivered to hospitals in Ukraine to help in their struggle. The goodness of others amidst pain and struggle is what gives us hope. To leave everything behind and to love your neighbour is the greatest of treasures according to today's Gospel. It's the message he places before his followers today, encouraging us to become servants of God, sharing his love and compassion. ■

This journey with Mark's Gospel over the past number of weeks has brought us into contact with many of the worries of the disciples. They become deeply concerned with some of the predictions of Jesus, that he will be persecuted, die on a cross and be raised up.

It won't be until they see first-hand the events leading to Calvary, that they will truly understand what Jesus meant. But the other crucial preoccupation of the disciples in these chapters relates to power and vying for position amongst this diverse group of followers. James and John take centre stage today. They have witnessed the many signs of Jesus and have listened intently to his word. It stands to reason then that they want to be close to him. They want to hold the highest possible position by his side. One could say that their request is bold. After everything they have seen and heard, they must by now realise that Jesus has no concern with positions of power. His consistent request is that whoever wants to be great, must become a slave, a servant. Unlike the rulers of the Gentiles who rule it over everyone, Jesus himself is a servant to all people. ■

## SAY

"Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head."

(Saint Charles Borromeo)

## DO

It may be time for your parish to take on a project. Can you identify a particular area of need, at home or abroad, where you can make an impact?

## LEARN

"The Church is the visible plan of God's love for humanity because God desires that the whole human race may become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one temple of the Holy Spirit."

(Pope Paul VI, June 22, 1973)



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

To you I call; for you will surely heed me,  
O God;

turn your ear to me; hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**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,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 53:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.  
The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant  
with suffering.  
If he offers his life in atonement,  
he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life  
and through him what the Lord wishes will be  
done.  
His soul's anguish over  
he shall see the light and be content.  
By his sufferings shall my servant justify many,  
taking their faults on himself.  
The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 32 (33):4-5,18-20,22

Response:  
May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place  
all our hope in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful  
and all his works to be trusted.  
The Lord loves justice and right  
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,  
on those who hope in his love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.  
The Lord is our help and our shield.  
May your love be upon us, O Lord,  
as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 4:14-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.  
Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the  
supreme high priest who has gone through to  
the highest heaven, we must never let go of  
the faith that we have professed. For it is not  
as if we had a high priest who was incapable  
of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we  
have one who has been tempted in every way  
that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be  
confident, then, in approaching the throne of  
grace, that we shall have mercy from him and  
find grace when we are in need of help.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and  
the Life, says the Lord;  
no one can come to the Father except  
through me. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 10:35-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark. [Shorter form read between >< Mk 10:42-  
45]

James and John, the sons of Zebedee,  
approached Jesus. "Master," they said to him,  
"we want you to do us a favour." He said to  
them, "What is it you want me to do for you?"  
They said to him, "Allow us to sit one at your  
right hand and the other at your left in your  
glory." "You do not know what you are asking"  
Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup that  
I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism  
with which I must be baptised?" They replied,  
"We can." Jesus said to them, "The cup that I  
must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism  
with which I must be baptised you shall be  
baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or  
my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong  
to those to whom they have been allotted."

When the other ten heard this they began to  
feel indignant with James and John, so >Jesus  
called them to him and said to them, "You know  
that among the pagans their so-called rulers  
lord it over them, and their great men make their  
authority felt. This is not to happen among you.  
No; anyone who wants to become great among  
you must be your servant, and anyone who  
wants to be first among you must be slave to  
all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to  
be served but to serve, and to give his life as a  
ransom for many."<

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Grant us, Lord, we pray,  
a sincere respect for your gifts,  
that, through the purifying action of your grace,  
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we  
serve.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Behold, the eyes of the Lord  
are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly  
things,  
we may be helped by what you give in this  
present age  
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

It is the saying of holy men that, if we wish to  
be perfect, we have nothing more to do than  
to perform the ordinary duties of the day well.  
A short road to perfection-short, not because  
easy, but because pertinent and intelligible.  
There are no short ways to perfection, but there  
are sure ones.

Saint John Henry Newman