

Sunday Message


THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 3 November 2024 • Psalter Week 3

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

MARK 12: 28-34



אֲנֹכִי יי' לֹא תִרְצַח
לֹא יִהְיֶה לֹא תִנְאֹף
לֹא תִשָּׂא לֹא תִגְנוֹב
זָכוֹר אֶת לֹא תַעֲנֶה
כִּבְדֹת אֶת לֹא תִחְמַד

Tablets with the ten commandments on the wall near the grave of King David in the old city of Jerusalem, Israel

It is possible to read today's Gospel with a slight criticism in our minds. Which is the most important law or rule or commandment?

You might answer that it's going to Mass or reciting the Divine Mercy prayers or attending a weekly Novena to Our Lady. The Church of today tends to place these elements as it's priority and our expectation of Jesus is that he would say that worship in the Temple or keeping the sabbath day holy might be top of his list. But something interesting happens in this encounter that will go on to serve the Church well. Love of God and love of neighbour. These are the two most important commandments. Everything else will flow from this. ■

REFLECT

As a priest working in a parish, it's lovely to see the various components of parish life coming together week after week. To witness people working together in prayer groups or team ministry must be the greatest goal of the Church. To bring about God's kingdom here on earth or here in the community! A recent funeral of someone opened my eyes to some of the unseen charitable work people do in their lives. A lady whom I met in a nursing

home once a week for the past year died and I attended her funeral, which took place in a different parish. As I sat there on the sanctuary listening to the eulogy and homily, I came to learn very quickly that the lovely, quiet, gentle lady I had been saying hello to and attending Mass with was in fact a nurse with vast experience of working in Calcutta, India, and then after her long career, returned to Ireland to work voluntarily in a cancer hospice, where she

DO

Organise a meeting of your parish pastoral council and reflect on how your faith community responds to the needs of people on the margins of society.



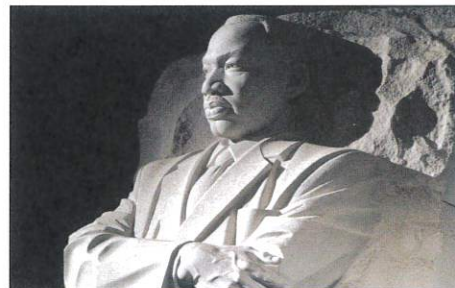
SAY

Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.

(St. Catherine of Sienna)

LEARN

"The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?' But the good Samaritan reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'" (Martin Luther King Jr.)



Martin Luther King Jr. Monument in Washington DC

cared for the sick and the dying. I always knew when I met her that she was a person of faith, a person filled with love for others. But it wasn't until her funeral Mass that I learnt of a life rich in beauty. The greatest commandment of loving God and loving our neighbour is the gateway to God's kingdom. For some people in our communities, they do so with great ease and with a gentle spirit. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

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 and merciful God,
by whose gift your faithful offer you
right and praiseworthy service,
grant, we pray,
that we may hasten without stumbling
to receive the things you have promised.
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 Deuteronomy 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.
Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord
your God all the days of your life and if you keep
all his laws and commandments which I lay on
you, you will have a long life, you and your son
and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and
observe what will make you prosper and give
you great increase, as the Lord God of your
fathers has promised you, giving you a land
where milk and honey flow.
"Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one
Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with
all your heart, with all your soul, with all your
strength. Let these words I urge on you today
be written on your heart."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 17 (18):2-4,47,51

Response:
I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. 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.)

2. 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.)

SECOND READING Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
There used to be a great number of priests
under the former covenant, because death put
an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ,
because he remains for ever, can never lose
his priesthood. It follows then, that his power to
save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever
to intercede for all who come to God through
him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to
be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond
the influence of sinners, and raised up above
the heavens; one who would not need to offer
sacrifices every day, as the other high priests
do for their own sins and then for those of the
people, because he has done this once and for
all by offering himself. The Law appoints high
priests who are men subject to weakness; but
the promise on oath, which came after the Law,
appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life;
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 12:28-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put
a question to him, "Which is the first of all the
commandments?" Jesus replied, "This is the
first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one
Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with
all your heart, with all your soul, with all your
mind and with all your strength. The second is
this: You must love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these."
The scribe said to him, "Well spoken, Master;
what you have said is true: that he is one and
there is no other. To love him with all your heart,
with all your understanding and strength, and to
love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more
important than any holocaust or sacrifice."
Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said,
"You are not far from the kingdom of God."
And after that no one dared to question him
anymore.

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

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord,
become for you a pure oblation,
and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of your power, O Lord,
increase in us, we pray,
so that, renewed by these heavenly
Sacraments,
we may be prepared by your gift
for receiving what they promise.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

I was brought up to believe I was lucky. Even
though we were poor, I was lucky to be a
Catholic; to be born in Liverpool – everybody
wanted to be born in Liverpool! If I complained
about my eyesight, my parents would say,
"You're lucky you're not blind." My upbringing
gave me a sense of confidence even if we didn't
have much.

Roger McGough