

# The Living Word

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

27 September 2020

## First Reading Ez 18:25-28

*The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.*

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.'

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) *Remember your mercies, O Lord.*

1. 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.)
2. 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.)
3. 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.)

## Second Reading Phil 2:1-11

or shorter form Phil 2:1-5

*In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,  
yet he did not cling

to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings  
in the heavens, on earth and in the  
underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of  
Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:27

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*My sheep listen to my voice,  
says the Lord;*

*I know them, and they follow me.*

*Alleluia!*

## Gospel Mt 21:28-32

*He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.*

Jesus said to the chief priests and the 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.'



## Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus tells a little story about two brothers. One said 'Yes', but never did anything. The other said 'No', but then had a change of heart and did what was required. Jesus loved the brother who came around. He was very hard on the one who said 'Yes' but did not 'walk the talk'.

That is why he loved those tax collectors who gathered the revenue for the Roman authorities, and the prostitutes who serviced the Roman occupying army, but who switched allegiance from the Empire of Caesar to the Kingdom of God. This signalled a profound change of heart.

We may have said 'No' to God at various times with various intensity in our lives. But God is wonderfully patient and prepared to hear 'No' many times in the hope of hearing 'Yes'. God's patience never runs out. But our time to say 'Yes' does run out. We only have a relatively short life span!

At the end of Mass, I will say 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.' As St Francis of Assisi put it, 'Preach the Gospel, and occasionally use words.' Walk the talk.

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**S**t Teresa of the child Jesus was born at Alençon, France in 1873. She entered the Carmelite convent of Lisieux at a young age and was recognised for her humility, simplicity and confidence in God. She died of tuberculosis in 1897, at the age only 24. Her autobiography, 'The Story of a Soul', was published after her death—she also left many letters, poems, religious plays and prayers. Teresa was canonised in 1925 and in 1997, Pope John Paul II declared her the thirty-third Doctor of the Church; the youngest person and only third woman to receive this title.



## Make Good Choices

Jesus asks us to make good choices. Circle the good choices and cross out the poor choices.

When my bedroom needs tidying, I should...



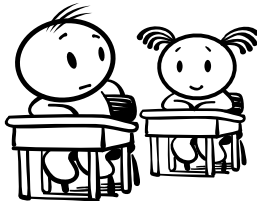
- ... go outside and play
- ... put some of my things away
- ... play with my computer
- ... sort out my rubbish

When I accidentally bump into someone, I should...



- ... tell them it was their fault
- ... say "I'm sorry"
- ... ask them if they are okay
- ... run away quickly

When someone new joins our class, I should...



- ... invite them to come and play
- ... look at them, but not talk to them
- ... ignore them completely
- ... welcome them to our class

## CROSSWORD



### Across

- 1: the man in Jesus' story had this many sons
- 4: to have done what you were told to do
- 5: accept the truth
- 7: a farm where grapes are grown
- 10: money that must be paid to a government or kingdom
- 11: the opposite of after

### Down

- 2: of a greater age
- 3: adult female humans
- 5: John the \_\_\_\_\_ told the chief priests and leaders how to do right
- 6: to perform tasks
- 8: of a lesser age
- 9: the \_\_\_\_\_ told his sons to work in the vineyard

