

28th Sunday Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon Ps 129:3-4

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But, with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

First Reading Wisdom 7:7-11

I prayed, and understanding was given me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones; compared with her, I held riches as nothing. I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer, for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside her silver ranks as mud. I loved her more than health or beauty, preferred her to the light, since her radiance never sleeps. In her company all good things came to me, at her hands riches not to be numbered.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 89:12-17. R. v.14

(R.) Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

1. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger forever? Show pity to your servants. (R.)
2. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Give us joy to balance our affliction for the years when we knew misfortune. (R.)
3. Show forth your work to your servants; let your glory shine on their children. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. (R.)

Second Reading Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God is something alive and active; it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 10:17-30

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal;

You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.’ And he said to him, ‘Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.’ Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, ‘There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’ But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!’ The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, ‘My children,’ he said to them, ‘how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were more astonished than ever. ‘In that case’ they said to one another, ‘who can be saved?’ Jesus gazed at them. ‘For men’ he said, ‘it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God.’

Communion Antiphon Ps 33:11

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

The Extraordinary Synod on the Family

Check out the latest news from there at:

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/tags/synod-on-the-family/>



28th Sunday Ordinary Time

Adapted from a Homily I prepared a few years back.

Wisdom is the ability to understand our lives in the way that God would have us understand them.

When I was a young newly ordained priest I received a call to the emergency ward of Lewisham Catholic Hospital (run by the Little Company of Mary - closed 19880) to anoint a man who suffered a heart attack.

I was told that it was not critical and to come when I could.

When I arrived the nurse was walking down the hall and said he's over there.

I entered the room I found a man in his late 50's sitting upright on an examination table.

When I greeted him he did not respond in fact he didn't seem to be breathing.

I quickly anointed him and then I found the nurse and begged her to check on him. She looked at me as if I was crazy and slowly walked into the room.

Suddenly people came running from all over the ER and through God's grace this man was given a second chance.

The next 2 weeks I had the privilege of visiting him everyday and all I did was listen.

He had 2 houses, apartments, a building company and a boat.

His children were demanding and hadn't turned out to be at all good.

The workers of his company always wanting more.

His wife was angry that he was never home.

He worried constantly about finding new work for his business.

I have 12 workers and their families to worry about.. that is a lot of mouths to feed.

He was filled with anger and hurt and didn't feel appreciated and so he held on very tightly to his possessions... he thought they would give him comfort.

The young man in the gospel was a good person.

The Lord looked on him with Love.

His desire for virtue was not just a fad he was going through.

He had tried to observe the God's law for years and was looking for the next step.

He did not come face to face with Jesus by chance but probably sought him out.

What do I need to do to inherit everlasting life he asked with a gleam in his eye? He was filled with hope and so sincere, yet like the man in the hospital he held on so very tightly to his possessions..

He was afraid to let go and when Jesus suggested he sell all he have and give to the poor he went away sad.

You see he trusted his riches, he trusted his possessions more than he trusted Jesus.

A couple of years later a gentleman came up to me later in a shopping mall.

Do you remember me Father I'm your ER Lewisham Hospital.

In our conversation I came to find out that he had already had a second heart attack.

"I'm trying to let go Father it is just so hard."

Both the young man in the Gospel and the man in the hospital lacked wisdom.

They just couldn't seem to evaluate their choices in the light of what God wanted from them and what they wanted from life.

They had just stopped discerning and in a very real way became possessed by their possessions.

Did the Man own the houses and the business and the boat or did they own him?

Did the rich young man in the Gospel own his possession or did they own him?

Life just doesn't happen

Holiness just doesn't happen

Happiness just doesn't happen

All of us need the wisdom of God to make good life choices.

All of us need the courage to follow it.

Those who are studying need the wisdom of God to know what they should be working for, what really is important.

Those who are still young need wisdom in choosing relationships, which bring out the best in them and enable them to experience the beauty of being in Love with someone.

Those who are parents need to examine themselves continually adapting and changing their plans as their family changes and adapts.

All of us need to continually evaluate our goals, dreams and yes even our possessions so that we can know what we need to hold onto and what we can let go of.

What is holding us back?

What keeps us from being happy?

What is keeping us from growing closer to our family and close to God?

Why haven't we made more progress spiritually?

As the book of wisdom says

"I prayed, I pleaded and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

And all good things together came to me in her company"

Lord grant us the gift of Wisdom as we journey home to you.

Emerald Hill Seniors Garden Project at Sts Peter and Paul's

A special thanks to Anne and Doris and their **little group of gardeners** who are giving so generous of their time working in the grounds and gardens around the Church ... they will soon be able to draw on the help of a team or workers who are locating themselves here at Sts Peter and Paul's for a few months as part of a Federal Government project run by Reclink Australia.



Reclink Australia is running a work readiness program for people seeking employment with a focus on necessary skills development contributing to each job seeker's future employability. The programs they run incorporate structure and routine to emulate a workplace. Activities are conducted in a team environment to further expand positive interpersonal interactions. The program is now operating on sites across Melbourne and Geelong.