

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 2



A LAVISH GENEROSITY

(MATTHEW 14:13-21)

In today's Gospel, Jesus sees that the people are hungry and he responds to their need.

He says a prayer of blessing and then gives the disciples food to share among the crowd. To their amazement, not only is there enough food for everyone but the leftovers fill twelve baskets. He doesn't let the people go hungry. He doesn't just give them food; he gives them more than enough to eat. There is a superabundance of food.

It is a foretaste of the eternal banquet in the kingdom of heaven, and a statement of how we too must live. ■

REFLECT

Today's Gospel speaks of love and generosity. It echoes the kind of lavish love that St Paul writes about in the second reading. Both challenge us in two ways.

First, as individuals. They remind us that to be a Christian means to be generous. We must share – not just our money, but also our time, our love, our very selves with all who are in need. There is no such thing as the private Christian.

Second, they challenge us as a community, a society. As Christians, it is not enough that we are charitable. We are also obliged to build a more just world. We cannot be indifferent to the poor, those who do not have enough to eat. Catholic social teaching is one of the Church's greatest secrets. Most people know where the Church stands on sexual morality. And many think that sex (and money) are all the Church talks about. But the Church has a whole body of wonderful teaching built up over time that speaks about care for the poor, teaching that speaks of solidarity and places the Church and its members firmly on the side of the voiceless and the oppressed. It was because of his fearless defence of the poor of El Salvador that Archbishop Oscar Romero was martyred while celebrating Mass. It was because of her support for the indigenous people of the Amazon that Sr Dorothy Stang was shot dead in 2005. Their fidelity to the Gospel placed them on the side of the poor, even to the extent of losing their lives. The great Brazilian Archbishop Hélder Câmara summed up the distinction between charity and justice in a famous phrase: "When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist."

To be a follower of Jesus is to work for justice. In fact, the Church teaches that action for justice is a constitutive part of living the Gospel. It is not enough for us to tell the poor, the abused, the unjustly treated, that we will pray for them or give money to charity to support them. We must also do whatever we can to address inequality and injustice. There is plenty of food to go around if we are prepared to share. ■

SAY

"Lord, help me to be the kind of person you want me to be. Amen."

DO

In today's second reading St Paul makes a wonderful profession of faith. He says there is nothing that can separate him from God's love made visible in Christ: not persecution, hunger, nakedness, danger or even death. No matter what he does or doesn't do, God loves him. He is absolutely certain of God's love. Can you say the same thing? Make his profession of faith your profession of faith.

PRAY

Everything about the Eucharist speaks of solidarity and community. We share the one meal, we call each other sisters and brothers. We offer each other the sign of peace, the sign of unity and togetherness. Pray for a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist.

LEARN

Jesus is the bread of life.

The Christian has a passion for justice.

The Christian is always aware of the needs of others.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

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

Draw near to your servants, O Lord,
and answer their prayers with unceasing
kindness,
that, for those who glory in you as their
Creator and guide,
you may restore what you have created
and keep safe what you have restored.
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 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are
thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good
things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting
covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 144

Response:

You open wide your hand, O Lord,
you grant our desires.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 8:35-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

Nothing can come between us and the love of
Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or
being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes,
or being threatened or even attacked. These
are the trials through which we triumph, by
the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor
life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists,
nothing still to come, not any power, or
height or depth, nor any created thing, can
ever come between us and the love of God
made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest
heavens!
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

When Jesus received the news of John
the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat
to a lonely place where they could be by
themselves. But the people heard of this and,
leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So
as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd;
and he took pity on them and healed their
sick.

When evening came, the disciples went
to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and
the time has slipped by; so send the people
away, and they can go to the villages to
buy themselves some food." Jesus replied,
"There is no need for them to go: give them
something to eat yourselves." But they
answered, "All we have with us is five loaves
and two fish." "Bring them here to me," he
said. He gave orders that the people were to
sit down on the grass; then he took the five
loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to
heaven and said the blessing. And breaking
the loaves he handed them to his disciples
who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as
much as they wanted, and they collected the
scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those
who ate numbered about five thousand men,
to say nothing of women and children.

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

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord,
we pray,
and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual
sacrifice,
make of us an eternal offering to you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have given us, O Lord, bread from
heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in
every taste.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord,
those you renew with these heavenly gifts
and, in your never-failing care for them,
make them worthy of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

"The friend who can be silent with us in
a moment of despair or confusion, who
can stay with us in an hour of grief and
bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing,
not healing, not curing: that is a friend who
cares."

Henri Nouwen

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon

1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

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We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558



Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE: The parish office is will be closed for annual leave until 3rd August. It reopens on Tuesday 4th August. Fr Jamie will still be available.

PRIVATE PRAYER

- The church will be open for **private prayer only**, between **12.00pm and 1.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays**.

MASS BOOKINGS

Please remember that **bookings for the whole week beginning Sunday 9th August** should be made on **Monday 3rd August**. Do **please try and give us several options for days/times** when you could come and let us know **how many people you are booking for**. We will do our best to accommodate your request. If you would like to attend more than one Mass in the week, please make this clear when you book.

- Those people **without** Internet access can phone **07395 946827** between 10am and 11am **each Monday** to give the day of the week when they are able to attend Mass. **There is no recorded answering message system**. Please do not use the office phone number or phone outside of this time period.
- Those **with** Internet access are asked **not** to use the phone booking system, but instead to email us at: **contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk** giving us 2 to 3 possible days of the week when you can attend Mass. Please do this **each Monday**. You will then receive a reply with the day allocated to you.
- In all cases, you are asked to state the number in your family who will be attending Mass. This is essential for our planning and to maintain safety distances.
- Be aware that singing is not yet permitted under the guidelines. Also, there will be no collection basket passed around, but you may leave donations as you leave the Church.
- Please note that there are currently only **two** Sunday Masses – one at **10.15am** and the other at **6.30pm**.

Thank you all very much for your patience and help.

18th week of Ordinary Time

In Church for those who booked, and also live streamed

Sunday 2 August

10.15am Mass (Jack McCoull, RIP)
1.00pm Polish Mass
6.30pm Mass (In thanksgiving - AF)

Monday 3 August (St Ethelwold)

9am Mass (John Sogelar, RIP)

Tuesday 4 August (St John Vianney)

NO Mass See: www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other masses

Wednesday 5 August

7pm Mass (Dianne Mullin, special intention)

Thursday 6 August (TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD)

9.30am Mass (Michael Carden, RIP)

Friday 7 August (St Ignatius of Loyola)

7pm Mass (Anne Goodwill, RIP)

Saturday 8 August (St Dominic)

9am Mass (Anne & Willy Moffat, 50th wedding)

THE MONTH OF AUGUST is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS

No Internet Access?

Phone **07395 946827** **EACH MONDAY** between 10am and 11am **ONLY** to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

Have Internet Access?

DON'T phone. Instead, email: **contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk** **EACH MONDAY**, to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

NEW DAWN:

Every summer for the last 34 years the New Dawn Catholic Pilgrimage/Conference has taken place in Walsingham. This year the Conference will be virtual, with talks, Masses, prayers, events etc. being streamed on *YouTube* live from the Catholic Shrine at Walsingham. Details of this are available on the 'News' page on our website.

FAITH IN PRACTICE

Lockdown deprived us of that greatest of gifts – to worship Christ in His real presence in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and to receive Him sacramentally during Mass. We are blessed in our parish to be able to do this once again. The Eucharist sustains and strengthens us! If you are able to, *don't deny yourself any longer* – you are encouraged to come along for quiet and private prayer on Tuesdays and/or Fridays between 12pm and 1pm or, even **better**, *come along to a Mass during the week* (using our booking system).

LAUDATO SI':

On the 5th anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si'* - in May this year - Pope Francis announced the beginning of a *Laudato Si'* Year. He encouraged everyone to actively participate in the *Season of Creation* which runs from 1st September to 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. More information is available on the 'News' page of our website.

NEWSLETTER:

Please note that, for now, we are unable to provide the newsletter in church. If you would like a copy for the readings and prayers, please print your own copy from the *News* page of our website (if you have the Internet) or for those without Internet access, bring the copy delivered to you on Saturdays. We are also unable to accept any books, pamphlets, etc. at this point in time, so please don't bring any of these with you.

GIVING: The parish still needs your donations. You can make these on our website. This will enable those who normally use the weekly gift aid white envelope system or loose plate donations to continue to support the Parish. Your continued support for the Parish is greatly appreciated. You can also place donations in the basket as you leave church.

CAKE AND CONVERSATION GROUP:

We have been meeting on Zoom but our last session before the summer break was on Wednesday 29th July. We will start again on 9th Sept. For further information contact Anne on 525997 or Angela on 07866195998.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER DURING MASS:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Parish Events for the Week

NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Future Diary Dates

No events at the moment.

Youth Events

YOUTH GROUPS

The Saturday youth groups will stop meeting for now. We will let you know when they resume through our parish newsletter.

PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR DIOCESE:

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we beg you to change us, to convert us and to make us holy. Fill us with a deeper faith, hope and love for you. Send into our hearts the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit and powerfully renew all the clergy, religious and laity of our Diocese. Unite us in love and respect for one another and unify us as your one, holy people. Grant us a new passion and zeal for our Catholic Faith, for mission, outreach and service. Help us to proclaim your Gospel generously to the poor and needy that many more souls may be saved by finding their way to you in your Church.

May Mary Immaculate help us. May St Edmund of Abingdon and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati pray for us. Amen.

Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do though, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen

FAITH ENRICHMENT: There are a number of events and programmes on offer – necessarily online at this point in time. It is impossible to include them all here, but if you are able to visit the *News* page on our website, then you can find out more and have access to the details.

BIBLE ALIVE

The **August** issue is now available. If you would like a copy delivered, please email: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk giving your name and postal address and we will get a copy to you. If you don't have email, leave a message on the office phone number.

PRAYING THE ROSARY

We continue to pray the Rosary together online using Zoom. If you would like to join us on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8pm in August, please email us on: contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk so that we can send you the new link.