

## Theme of the Week - God has united

The theme of this week is *'God has United'* and in the readings from Sunday they focus on the commitment of God to our human partnership and the health for all of creation. In the 1<sup>st</sup> reading from *Genesis*, it is impressed upon us that God created woman and man in a relationship with one another and not one being greater or better than the other. We are locked in partnership as co-inhabitants of God's creation. This co-habitation is a permanent relationship and interrelationship that each of us has to work at if it is going to be productive and flourish. In the *Gospel*, Jesus speaks similarly about commitment to one another and to all people, a commitment to the common humanity that binds us all together. This relationship needs commitment by all of us to make it work. The kind of commitment that Jesus had for the people of his time.

Can you list all the qualities that you think are components of a strong relationship? When you look at those words, I'm sure they all illustrate respect. And God illustrates the blessed nature of humanity by emphasizing the importance of cooperative endeavour, and respect being a huge part of this. When the *Gospel* was written, many women, if divorced, would have been left homeless, destitute and with no money. Jesus in his teaching was protecting women of his time from men who used divorce for their own benefit. Jesus illustrates to the disciples and to us the need to protect those who may end up with nothing; equality of women and man is stressed upon us because we are united by God.

We are made in the image and likeness of God. Pope Francis beautifully said *"Giving more importance to the adjective rather than the noun, this is not good. We are all human beings and have dignity. It does not matter who you are or how you live your life, you do not lose your dignity."* And it is this that we must ask ourselves, how do we show human dignity to another? Our common humanity requires that we respect and uphold the dignity of each and every individual. Everything else flows from this dignity. How do we reflect this divine care for creation and our common humanity in the everyday moments of our lives? This term, we are focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of the Common Good but how can we show the Common Good in showing dignity to one another as well as the Common Good of looking after God's creation? How can you be more **Eloquent** and **Truthful** in what we say to ourselves, others and the relationships we have showing commitment and being truly united in God?

# God has united

Weekly Reflections  
6<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary



## From the Gospel of Mark (10:2-16)

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

## Prayer for the Week

Almighty Father,

Through your commitment shown to us through your creation, your Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit, let us commit and serve one another and the world to demonstrate how we are united by your everlasting love.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen.

### Day 1

In the Gospel from Sunday, Jesus focuses on commitment from us all to unite us as God's people. How does Jesus show his commitment to us? How do you show commitment to Jesus? How do you show commitment to one another?

### Day 2

What do you think is needed for a strong relationship?  
How does this show respect?  
Why does Jesus illustrate the importance of protecting all in society?

### Day 3

What does the word dignity mean?  
Why does Pope Francis stress the importance of showing dignity to one another?  
How can we show dignity to one another, to creation and the Common Good to be more eloquent and truthful?

## Catholic Social Teaching - The Common Good Catholic Social Teaching - Common Good

Our actions have an impact on everyone. When we make decisions, we should consider the good of all.

The common good is about respecting the rights and responsibilities of all people and leaving no one behind.

*"Beside the good of the individual, there is a good that is linked to living in society: the common good. It is the good of 'all of us'...To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity."*

Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate, 7

We work to build a world where everyone, including the earth, can flourish. Ultimately, no one can truly flourish if another person is hungry, lost or abandoned, nor can humankind flourish while our common home is degraded and exploited for the good of the few.

