

Theme of the Week - Give everything

From the Gospel on Sunday, we learn of a man who seeks eternal life and has acted in accordance with the laws to achieve this. However, for him, following the laws is not that difficult to do. After speaking to Jesus, giving up all his wealth (the challenge set by him from Jesus) leaves him distraught and sad. This task is too much of a challenge for him and something he made not be prepared to do in order to achieve eternal life. Jesus goes on to teach us to not be short term thinkers, we can all get consumed with the here and now and do things that will bring us a short term happiness but is this true happiness? Is this the true happiness eternal glory gives us? Jesus, in the Gospel, teaches us what we must do to achieve this.

The Gospel on Sunday focuses on the choice between God and riches. It is not only riches in a material sense that we are called upon to put to one side, but also things such as our time and patience or attachment to anything that might distract us from God's call to us; For God asks us, where do our heart truly resides? Fr Pius once came to celebrate whole school Mass here at St Joseph's and he said there is nothing wrong in trying to earn money. We need it! It is when this takes up all our time, thoughts and desires, this then is not right. We need to be aware of trying to fulfil desires and feed appetites that can never be truly satisfied in this world. Attachment to our possessions can lead to us being owned and dictated by them. Jesus demands an inner independence. So that by being independent of what we have, we can allow ourselves to be wholly dependent on God. We are called to be conspicuous, to be recognisable by our relationship with God, each other and our neighbour.

How hard it is to be conspicuous followers of Christ? Sometimes it is easier to focus on the exterior things, the accepted things with must do as Catholic or Christians; the weekly routine of going to Mass, praying during the school day or at home etc. These are important and is something we should all aim to do. But for us, these are the comfortable conventions we can do. This is not conspicuous enough for Christ. These conventions do not speak of active burning concern for the welfare of others or highlight how our lives are dedicated to the service of good. How can we encourage ourselves to turn our attention from material possessions to the things of the heart? During the course of this half term, we have focused on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of the 'Common Good'. And I would really like you to think, when have you shown this? Not when have you been asked to do or when have you done to gain something in return? When have you be conspicuous in helping the less able, the needy, the hungry, the poor, the less well off because that is what Christ asks of us? If in private thought you can say to yourself, yes I have achieved this, well done and thank you! However, if you can't, when can you? How can you be more **intentional** and **prophetic** in mind, thought and effort to truly show the presence of Christ within you?

Give everything

Weekly Reflections
13th October 2024
28th Sunday of Ordinary time



From the Gospel of 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.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land - not without persecutions - now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

Prayer for the Week

Loving God,

We thank you for all, who in different ways, strive to fulfil your great commission. Allow us to support those in need, to give opportunities and hope to others and to bring the light of Christ to those in darkness.

Amen

Day 1

What did Jesus ask the man to give up?
Why do you think this made the man sad?
What does Jesus want us to do to achieve true happiness?

Day 2

Why do you think people become consumed by material goods such as money and wealth?
Why is it wrong to let the things above dictate all we do?

Day 3

How have you followed Christ this term?
How can you be more **intentional** and **prophetic** to be true followers of Christ and achieve true happiness?

Catholic Social Teaching - The 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.

How this half term can you promote the Common Good in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?

