

First Reading Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

A Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

The Lord say this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and heathy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 22:1-3, 5-6

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

A Reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men died in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject to his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reflection

The kingdom of Jesus Christ is totally at odds with any display of power in this world. Some people like to dominate others, to abuse their power, and to manipulate others. But that has no place in the kingdom of Christ. Humility and service are important values in His Kingdom. Millions of people have died for their kings, but Christ died for His subjects. He condemns no one, but accepts anyone willing to join his Kingdom. Jesus brought us out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9) and He is our Shepherd who continues to heal everyone of the wounds of sin. Something very exceptional about the kingship of Christ is that while other kingdoms come and go, only the kingdom of Christ lasts forever. We belong to this everlasting kingdom; we ought to embrace the kingdom values which are humility and service. Children of His Kingdom will be assessed by how they have been of service to one another.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS – FOURTH WORLD DAY OF THE POOR "Stretch forth your hand to the poor" (Sir 7:32)

"Stretch forth your hand to the poor" (Sir 7:32) Age-old wisdom has proposed these words as a sacred rule to be followed in life. Today these words remain as timely as ever. They help us fix our gaze on what is essential and overcome the barriers of indifference. Poverty always appears in a variety of guises, and calls for attention to each particular situation. In all of these, we have an opportunity to encounter the Lord Jesus, who has revealed himself in the least of his brothers and sisters. (cf. *Mt 25:40*)

1. Let us take up the Old Testament book of Sirach, in which we find the words of a sage some two hundred years before Christ. He sought out the wisdom that makes men and women better and more capable of insight into the affairs of life. He did this at a time of severe testing for the people of Israel, a time of suffering, grief and poverty due to the domination of the foreign powers. As a man of great faith, rooted in the traditions of his forebears, his first thought was to turn to God and to beg from him the gift of wisdom. The Lord did not refuse his help. From the book's first pages, its author presents his advice concerning many concrete situations in life, one of which is poverty. He insists that even amid hardship we must continue to trust in God: "Do not be alarmed when disaster comes. Cling to him and do not leave him, so that you may be honoured at the end of your days. Whatever happens to you, accept it, and in the uncertainties of your humble state, be patient, since gold is tested in the fire, and chosen men in the furnace of humiliation. Trust him and he will uphold you, follow a straight path and hope in him. You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; do not turn aside in case you fall" (2:2-7)

Solemnity of Christ The Universal King 22/11/2020

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>9.00am</u>	<u>Brian Nuttall RIP</u>
<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>8.00am</u>	<u>Michael Pennington RIP</u>
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>8.00am</u>	<u>Jean Millington RIP</u>
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>8.00am</u>	<u>Brian Nuttall RIP</u>
<u>Friday</u>	<u>8.00am</u>	<u>Holy Souls</u>

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR B

SUNDAY	9.00AM	FRANCIS PECOWSKI 90TH BIRTHDAY
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MASS ONLINE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Hospital. In the meantime, Priests will only go into the hospital in response to a request from the Hospital switchboard or ward staff. Anyone in the hospital that requires a visit from a priest should please go through the nurse or switchboard. This will be in emergency only. There will be no Holy Communion rounds until further notice.

Thank you to all parishioners for your generous offertory donations. Thank you

PRIVATE PRAYERS

St Theresa's Church Saturdays 12.00 – 1.00 pm
St Mary Magdalene Church Saturdays 12.00 noon – 1.00pm
Blessed Sacrament Sundays 11.00- 12.00 noon

All Masses for the foreseeable future will be Private

St Teresa's
The Presbytery, 1 Bloomfield Rise, Darton S75 5AB

Blessed Sacrament
Matlock Road Athersley S71 3SG

St Mary Magdalene's
Prospect St. Cudworth S72 8JS

Priests: Fr. Peter Iwuoha CM
Fr Jude Lemeh CM

The Presbytery, Prospect Street, Cudworth S72 8JS

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Pope Francis message cont.

2. In page after page, we discover a precious compendium of advice on how to act in the light of a close relationship with God, creator and lover of creation, just and provident towards all his children. This constant reference to God, does not detract from a concrete consideration of mankind. On the contrary, the two are closely connected.

This is clearly demonstrated by the passage from which the theme of this year's Message is taken. (cf. 7:29-36) Prayer to God and solidarity with the poor and suffering are inseparable. In order to perform an act of worship acceptable to the Lord, we have to recognise that each person, even the poorest and most contemptible, is made in the image of God. From this awareness comes the gift of God's blessing, drawn by the generosity we show to the poor. Time devoted to prayer can never become an alibi for neglecting our neighbour in need. In fact the very opposite is true: the Lord's blessing descends upon us and prayer attains its goal when accompanied by service to the poor.

3. How timely too, for ourselves, is the ancient teaching! Indeed, the word of God transcends space and time, religions and cultures. Generosity that supports the weak, consoles the afflicted, relieves suffering and restores dignity to those stripped of it, is a condition for a fully human life. The decision to care for the poor, for their many different needs, cannot be conditioned by the time available or by private interests, or by impersonal pastoral or social projects. The power of God's grace cannot be restrained by the selfish tendency to put ourselves always first.

Keeping our gaze fixed on the poor is difficult, but more necessary than ever if we are to give proper direction to our personal life and the life of society. It is not a matter of fine words but of a concrete commitment inspired by divine charity. Each year, on the World Day of the Poor, I reiterate this basic truth in the life of the Church, for the poor are and always will be with us to help us welcome Christ's presence into our daily lives. (cf. Jn 12:8)

Cont. next week