

Saturday 9 October 2021 – Saint John Henry Newman, Priest – Feast

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 13: 47-52

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’ When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection:

Sometimes we can think that the Kingdom of heaven is the fruit of our actions or the reward of all we do. With all the parables we can conclude that the Kingdom of heaven is the action of God and His free gift to us. Saint John Henry Newman, is one of the people who knew that the Kingdom of God is the treasure which renews our life, throwing out what is old and evil and keeping guard of what is good. He let God act in his life and bore the testimony of life.

Sunday 10 October 2021 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 10: 17-30

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, 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 shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." ' He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age-houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions-and in the age to come eternal life.

The Gospel of The Lord

Reflection:

There is a difference between values and the love of God. Values are important in every culture, and values differ from one culture to another. The Incarnation, the Eternal life is beyond value.

The man who ran to Jesus was able to follow some values but unable to reach what is beyond value Eternal life. He has so many things of value, but lacks the one thing he needs; the space where God can dwell, and thus “He went away grieving”. Jesus is not against the rich or people who possess wealth, but he is against all kinds of possessions which take the place of God in human life. It is when we leave “these false Gods” behind that we receive a hundredfold in life. The choice is always ours.

Monday 11 October 2021 – Feria

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 11: 29-32

When the crowds were increasing, Jesus began to say, "This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.

For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this generation. The queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here!

The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!"

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection:

In our life the worst experience that we can live is indifference. Pope Francis says; “the culture of indifference”; “the virus of indifference” or “indifference kills”. If anyone is indifferent about the love of God, they will be indifferent to others and to all of creation.

This is why Jesus condemns this kind of indifference. The indifference which avoids reality and instead looks for signs and wonders his from God. We can ask God in our prayer to give us the strength to see his presence in the smallest person and situations of our lives. The poor and humble people will always be welcomed in the kingdom of God!

Tuesday 12 October 2021 – Feria

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 11: 37-41

While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to dine with him; so he went in and took his place at the table. The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not first wash before dinner. Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? So give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you."

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection:

Everyone has an interior life and an external life. Today, with the media dictatorship, we can develop a kind of adoration of the body and forget that this body is the dwelling and temple of the Holy Spirit.

We can ignore our interior life. If we act like this, then we are not so different to the pharisee who condemned Jesus because he doesn't wash before dinner. But Jesus teaches us that the external wellness is linked to our internal wellbeing. If our interior being is full of badness, we can expect nothing from our external life. Live life to the full!

Wednesday 13 October 2021 – Feria

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 11: 42-46

'But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practised, without neglecting the others. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love to have the seat of honour in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the market-places. Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without realizing it!

'One of the lawyers answered him, 'Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us too.' And he said, 'Woe also to you lawyers! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not lift a finger to ease them.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection:

Reading the Gospel of today it's important to note that Jesus loves the Pharisees. He said that he has not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." Lk 5, 32. And the pharisees, like you and me are people who are sinners. One can ask; if he loves them, why would he tell them: "you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without realizing it"!

Jesus uses strong words in order for them to understand, because they are sick and need a doctor, but they think falsely that they are healthy. They are weak, and they don't recognize their own fragility, and this is the best definition of hypocrisy.

Thursday 14 October 2021 – Feria

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 11: 47-54

Jesus said: "Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your ancestors killed. So you are witnesses and approve of the deeds of your ancestors; for they killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' so that this generation may be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary.

Yes, I tell you, it will be charged against this generation. Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering." When he went outside, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile toward him and to cross-examine him about many things, lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection:

You have often heard it said, that wise person is the first to say the way for a person to recover from sickness is to recognise that they are ill. If someone doesn't recognize their illness it will be difficult for the doctor to help them, and their illness put them in danger of dying. The way of hypocrisy is what leads the pharisees to death. The death of others and themselves.

Jesus uses all that is possible to help them get out of their hypocrisy, so that they know the truth and to be converted. Let us pray for our own hypocrisy?

**Friday 15 October 2021 – Saint Teresa of Avila, Virgin and Doctor
(Memorial)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15: 1-8

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection:

Wine is a drink of sharing in the moment of joy and pain. Wine is symbol of feast and reunion with family and friends. We know to bear the fruit of the vine we need to be careful. We must have a good soil, good weather and caring hands for every moment of the growing of the vine.

The first thing that we can underline is that God takes this image of the vineyard. It is relevant, God lives with us, he takes care of us and brings us to life.

The second thing is that Saint Teresa of Avila, one of the greatest Ladies in the Catholic Church tried in her strength and weakness to imitate Jesus taking care of her community helping all religious to construct their interior life.