



29th Sunday Ordinary Time

22nd October 2023



In this Sunday's Gospel, the Pharisees attempt to 'trap Jesus in what he said'. The issue is that of the rightness of paying taxes. Was it right to pay taxes to Power of Rome? Jesus throws the question back to the questioners. He knows that the intention is to catch him out and does not engage in any debate.

Jesus' response is: 'Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God.' As Christians, we cannot cut ourselves off from the affairs of the world but we should never compromise our beliefs and values. Our decisions and our loyalties must be decided by what furthers the 'common good'.

In the second reading, St Paul assures the Thessalonian community that he remembers them in his prayers. The unity of the church, made up of local communities, is built up above all through prayer. Paul goes on to praise the people of this community for their active faith, their works of love and their perseverance in hope. The impact of the good news on them has been dramatic. The Holy Spirit has transformed their lives. They are clearly not cutting themselves off from the real world but are working towards the 'common good.'

In our current circumstances, it is important that we take a moment to digest both of these readings and consider whether our actions and prayers are reflecting these teachings and if they're not quite, then what can we do to make it so.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



Bible Basics The New Testament continues with the last of St Paul's letters and a letter to the Hebrews whose author has been lost to the mists of time but which follows St Paul's ideas.

1 TIMOTHY and 2 TIMOTHY St. Paul instructs Timothy in the duty of a pastor and encourages him in the work of the ministry.

TITUS St. Paul encourages Titus in the performance of his ministerial duties.

PHILEMON An appeal to a converted master to receive a converted escaped slave with kindness.

HEBREWS Maintaining that Christ is the substance of the ceremonial law.



God of goodness and mercy,

Support us and guide us in these uncertain times. Look after our loved ones and all members of society who are finding times difficult and upsetting.

Let us work together with support, friendship and love. Amen.

"Actions speak louder than words. Let your words teach and your actions speak."

Saint Anthony of Padua



In addition, this week let us pray for

- ◆ All those who are hungry;
- ◆ all those around the world whose lives are being affected by war;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.

We constantly remember your faith, your love and your hope.

1 Thessalonians 1