

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time  
22nd September 2024



The Lord upholds my life.

Psalm 53

The account of the disciples arguing, which we find in this Sunday's Gospel, is almost comical. The disciples of Jesus, many of them young, start arguing about who is the best. It calls to mind the bravado of a group of young adults exchanging accomplishments. However, the context is far more tragic. Jesus shares with his disciples that he is going to die. Can you imagine the pain that Christ must have felt sharing that? The anxiety? Jesus opens up to the disciples about where this journey leads.

Their response is to argue about which one of them is the greatest. They are too wrapped up in their accomplishments and world to see the person that is certainly the greatest in front of them. In fact, without that person, the disciples wouldn't have any share in glory whatsoever.

We can just as easily get wrapped up in the "greatest" mentality. Our world glorifies the athlete, the musician, the television star. We have entire award shows dedicated to recognizing the "great ones." It is a very human desire to want to be recognized for our accomplishments and applauded. We want to be great.

True glory cannot exist outside of the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is what the disciples miss. Jesus is talking about his death, which is ultimately the gateway to glory. Instead, the disciples focus on something worldly – who is the best right now.

Don't be mistaken; sharing glory stories is important so long as it doesn't turn into gloating and showboating. We can look up to those whose achievements are inspiring from the children who receive Headteacher's Awards to the likes of Emma Raducanu and Dame Sarah Storey.

Yet, we must remember to focus on one key question. Who is the greatest? The one who conquered the grave and paved the way for the rest of us. Today, give him the glory.

#### **A Prayer from Saint Pio of Pietrelcina whose feast day is this Monday (23rd)**

Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You.

Stay with me Lord, because I am weak, and I need Your strength, so that I may not fall so often.

Stay with me Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervour.

Stay with me Lord, for You are my light, and without you, I am in darkness.

Stay with me Lord, to show me Your will.

Stay with me Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

#### **This week let us pray for:**

- ◆ World leaders, that they make decisions which are right and just for all;
- ◆ those affected by the recent earthquakes, storms and uprisings across the world;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



**“Pray, hope and don't worry.”**

**Saint Pio of Pietrelcina**