

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time
13th October 2024



*Go and sell everything you own and
follow me.*

Mark 10

The Gospel story, which we hear on Sunday, regarding the rich man and Jesus is still particularly relevant two thousand years after it was first written down. Its anti-materialistic message contrasts quite starkly with the consumer-driven society we live in today. Jesus explains that following the Ten Commandments is not enough to truly be one with God and enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Rather, only by giving up our material possessions will the holy gates be opened for us. This request can seem impossible to achieve, but as with many of Jesus' teachings, it challenges us to look deep inside ourselves and uncover what is most important in our lives.

Jesus implies that the rich and poor are distinguished by what they choose to value. A rich man may never fully appreciate the value of his purchases, as his abundance of wealth allows him to take his comfortable life for granted. Meanwhile, a poor man owns next to nothing but places a far greater worth on every item he has. Without the distracting abundance of physical objects, he can prioritise his relationship with God above all else and turn his attention to taking care of his loved ones.

This Gospel teaches us that by separating ourselves from our physical belongings, we are freed of the notion that material objects will make us happy, and in doing so, we open ourselves to God and remember to care for those most in need of our love - a message that has been made ever clearer in recent times.

Jesus' message is not just about stifling our obsession with buying more things; it also indicates a shift in how we should assign value to what we already have.

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.



This week let us pray for:

- ◆ all those countries at war, that they may have peace;
- ◆ all those with mental health needs, that they may gain the support they need;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.



**“Prayer is the raising of the mind to God.
We must always remember this.
The actual words matter less.”**

— Pope John XXIII —

Feast Day 11th October