

The Living Word

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

13 July 2025

First Reading Dt 30:10-14

Let the instruction of the Lord God be near you.

Moses said to the people: 'Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.

'For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, "Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, "Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" No, the Word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 68:14. 17. 30-31. 33-34. 36-37. R. see v.33

(R.) Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

1. This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)
2. As for me in my poverty and pain
let your help, O God, lift me up.
I will praise God's name with a song;
I will glorify him with thanksgiving. (R.)
3. The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their
chains. (R.)
4. For God will bring help to Zion
and rebuild the cities of Judah.
The sons of his servants shall inherit it;
those who love his name shall dwell there. (R.)

or Ps 18:8-11. R. v.9

Second Reading Col 1:15-20

All things were created through him and for him.

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers – all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity.

Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 6:63. 68

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 10:25-37

Who is my neighbour?

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus, 'do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him,' he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go and do the same yourself.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The lawyer asked a self-serving question: 'Who is my neighbour?' He could then set the limits, the boundaries of those close enough to merit his concern. Jesus replies with a story to show that the better question is: 'To whom should I be neighbourly?'

The answer is: To any person who is wounded in any way – physically, psychologically, socially, economically. And we have to do so overcoming the labelling, even bigotry, which can conveniently put a person outside the range of our concern. When we act like the Samaritan, we deserve the title 'Catholic' which means universal.

Pope Francis said that Christ is constantly inviting us, as he invited Thomas, to touch His wounds which are to be found in the wounded of our own time.

We could pause for a moment to thank God that we live in an age of technology which can enable us to be truly Catholic global citizens practising Mercy Without Borders. 'Do this and you will live.'

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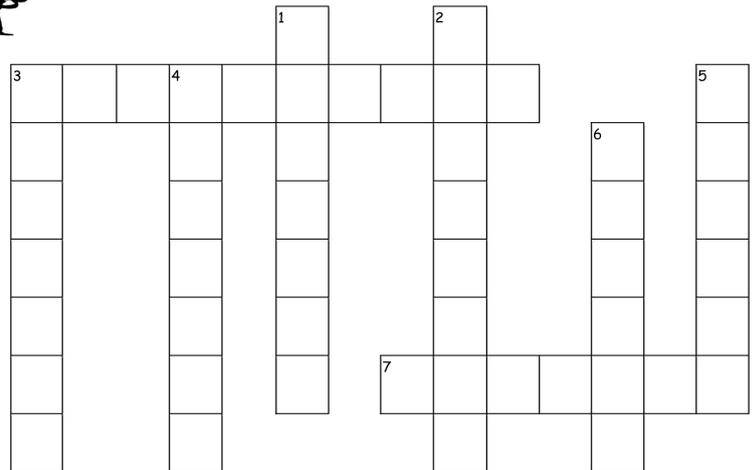
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St Bonaventure joined the order of Franciscans in 1243, and was soon recognised for his intellectual talents. He was sent to study in Paris where he taught and preached for many years. He was a contemporary of St Thomas Aquinas, with whom he defended the mendicant friars against their opponents. In 1257, Bonaventure was elected as the head of the Franciscans, and has since been considered the greatest friar minor since St Francis of Assisi himself. He wrote important works on theology, philosophy and mysticism, and was declared a doctor of the church in 1588. He was also regarded for his compassionate and gentle nature and for his accessibility to those who sought him.



Crossword



Down

- 1: for ever
- 2: the people in our neighbourhood
- 3: a Samaritan comes from this country
- 4: someone who manages an inn
- 5: injuries
- 6: defeated, bashed up
- 9: the good Samaritan put the injured man on this animal

Across

- 3: sacred texts
- 7: bad people who steal things
- 8: a route for travelling
- 10: a type of money
- 11: feeling sorry for someone

Help the good Samaritan find the injured man and take him to the inn at Jericho.

