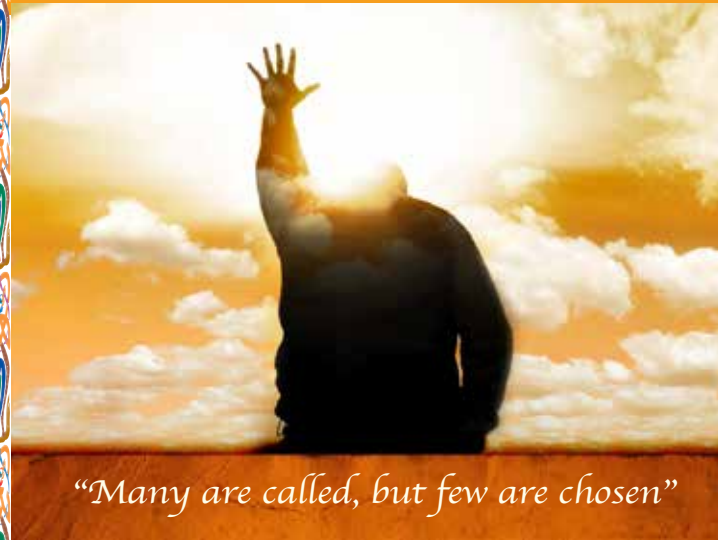


focus on sunday

God is generous to his people; his is the gift of life and love, of reconciliation and of justice. He expects us to be generous in return so that others may know his generosity.



“Many are called, but few are chosen”



The gospel today depicts a lot of violence and downplaying of the value of life. The landowner like God is looking for the produce from his people and they want to keep it for themselves and so murder anyone coming for it, including the son, a hint here of what would happen Jesus.

Many lessons come out of this parable and for this Day for Life we can let it remind us of the value of life. All human life from natural beginning to end is sacred, the most precious gift of God. We know this deep down as we care for our own health and the health of our families. We know the value of life when we find carelessness in treatment of our sick, especially the elderly. We know this care for life in our care for the unborn. Our Day for Life reminds us of the value of every human life, created by God.

Today we recall the violence in our cities which has resulted in the brutal killing of many men and women, often in family situations. We try to support as best we can people, who in many ways support life, often in dangerous situations, like the Gardaí, social workers and our military in UN missions. As we think of the son being killed in the parable today we think of Jesus the Son of God killed in our name, and allow the life of the risen Lord keep us strong in our love for life and the valuing of all life.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger



We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.
The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.22
R. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. [R]
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. [R]
3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. [R]
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. [R]

SECOND READING Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 22: 1-14 (*shorter form 22:1-10)
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was*

furios. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'*

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

AFTER THE CONSECRATION
The mystery of faith.
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

PENITENTIAL RITE
You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
May almighty God have mercy on us.....Amen.

THE GLORIA
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father you take away the sins of the world:

have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER
May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ,.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 25: 6 - 10
A reading from the prophet of Isaiah.

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

