

21 AUGUST 2022

Sunday Message

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: White • Psalter Week 3

WHO WILL BE SAVED?

(LUKE 13:22-30)



Sunrise over the Sea of Galilee, viewed from Mount Arbel, Northern Israel

Luke reminds us at the beginning of our Gospel extract today that Jesus is on his journey towards Jerusalem and to his destiny, which he discussed with Moses and Elijah on the mountain in Galilee just before he set out. The theme of prophetic preaching returns: Jesus emphasises to his hearers the importance of living out the Word of God in their – and therefore our – daily lives.

A major vision of the later prophets was the gathering of the scattered people of God in Zion, in Jerusalem. The question about who will be admitted to this community is put in the familiar Christian terminology of 'being saved'. Jesus makes it clear to his Jewish audience that simply being a member of the people will not guarantee being allowed through the door and the imagery recalls the story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids and the importance of being ready.

Salvation in the Bible does not mean confirming the present order: in the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel we find Mary's song, the *Magnificat*, which presents God's saving action as the reversing of human structures. This idea is captured perfectly in Jesus' pithy comment that "there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last."

We also have another strong teaching from Luke, that God's concern for human beings is universal: the ingathering of the scattered people of Israel can also be understood as the coming to the Lord of people from over the world, and they may well take priority over those who imagine that they have a claim to be included. ■

SAY

O praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim God all you peoples!

(Psalm 117:1)

LEARN

For the prophets, salvation meant the reversal of the accepted human structures.

Luke's Gospel message is especially concerned with poor and marginalised people.

This Third Gospel emphasises that God's message is not confined to any one particular people or group.

The best motive for living out the values of Jesus in the Gospel is grateful appreciation of what God has done for us in reaching out to us in love and respect.

DO

Read the Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55): reflect on what salvation might mean in our society.

REFLECT

Are you saved? According to our Gospel account of the preaching of Jesus, the only honest answer might well be, 'I don't know: I believe that I am redeemed; whether I am saved is another matter.'

The Gospel warns us not to take salvation for granted. In today's parable about people knocking on the master's door and appealing to be let in, we are warned not to assume that we will be admitted to the Lord's presence automatically:

we have to "strive" to enter through the narrow door, that is, to take our Christian responsibilities seriously. Those at the door remind the master that "we ate and drank in your company": in Christian terms, this suggests that they are basing their claim on having attended the Eucharist, but it seems that this may not be sufficient.

Some of us can remember parish missions, where the congregation were vigorously warned about the coming

judgment and of the need to repent and celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. Most people realise that conversion brought about by fear seldom lasts. The best foundation for changing our lives is to appreciate that God's reason for reaching out to us is love.

We are all redeemed: we are now asked to live out God's love in our daily lives. In that, we will find salvation. ■



NEWSLETTER

21ST AUG 2022

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

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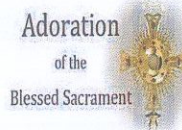
ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Sunday 21st, 11.30am. Patrick PJ Loran.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Saturday 27th, 6pm. Lena & James Holdwright & members of the Farrell Family.

Weekday Masses: Tues & Thurs Raharney 9am. Wed & Fri Rathwire 9am.



In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.
& St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm:
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer
for vocations and the family.*
Take one Hour with the Lord

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €423
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €521

Charity shop: at Rathwire church opens Tues, Thurs & Fri 11am – 1pm.

Used stamps: can be left in the box available in the churches. These are of value to the missionary orders who really appreciate receiving them. Thanks.

Alpha Course: takes place in the Greville Arms hotel for 11 weeks. Sessions each week begin on Sept 8th from 7.30pm – 9pm. In the course there is a different theme each week to learn more about Jesus, the Scripture and Prayer. The evening consists of an Alpha film series shown for about 20 minutes, followed by small group discussion and light refreshments. All are welcome to come and develop faith together.

A Person of Charity

The Kingdom of God will not be restricted to a select few: "People will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and will take their place at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Even among the Jews of the Mosaic covenant, who tended to be clannish, the message from God was clear: I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory.

"So go out to all the world and tell the Good News."

Go out to the poor and hungry and tell them to take their place at the feast of the kingdom.

Go out to the oppressed and persecuted and tell them to take their place at the feast of the kingdom.

Go out to the people on death row and tell them to take their place at the feast of the kingdom.

Go out to all the isolated and alienated, the lonely elderly, those dying of AIDS, the prostitutes and pornographers, and tell them to take their place at the feast of the kingdom.

"Bring all your brethren from all the nations as an offering to the Lord: that is the challenge given us by the one who is the way, the truth, and the life." ([First Reading](#))

The missionary is a person of charity. In order to proclaim to all his brothers and sisters that they are loved by God and are capable of loving, he must show love toward all, giving his life for his neighbor.

The missionary is the 'universal brother,' bearing in himself the Church's spirit, her openness to and interest in all peoples and individuals, especially the least and poorest of his brethren.

As such, he overcomes barriers and divisions of race, cast or ideology. He is a sign of God's love in the world—a love without exclusion or partiality.

Pope John Paul II, [Redemptoris Missio](#),