

# **Weekly Theme**

**W/C 19th September 2016**



**“On the side of the poor”**

## **Luke 16:1-13**

Jesus also said to his followers, "Once there was a rich man who had a manager to take care of his business. This manager was accused of cheating him. So he called the manager in and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give me a report of what you have done with my money, because you can't be my manager any longer.' The manager thought to himself, 'What will I do since my master is taking my job away from me? I am not strong enough to dig ditches, and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I'll do so that when I lose my job people will welcome me into their homes.'

"So the manager called in everyone who owed the master any money. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe?' He answered, 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil.' The manager said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write four hundred gallons.' Then the manager asked another one, 'How much do you owe?' He answered, 'One thousand bushels of wheat.' Then the manager said to him, 'Take your bill and write eight hundred bushels.' So, the master praised the dishonest manager for being clever. Yes, worldly people are cleverer with their own kind than spiritual people are.

"I tell you, make friends for yourselves using worldly riches so that when those riches are gone, you will be welcomed in those homes that continue forever. Whoever can be trusted with a little can also be trusted with a lot, and whoever is dishonest with a little is dishonest with a lot. If you cannot be trusted with worldly riches, then who will trust you with true riches? And if you cannot be trusted with things that belong to someone else, who will give you things of your own?

"No servant can serve two masters. The servant will hate one master and love the other, or will follow one master and refuse to follow the other. You cannot serve both God and worldly riches."

It certainly is sad how some people can be so dishonest. Their one and only concern is making as much money as possible, without caring if their methods are just or unjust, moral or immoral. Certainly, all of us have had to deal with people who have done their best to cheat us. We didn't realise this at the time, because we took it for granted that the person was sincere. And

we ask ourselves, "How can that person live with himself, herself?" The answer is, "Quite easily". because he or she doesn't care about anyone other than themselves." Jesus said at the end of today's Gospel, "You cannot serve two masters, you will hate one and be devoted to the other or vice-versa.

We cannot be successful in life by ourselves. But we are not alone. God did not create us and then abandon us. Jesus did not just call us to follow Him and then leave us to our own devices. God gives us His Holy Spirit to empower us. He strengthens us with His Word and His very Body and Blood. He gives us the courage to stand up for the poor, and the vulnerable.

Remember one child dies every eight seconds on our planet from hunger or hunger relates diseases. Jesus knew what it was like to be poor, he was born in someone else's stable and he was buried in someone else's grave

If we follow Jesus and live up to our responsibilities, then our lives will be successful.

### **Prayer**

Father, guide us, as you guide creation  
according to the law of love.

Fill us with your own generous love that we may find this love in each other as we help and support one another.

Amen

### **Harvest Sunday**

Next Sunday many Churches will celebrate Harvest Sunday. It is a day when we thank God for the gifts of the land, the food we eat and drink and the clothes we wear. Many people bring tins of food to make a harvest display. The food is then given to local food banks who distribute it to those who are on need. ***This week as a college community we are going to collect food items that we will donate to the Wirral Food Bank.***

### **Our Lady of Walsingham**

On Saturday this week, 24<sup>th</sup> September, we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Walsingham, one of the many titles given to Our Lady. Located in England, pilgrims visit the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham to contemplate the great mystery of the Incarnation, that moment when God became man, took flesh in the womb of Mary.

At Walsingham, Mary asks that Christians remember God's great act of love when he sent his Son Jesus into our world. At Walsingham, too, devotion to Mary, is a call to unity and to world peace. Every Thursday, a candle is lit before the statue of Our Lady as a reminder to all, to pray for Christian unity. This is in keeping with the message of the reconciliation which this shrine has proclaimed for over 900 years. Near to the Catholic shrine are an Anglican shrine to Our Lady, a Methodist Chapel, and a Greek Orthodox Church. Pilgrims to the Roman Catholic shrine are encouraged to visit these in a spirit of Christian unity and love.

Devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham began in the eleventh century when Our Lady, appeared to a Saxon noblewoman, Richeldis de Faverches. Her husband, the Lord of the Manor of Walsingham Parva, had previously died, leaving her a young widow with a son named Geoffrey. At this time in history, there was a great deal of interest in the Holy Land and people undertook long and often dangerous pilgrimages there. Christian armies were soon to be engaged in a number of Crusades to liberate the holy sites from Muslim control and it is believed that Geoffrey eventually joined one of those Crusades as an expression of his Christian faith.

For Lady Richeldis, however, despite the tragedy of the loss of her husband, she devoted herself to prayer and good works... and her devotion to the Christian faith was rewarded by a vision in the year 1061. In her vision, she was taken "In spirit" by Mary to be shown the house in Nazareth where Gabriel had announced the news of the birth of Jesus. Our Lady asked that Richeldis build an exact replica of that house in Walsingham. This is how Walsingham became known as England's Nazareth.

### **Form Tutor**

The aim of this week's theme:

There are several ideas that you can explore this week.

What it means to be truly successful in life.

Our responsibility for the poor of the world and what we can do to help.

Investigate more about why there is a Shrine to Our Lady in Walsingham, whose feast day we celebrate this week

Please remember to organise your food collection for the Wirral Food Bank

## **Day One**

### **Tutor:**

*Read Scripture*

### **Student Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, help me today to be successful in the way that you want me to be.

Amen

St John Plessington  
Pray for us

## **Day 2**

Think about: The society in which we live.

### **Tutor:**

Today there is an opportunity for your form to discuss what they think about people who cheat others, whether it's a friend or somebody getting something they are not entitled to, or large companies who avoid paying their taxes. Can they remember any stories in the news recently about these situations?

### **Student prayer**

Lord today may all my thoughts and actions be truthful.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

### **Day 3**

Think about: The world in which we live.

#### **Tutor:**

Is it fair that one child in our world dies every eight seconds from hunger and hunger related diseases? What should our response as Christians be?

#### **Student prayer**

Loving Father, today we pray the children in our world who will die from hunger.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

### **Day Four**

Think about our college community

#### **Tutor**

Are we always moral and just in our dealings with each other in college community? Or are we somebody who has double standards treating people we like in a good way, while we treat others differently?

#### **Student prayer**

Loving Lord, help me today to realise that having double standards is wrong.

Amen.

St John Plessington

Pray for us

## **Day Five**

Think about our families

### **Tutor**

Do I act differently and have a different set of standards at home than I do when I am with my Friend? Am I always on the "Take" at home and giving nothing back in return to those who love?

Perhaps today is a day when we decide that we need to change our outlook towards our family members?

### **Student Prayer**

Lord, bless my Father and my mother, my sister and my brother and all who love me.

Amen

St John Plessington  
Pray for us

### **Other prayers you may like to use this week**

God our Father,  
we give you thanks  
for the talents you have given to mankind,  
and for the blessings received  
through those who use their gifts well.

Amen.

Loving Father, open our hearts  
to be influenced for good,  
and inspire us to touch the hearts of others.  
Enable us to change the things that contradict your love,  
and may all your people work and grow together  
as brothers and sisters, building up your kingdom on earth.

Amen



Lord, it's good to be actively concerned  
about the abuses of human rights  
in other countries, but I must not lose sight  
of the mis-treatment of others closer to me.  
Most particularly, Lord, point out to me my own failings  
in lacking respect for those who come into my daily life.

Amen.

Lord, we remember before you  
all our brothers and sisters  
who are weighed down with suffering.  
Bless and guide us that your love may be reflected  
in our concern for the hungry,  
the oppressed and the unloved.  
Help us to acknowledge  
and grow in appreciation  
that all people are made  
in your image and likeness.

Amen.

