

Weekly Theme

W/C 26th September 2016



“Sharing”

Luke 16: 19-31

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

"The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

"But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

"He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

"Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

"No, father Abraham" he said, "But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent"

"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

We live in an unfair world and throughout the bible there are warnings: "Look out, you who are rich... and exploit the poor." No one can genuinely love God and ignore the poor.

This is really important for us to think about. We don't help others only because this is a good thing to do. We don't help others because we have plenty of extras in our lives. We help others because we are Christians. We do what Jesus is calling us to do when he said, "Follow me." We are not merely humanitarians, respecting others dignity as human beings. That is wonderful, but we are more than humanitarians. We reach out to all because all are made in the image and likeness of God. We reach out to those hurting the most because Jesus associates with them. "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren you do unto me," we hear in Matthew 25:31-46.

We are called today to fight against complacency. We are called to take responsibility for the needs of others in the world and the needs of our country. May we have the courage to be followers of Jesus in our world today.

Prayer

Father of unlimited goodness, thank you for all the gifts which make our lives comfortable.

May we show the same generosity to your people who are in need.

Amen

This week we also celebrate the feast days of two saints who are important to our college community.

St Vincent de Paul

On Tuesday this week 27th September we celebrate the feast day of St Vincent de Paul, who is one of our College House Patrons.

Vincent lived in France over three hundred years ago when there were many cruel and unjust practices taking place. Vincent was a model of generosity: although a priest he offered to take the place of galley slaves (who had to row large boats) and took the poor into his home. His work continues today through the Sisters of Charity and the Society of St Vincent de Paul found in many parishes.

Happy feast day to all in St Vincent de Paul House.

1st October

St Therese of Lisieux

St Therese is another one of our House Patrons. She was only 24 when she died in 1897, after being a Carmelite sister for nine years. She never went anywhere and few people knew her while she lived, but she is today one of the most famous female saints. How? Because she learned how to make everything in her life a prayer, an act of love for God.

Happy feast day to all our students in TL House

Form Tutor

The aim of this week's theme:

To look at the injustices in our world which exist between the rich nations of the world and those who live in hunger and poverty.

Day1

Tutor

Read the Scripture

Student Prayer

Loving Father, help me to be thankful today for the food that I eat.

Amen

St John Plessington
Pray for us

Day 2

Think about: The society in which we live.

Tutor:

In today's society many families struggle to pay their bills and to buy food to eat. Today we would like you to think about the voluntary organisation who try to help those who are in need. Who are they? And what do they do to help people?

Student prayer

Today Father, we thank you for the many people who volunteer their time or give their money to help support those who are in need.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

Day 3

Think about: The world in which we live.

Next week will as a community we will celebrate CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. Today look on the CAFOD web site and read some of the stories of the young people who live in hunger and poverty in our world today.

Student Prayer

Loving Father, help us understand our responsibilities to share what we have with the millions of people in our world who are in need and who have so little.

Amen

St John Plessington

Pray for us

Day Four

Think about our college community

Tutor

Today we would like you to think about the many ways in which together we as a college community can help others. Could we be doing more?

Student Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to help others by our prayers and our actions.

Amen.

St John Plessington

Pray for us

Day Five

Think about our families

Tutor

Today let us remember all those families who struggle to pay their bills. For family members who may be unemployed or looking for a job. For all who struggle because they are depressed.

Help us to appreciate everyone who is a part of our family. May we always value the contribution made by each member of our family.

Student Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were angry and indignant when you saw people hurt by injustice. We share your anger with those systems of injustice and hatred in the world. Help us to always stand up for truth and justice.

Amen

Other prayers you may like to use this week

Heavenly Father, you hold the whole world deep in your heart.
Sharing our pains and burdens. Delighting in our joys and successes.
We offer you our prayers – both spoken and unspoken – and ask you to hear us as we pray for others around your world.
We ask this in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen

Loving Father, we come to you with all our potential but having made mistakes, having done wrong in our action and inaction.
You wipe clean the slate and show us that we can start afresh.
Your gentle words forgive us when we do wrong.
Let us learn from you so that we can forgive those who hurt, betray or ignore us.
Help us not to hold grudges but to move on with a new attitude of peace.
Teach us not to repeat the mistakes of the past but to reach out to those in need and speak out against injustice.
To build a new world of equality and fairness, both in our own lives and for all people.

Amen.