

Homily Notes & Intercessions

Sunday 20 October 2019 **29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**

First Reading: Exodus 17:8-13

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Today is a day of support for the mission given to the Church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to all peoples. On this day Sacred Scripture teaches us to persevere, in prayer and action, with patience and determination.

The purpose of mission is to witness to Jesus Christ, to communicate his Gospel and build up his Church, in a climate of mutual respect and religious freedom, in the common search for justice in the world.

We do not have a product to sell or impose upon the world; we have a treasure to share.

Mission here and abroad requires patient perseverance and when, like Moses' arms, our spirits tire, we rely on our faith in the true God who comforts the weak and frees the oppressed.

In the second reading, Paul reminds Timothy of the importance of the Sacred Scripture. Timothy is a young man who, together with his family, embraced the faith during the first missionary journey of the apostle Paul, and later became a member of his missionary group.

Like Timothy, we are called to proclaim the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it.

We find our inspiration in Sacred Scripture, which guides us and teaches us that our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

In the Gospel, Jesus' parable portrays a woman who has been denied the right to express herself by a corrupt judge; an experience that many people all over the world suffer today.

Sr Clara, featured on the front of this booklet, is a missionary from India who has dedicated her life to educating vulnerable young girls, giving them the skills to break free from exploitation and abuse. Please read about her struggle against injustice on page 4, and online at missio.org.uk/wms

The widow in the parable is not a friend of the judge, so she does not receive an audience. This widow lost her husband's support, and in the first-century Palestinian world, she could not inherit his property. Widows were economically vulnerable and could be exploited. Not being able to afford a lawyer, the widow presents herself to offer her case against her opponent.



The corrupt judge does not fear God and does not care for the good of people. The widow is determined not to remain invisible or unheard until the case is resolved in her favour.

Jesus uses the parable to teach us about the necessity of determination in our prayer life. Prayer is at the heart of the Church's mission, as we plead for the coming of a world of justice and peace, with a healing of creation. Prayer puts Christ at the centre of our lives, so that we as his Church will be permanently on mission in the world.

Today God promises to see justice done to his chosen, who cry to him day and night.

For a full commentary on the biblical texts of World Mission Sunday, please find them in the EMM Guide: missio.org.uk/emm

An abridged version of the Holy Father's Message for World Mission Sunday is on page 5.

Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: *Let us bring our prayer to the God of our salvation, for all our hope rests in him who made heaven and earth.*

- For us all who are baptised and sent: may the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen us as we proclaim the message of God's love and forgiveness to all nations.
- For the women and men committed to mission who have left home and country to bear witness to Jesus Christ: that they may persevere in patient service of those in greatest need.
- For the work of Missio, the Holy Father's charity for world mission: that our prayers and offerings will bear abundant fruit in those countries where the Church struggles against injustice and rejection.
- For the Church in India: that it may create a community where peace and harmony will flourish by the power of God's promise to see justice done to them.
- For our own parish community: that our faith in Jesus Christ will enable us to view the world with God's eyes and heart.
- As Mother of the Church, Mary was fully involved in the mission of Jesus to bring new sons and daughters of God to birth in the Spirit and in faith. We ask her to pray for us as we say: Hail Mary...

Celebrant: *God our Father, help us to renew our commitment to the mission of your son Jesus, that by the power of the Holy Spirit our prayers and actions will bear witness to the grace of your saving love, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

