



Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

† Sunday 10th June 2018

In England & Wales

Cycle of Prayer – Those who suffer persecution and denial of human rights

Keynote: We are invited to be intimate friends of God – to be family

Book of Genesis 3: 9-15

'After Adam had eaten of the tree, the Lord God called to him. "Where are you?" he asked, "I heard the sound of you in the garden," Adam replied: 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' Man tries to hide his sin and then blames the woman, 'It was the woman you put with me, she gave me the fruit and I ate it... Then the Lord God asked the woman, "What is this you have done?"' The woman for her part then blames the serpent, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.' Yet the Lord God shows such love for the man and woman made in his likeness that cursing the evil serpent of the story, speaking to the serpent, God announces, 'I will make you enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike its heel.' God's promise to the woman that her offspring will in the end bring victory against evil shows us the mercy of God is greater than the power of sin and evil, for our God is a God of mercy and love. God wants us to be free.

Responsorial Psalm 129 (130) – a prayer of repentance and trust

Second Letter to the Corinthians 4: 13- 5:1

Writing to the Christians at Corinth the apostle reveals something about himself – about his confidence in faith and his motivation for his mission, *'as we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture – I believed, and therefore I spoke – we too believe and we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn.'* It is this confident faith that carries Paul through the troubles of life and the persecutions he faces, *'that is why there is no weakening on our part,'* he says, for *'though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day.'* We too can take heart in time of trial or difficulty.

Gospel according to Mark 3: 20-35

This is the day that Jesus comes home after weeks of travelling teaching the people and healing the sick. A great crowd has gathered and the family had hoped to take Jesus in charge and sort him out, *'convinced that he was out of his mind.'* But the crowd was so great and the Scribes had come from Jerusalem saying Jesus had the devil in him, *'Beelzebub is in him... it is through the Prince of devils that he casts devils out'.* Jesus responds Satan cannot cast Satan out for *'if a household is divided against itself, that household cannot stand.'* His mother and the family are standing outside and send a message to him, but Jesus looking at the people sitting in a circle around him says, *'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'*

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