



Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

† Sunday 1st July 2018

In England & Wales:

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

Keynote: The Lord who gives life through faith

Book of Wisdom 1: 13-15, 2: 23-24

'Death was not God's doing, he takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living. To be – for this he created all.' Too often we humans blame God when events go against us in life. If we would truly find life we might rediscover who and what we are. *'God did not make mankind imperishable, he made us in the image of his own nature.'* This profound and precious gift of life, and our freedom in discovering its true and lasting value, is the meaning of true wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm 29 (30): 2, 4-6, 11-13 – A song in thanksgiving on recovery from illness

Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 8: 7,9 13-15

Paul is writing to encourage the Church at Corinth to be generous in giving and collecting funds for the poor in other churches, *'You always have the most of everything – of faith, of eloquence, of understanding, of keenness for any cause... so we expect you to put the most into this work of mercy too.'* We might take these words to heart, and in gratitude for the many blessings and riches in our own lives; we might rededicate ourselves to helping the poor and less fortunate. *'This does not mean,'* says Paul *'that to give relief to others you ought to make things difficult for yourselves: it is a question of balancing what happens to be your surplus now against their present need.'*

Gospel according to Mark 5: 21-43

A prominent Jewish official comes to Jesus seeking help for his young daughter who is sick and dying. Falling at his Jesus' feet Jairus *'pleaded with him earnestly: "My little daughter is desperately sick. Do come and lay your hands on her to make her better and save her life."* Jesus went with him and a large crowd followed him... Arriving at the house, they are told not to bother for the child was already dead and beyond help. But Jesus reassures the official, *'Do not be afraid, only have faith.'* Taking just the disciples, Peter, James and John with him they enter the house, which is full of commotion and *'with people weeping and wailing unrestrainedly.'* Then taking the child's parents and the disciples Jesus goes to the room where the child lay. *'Taking the child by the hand Jesus said to her: "Talitha kum!" which means, "Little girl, I tell you get up."* The little girl got up at once and began to walk about, for she was twelve years old. *A this they were overcome with astonishment.'* Anyone who has watched over a sick child will appreciate the gratitude and feelings of the parents, and we may all of us once again ponder with wonderment the gift of life and the blessing of God we enjoy.

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