

**LOWESTOFT CATHOLIC PARISH -OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA & ST NICHOLAS****Presbytery:** 19 Gordon Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1NL Tel: 01502 572453**Parish Priest, Rev. Paul Chanh, 07414 735102 (text message only)**email: [paulchanh@yahoo.com](mailto:paulchanh@yahoo.com)[www.ourladylowestoft.com](http://www.ourladylowestoft.com) <http://www.catholiceastanglia.org>**Deacon:** Rev. Stephen Pomeroy

Sat 17 Oct	5:00 pm	Confessions before Mass OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Marie Fernando dec'd
Sun 18 Oct <b>28th Sunday</b>	09:00 am 10:30 am	Saint Nicholas Mass (Open to the Public) OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Priest's Intention The People of the Parish, with special thanks to all who are helping our two churches to comply with the corona regulations
Mon 19 Oct		No Masses	
Tues 20 Oct	12:15 pm	OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Peace in Armenia & Azerbaijan
Wed 21 Oct	09:15 am	OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Priest's Intention
Thu 22 Oct	09:15 am	Saint Nicholas (Open to the Public)	Priest's Intention
Fri 23 Oct	12:15 pm	OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Tony Long dec'd
Sat 24 Oct	05:00 pm	OLSS Mass (Open to the Public)	Jose Ximenes dec'd

**TRACK AND TRACE ARRANGEMENTS**

**After sanitizing your hands when coming in to church please be ready to record your contact details, on the sheets provided or by using your mobile phone and the QR Code.**

**URGENT - HELP REQUIRED TO PROJECT LIVESTREAM OF MASS INTO STELLA MARIS HALL**

So far, we have not needed to use the Hall as a church overflow but last weekend we had 70 people in Our Lady's and only a couple of seats left. At present Tony Walmsley is the only person familiar with the set-up. If he is not at Mass it might not be possible to use the Hall as an overflow and if the church was full, we would have to turn people away.

We need other people who could start the Hall transmission going. All the kit is there and ready. It needs someone with a Facebook Account who is also a member of Our Lady's Facebook Members Group to log on, it is easy to join if you are not a current member of the Group. The rest is straightforward but Tony would show you how it is done. If you could be on stand-by to help, please respond to Tony Walmsley ([ajwpmw@gmail.com](mailto:ajwpmw@gmail.com)).

**MASS WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING**

If you are planning to come for the first time, these are the points you need to bear in mind.

1. The Sunday obligation to attend Mass has been relaxed. Consider coming to a weekday Mass If it will be easier for you. Masses continue to be streamed via the Our Lady Lowestoft website.
2. If you have any Covid symptoms or have had a test and are waiting for the result, the stewards will ask you to return home.
3. You must wear a mask or face covering in church. Please bring your own, if you have one, so we don't have to use up the church's supply
4. The church toilets will be closed at both churches, excepting at the 10:30 Sunday Mass at OLSS and then only the disabled person's toilet will be open. This is because of safety and cleaning requirements.

5. You may not be able to sit in church where you would like.
6. You must sanitize your hands with the gel provided when you enter **but we have dropped the requirement to sanitize when you leave, because it caused bunching by the tables and people getting too close to each other.**
7. There is no singing. The organ may be playing for you **to listen only.**
8. Communion will be in one kind and with the Host given to you by dropping gently on your hand with your arm outstretched.
9. **We ask you to stay in your pew until the stewards indicate when to come out for Communion.**
10. There are two standing Perspex screens so the priests do not have to wear a visor when distributing communion.

## **CONFESSIONS**

Confessions are available before the 5pm Saturday Mass. They now take place in the Sacristy. There is no queuing system so please speak to Father Paul if you wish to confess.

## **ST NICHOLAS CHURCH**

When we tried the Gas Boiler would not light. The heating engineer has been and reported that the boiler is very badly rusted and probably needs to be replaced. He thinks that with a new pilot injector we may get it going and we have asked him to try that. We don't know when that will get done and in the meantime, we are researching the best long term solution. PLEASE BE READY TO WEAR EXTRA CLOTHING IF IT TURNS COLD.

## **CONFIRMATIONS 2020:**

Please continue to pray for our 12 candidates for Confirmation. Bishop Alan has agreed a date this year, Tuesday 12th November, to come and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at Our Lady's.

## **WEDDINGS, BAPTISMS, FUNERALS**

Please note that weddings are now limited to 15 attendees and baptisms and funerals are limited to 30 attendees, even if they take place during a Mass.

## **OCTOBER MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY**

Please try to pray a decade of the Holy Rosary frequently during this Month. Our Blessed Mother instructs us to pray for the Souls in Purgatory, for Sinners, the Welfare of Mankind and especially the Pandemic.

## **PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT THIS TIME:**

Thomas Seager, William Smith, Colin Spencer, Marguerite Hollands, Merritt, Elizabeth Gottenboth, Geoffrey Mason, Ronald White, Monica Willis, Cecilia Weale, Guido Garzotti, Theresa Spark, Lillian Osborne, Nellie Blythe, Elsie Painter, Kitty Bannier, Robert Cooney, Hilda Wells, Anne Tucker, Coral McGarvey, Anthony Burd, Anthony Long, Alfred Scarff, George Bunning.

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY**

The usual papers are attached.

## **CAFOD UPDATE**

CAFOD family fast day was on Friday the 9th October. This time were helping people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease -and this was an opportunity to come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild, and heal. Please pray for all those affected. Thank you if you have already donated. For those of you returning envelopes, please place in the box next to the offertory collection. There is still time to donate through the CAFOD website or text CAFOD on 70085 to donate £10.00.

## **COMMENTARY SIDE OF BULLETIN & SUNDAY PLUS**

What you would have seen on the commentary side of the bulletin is attached as is this week's Sunday Plus.

## Gospel 18<sup>th</sup> October: Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went off and made a plan to trap Jesus with questions. Then they sent to him some of their disciples and some members of Herod's party. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you tell the truth. You teach the truth about God's will for people, without worrying about what others think, because you pay no attention to anyone's status. Tell us, then, what do you think? Is it against our Law to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, or not?"

Jesus, however, was aware of their evil plan, and so he said, "You hypocrites! Why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin for paying the tax!"

They brought him the coin, and he asked them, "Whose face and name are these?" "The Emperor's," they answered.

So Jesus said to them, "Well, then, pay the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor, and pay God what belongs to God."

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from today's reading?

The Pharisees didn't like Jesus and so they tried to find a way to trick him.

At the time the Romans ruled the area where Jesus lived. The people did not like the Romans and they did not want to have to pay money in the form of taxes to them. But the Pharisees knew that if Jesus said this out loud, he would get into trouble.

So the Pharisees asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor?

Jesus looked at the coin and told the Pharisees to:-

"Pay the Emperor what belongs to the Emperor – and God what belongs to God."

Jesus is reminding us that we have two kinds of laws: God's laws and laws of our Government

Jesus is reminding us that we have two main responsibilities. One is to love God and to try to live our lives the way God wants us to.

The other responsibility is to be a good citizen and care for each other and to make sure that everyone gets their fair share of the good things that God has given us.

How can we share what we have so that everyone has their fair share of what God has given us?

In Church and the supermarkets- donate food to the Food Bank- recycle clothes and goods and toys at charity shops- donate money to charity to help others. What else....?

We can help each other and to make sure that all people around the world have their fair share of the things that God has given us. We can all play our part to make the world a fairer place.

Here is an example: Peru is a country in South America and the Charity CAFOD works there.

CAFOD has been working with local organisations in Peru to help those are affected by the Corona virus. They have used community kitchens to cook free meals for people who need them to come and collect, they have made sure that those who are sick and aren't earning any money have the medicine that they need. They have also supported children who haven't been able to do online school lessons to learn.

**Prayers:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

We know that God is always ready to listen to us and so we pray:

We pray for world leaders and governments: that they may make sure all people have their fair share of the gifts that God has given us. Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer

We pray for our parish, family and friends: for the work of the local Food Bank and people helping the homeless at this difficult time. Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer

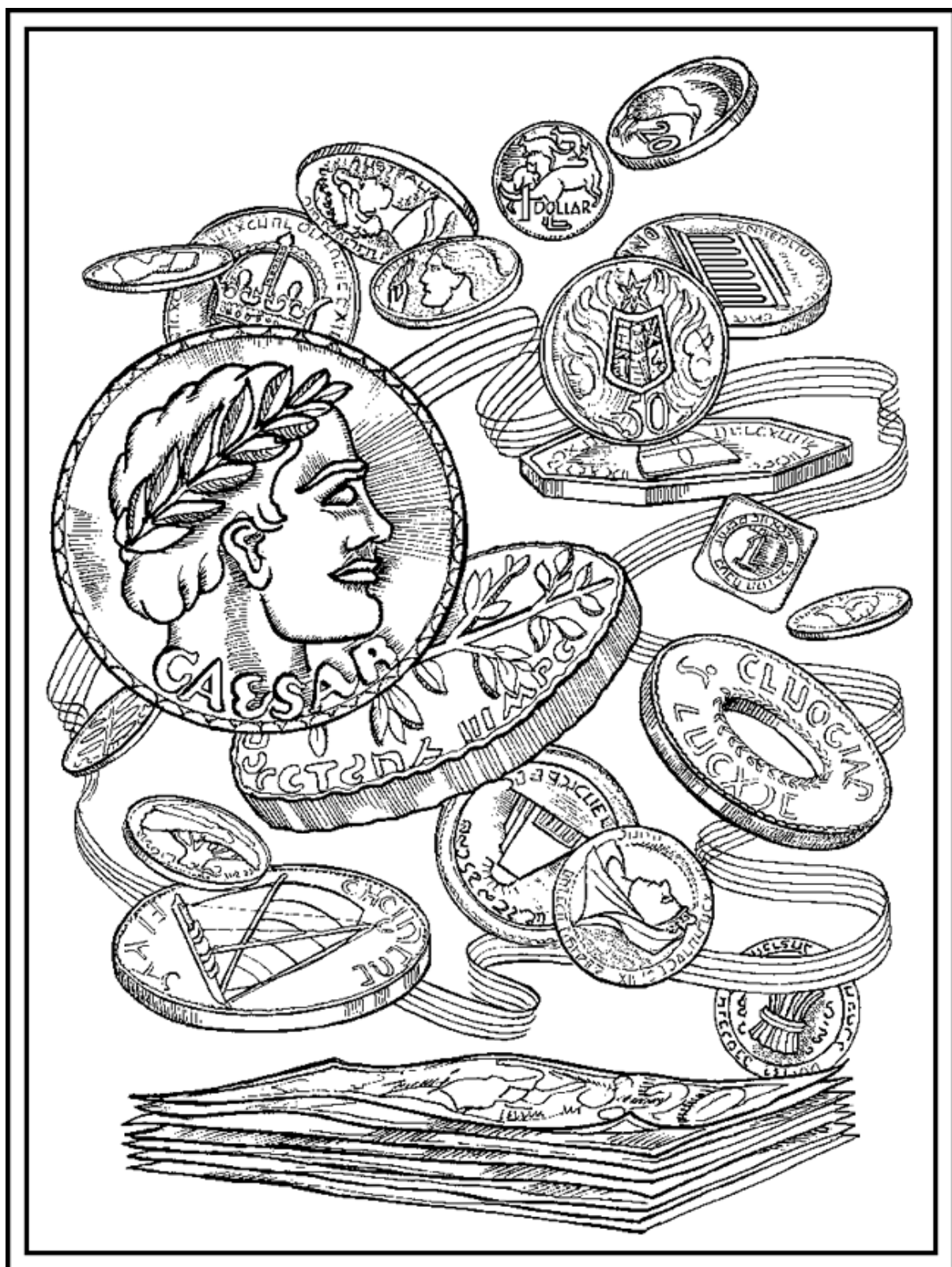
We pray for our parish, family and friends: especially those who are ill with the corona virus. Bless all the doctors and nurses working in the hospitals at this time. Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer

We pray for all working in schools, colleges and universities who are facing a new way of studying. Lord, in your mercy... Hear our prayer

**Closing prayer:** Loving God, be with us as we try to care for one another, help one another, share with one another and work together to make the world a fairer place for everyone to live. Amen.



**GIVE THANKS  
TO THE LORD  
FOR HE IS GOOD**  
*HIS LOVE endures FOREVER!!!*









Peru in South America.



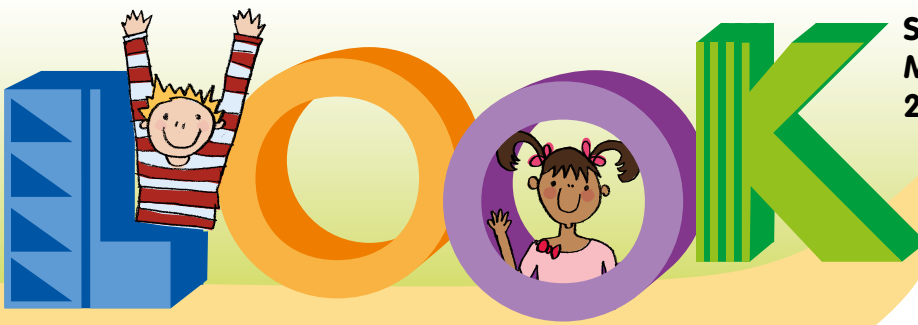
A mother with her baby on her back



The mother is preparing lunch



Reading together on the grass



Sunday 18 October 2020  
Matthew 22:15-21  
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

# FOLLOW GOD'S LAWS

Jesus came down from heaven to teach us heaven's laws, which are sometimes different from earth's laws.

Find which path leads to heaven and which one leads to earth.



## Give to God

Jesus tells us to give to God what belongs to God. Find these things we can give to God:

**GIFTS**      **PRAYER**  
**LOVE**      **TIME**  
**PEACE**      **TRUST**  
**PRaise**

P	R	A	Y	E	R
E	S	I	A	R	P
A	T	R	U	S	T
C	F	P	V	O	I
E	I	A	Y	I	M
P	G	L	O	V	E

## IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

The Pharisees want to get Jesus into trouble. They want Jesus to tell the people that don't have to pay taxes to the government. Jesus is too smart, however, and tells them to give to God what belongs to God and to pay the government what they ask.

### Taxes pay for...

Tax is money we give the government. Unscramble the words to find out some of the things these taxes pay for.



s \_ \_ \_ \_ ls  
(hcoo)



p \_ \_ k \_  
(rsa)

\_ \_ r \_ fi \_ t \_ s (ifeghre)



\_ \_ ds  
(oar)



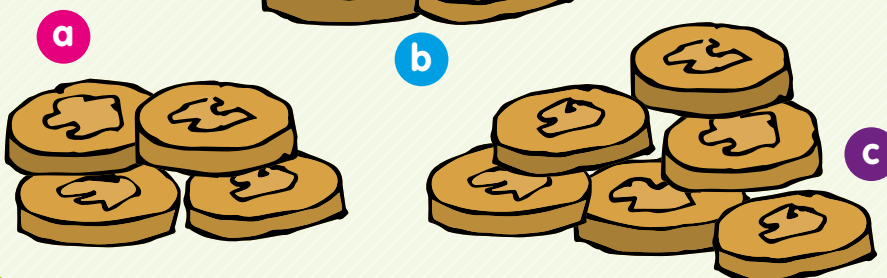
n \_ \_ \_ es (rus)



## Count the coins

We need money to pay for things.

Can you count the coins and write how many are in each pile?



## A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, today you show us how wise you are, even when the Pharisees ask you difficult questions. Help me to follow your ways, so that I can learn to be wise, saying and doing what is right. Amen.



And besides comic writing, there was Newman's dry donnish humour. In 1877 William Copeland who had been one of his Anglican curates and remained a close friend, edited a selection of Newman's Anglican sermons. Their correspondence is revealing as they discuss what to include and what to omit. Newman had doubts about including a sermon in which he had remarked, "the Church has erred", which, he told Copeland, "grates so upon me". Then he observed drily, ironically, in brackets, given the controversy surrounding the Vatican Council, "I should not mind 'the Pope has erred'."

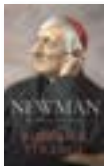


## GIFT FOR HUMOUR

And he could also be self-deprecating. When he was an Anglican, bishops had been wary of his Catholic commitment; after he became a Catholic, bishops had been critical of his approach to education. Forever under suspicion, he had come to take it for granted. And so he observed: "I should be so out of my element if I were without that cold shade on the side of ecclesiastical authority, in which I have dwelt nearly all my life, my eyes would be so dazed, and my limbs so relaxed, were I brought out to bask in the full sun of ecclesiastical favour, that I should not know how to act and should make a fool of myself."

Newman's gift for humour and his joyfulness should never be underestimated. He declared joy in all its forms to be one of the chief graces of early Christianity. St John Henry Newman has much to teach us.

Mgr Roderick Strange's book *Newman The Heart of Holiness* is available from Redemptorist Publications. Visit [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk) to order. CODE: 103585 ISBN:9780852362619 Price: £14.99



## Mass text

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.**

### FIRST READING Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

### PSALM Psalm 95

### RESPONSE Give the Lord glory and power.

- O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**
- The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**
- Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**

- Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: "God is king." He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

### SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! You will shine in the world like bright stars because you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-21

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.**

**Next Sunday's Readings:**  
Exodus 22:20-26  
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10  
Matthew 22:34-40

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# SUNDAY BULLETIN

## JOY

From 13 to 19 June 1876 Baron Friedrich von Hügel, who was to become a distinguished theologian, stayed with John Henry Newman at the Birmingham Oratory. It was to be their only meeting. Although it was a success, von Hügel later described Newman as a puritan depressive, doubting whether he could ever be canonised because he lacked the joy of the Roman saints.

That joy, of course, is not to be identified simply with a sense of humour, although joy without humour is hard to imagine. However, it is worth remembering in this instance that, when von Hügel visited Newman, he was twenty-four years old, while Newman was seventy-five. The age gap may offer a clue to von Hügel's reaction. Perhaps Newman did not find the young man amusing. And although it is true that Newman in his dark days in the 1860s acknowledged that the struggles of his Catholic years had made his face become "grave and forbidding", yet there is also plenty of evidence of humour. His letters home when he was on holiday in the Mediterranean in 1832 display his gift for comic writing.

On one occasion, he explained to his mother, "The worst of seasickness is the sympathy which all things on board have with the illness, as if they were seasick too. First of all the chairs, tables, much more the things on them are moving, moving, up and down, up and down – swing, swing – a tumbler turns over, knife and fork run down, wine is spilt – swing, swing. In this condition you go on talking and eating, as fast as you can, hiding your misery." And he continues at length, conjuring up the scene.

This admittedly is from his carefree Anglican days, but even in his dark Catholic days he was sensitive to comedy. In 1861 he visited Cambridge with William Neville, a fellow Oratorian, and describes the way they seemed to be haunted by a little man. He called Neville "a sort of Guardian Angel or Homeric god", trying to protect him, enveloping him "in darkness, rustling with his wings, and flapping about with a vigour which for the time was very successful". "But, alas," Newman continued, "all through the day, wherever we went, this little man haunted us... William was ever saying, whether we were here or there, in garden or cloister – 'Don't look that way – turn this way – there's the little man again'."

## Canonising John Henry Newman



Mgr Roderick Strange concludes this series marking the first anniversary of the canonisation of St John Henry Newman.



18 OCTOBER 2020

29TH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK I

# SUNDAY PLUS



Go out to the whole world

A Year of the Word

## Tribute to Caesar?



by Fr Denis  
McBride C.Ss.R.

The enemies of Jesus ask him: "Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" In his reply Jesus does not answer the original question, but makes an announcement which seems engagingly vague: "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God."

It is tempting to interpret the reply as a teaching on temporal and religious obligations, and argue that Jesus is acknowledging the need to pay taxes to Caesar, while stressing one's primary duty to God: one must pay tribute to Caesar and God, in recognition of one's dual citizenship.

Jesus, however, does not specify the things that belong to Caesar, for Caesar does not possess anything independently of God. Jesus does not need to specify the things that

belong to God, since everything does. He is hardly arguing to two independent spheres of power and obligation, that of Caesar and that of God, with parallel sets of obligation. Since God has dominion over the whole of creation, Caesar's relative power is subservient to the ultimate power of God.

All authority and power have to be evaluated in the light of God's plan. In his reply Jesus gives a teaching: it is for the people to evaluate whether, in demanding tribute,

Caesar is reflecting the things of God. This evaluation continues in every political community. The political arena is not a territory protected from religious evaluation and criticism. If Caesar is subservient to God, then his laws are open to Christian evaluation.

Fr Denis McBride's many books, CDs and DVDs are available from Redemptorist Publications, [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk).

A silver denarius from the time of Jesus.  
Photo: DrusMAX / wikimedia commons

## The first step

by Stephen Davies

Baptism calls us to be missionaries: to share the greatest gift we have been given – the gift of God's love, to give of our whole lives. Simple to write, but when I think about what it means, I feel overwhelmed.

Whatever I am able to give to God, however meagre it may feel, I have to trust that God will transform it to help build the kingdom.

There are those called to give physically, moving to the remotest corners of our world to help people experience God's love. There are those called and able to give financially.

All of us are called to give of our prayers for missionaries and, more importantly, the communities they serve on World Mission Day and every day. It is one way in which we can give to God what belongs to

God. The final words from Christina Rossetti's carol spring to mind: "Yet what I can I give him – give my heart."

Stephen Davies is the Red Box Director for Missio, the Pope's own charity for overseas mission.

**Dearest Lord,  
missionaries carry your  
message of love to the  
furthest ends of the  
world. Bless them and  
the people whom they  
serve. Give missionaries  
insight and sensitivity  
when they work within  
unfamiliar cultures and  
languages. Amen.**

## Mission needs humility

by Sr Janet Fearn  
FMDM

Young, naïve, excited and ready to work miracles, I travelled to Nigeria on my first-ever mission assignment, not realising that my world was about to be unexpectedly transformed. To quote from The King and I, "When you are a teacher, by your pupils you are taught."

My first lesson? I escorted a mother who had just lost the sixth and seventh of her nine children, all due to preventable causes. On arriving in the village, she started wailing her misery – and I didn't have a single word of her language to offer any comfort. Feeling utterly helpless, I hugged her – and in so doing, realised the uselessness of our talents and qualifications

in comparison with acting with humanity in a human situation. God asks nothing more of us than that.

When I first went out on mission, I thought that I had much to give. When I left Nigeria, I knew that I had far more still to learn. Mission needs humility.

Sr Janet Fearn is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

**"As far as God's love is concerned, no one is useless or insignificant. Each of us is a mission to the world, for each of us is the fruit of God's love."**

Pope Francis

**Today:**  
Isaiah 45:1, 4-6  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5  
Matthew 22:15-21

**Monday:**  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
Luke 12:13-21

**Tuesday:**  
Ephesians 2:12-22  
Luke 12:35-38

**Wednesday:**  
Ephesians 3:2-12  
Luke 12:39-48

**Thursday:**  
Ephesians 3:14-21  
Luke 12:49-53

**Friday:**  
Ephesians 4:1-6  
Luke 12:54-59

**Saturday:**  
Ephesians 4:7-16  
Luke 13:1-9

**Next Sunday:**  
Exodus 22:20-26  
1 Thessalonians 1:5-10  
Matthew 22:34-40



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

To you I call; for you will surely heed me,  
O God;  
turn your ear to me; hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
grant that we may always conform our will  
to yours  
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 45:1.4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whom he has taken by his right hand  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip the loins of kings,  
to force gateways before him  
that their gates be closed no more:  
It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,  
of Israel my chosen one,  
that I have called you by your name,  
conferring a title though you do not know  
me.  
I am the Lord, unrivalled;  
there is no other God besides me.  
Though you do not know me, I arm you  
that men may know from the rising to the  
setting of the sun  
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalm 95

Response:

**Give the Lord glory and power.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples.  
(R.)

2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught.  
It was the Lord who made the heavens.  
(R.)
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts. (R.)
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: “God is king.”  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****Alleluia, alleluia!****Your word is truth, O Lord,  
consecrate us in the truth.  
Alleluia!****GOSPEL**

Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, “Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man’s rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, “You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.” They handed him a denarius and he said, “Whose head is this? Whose name?” “Caesar’s” they replied. He then said to them, “Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,**

**born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
(all bow during the next three lines)  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Grant us, Lord, we pray,  
a sincere respect for your gifts,  
that, through the purifying action of your  
grace,  
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we  
serve.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Behold, the eyes of the Lord  
are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly  
things,  
we may be helped by what you give in this  
present age  
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

It is the saying of holy men that, if we wish to be perfect, we have nothing more to do than to perform the ordinary duties of the day well. A short road to perfection—short, not because easy, but because pertinent and intelligible. There are no short ways to perfection, but there are sure ones.

*St John Henry Newman*

## THE WORD

Year A • Psalter Week 1

THE CANNY  
REPLY

(MATTHEW 22:15-21)



Jesus’ quarrels with the religious authorities continue, this time involving the Pharisees and the Herodians, supporters of the puppet rulers of the Romans.

They put Jesus on the spot with a question about paying what was basically a poll tax. Jesus cannot give a straight answer without seriously offending someone: “Yes” will get him into trouble with his fellow countrypeople of strong nationalist feelings; the Roman administrators are certain to take a dim view if he replies “No”. Jesus knows that their challenge is motivated by malice, and he calls them “hypocrites”. He points out that the coin by which the tax must be paid belongs to Caesar anyway, so it ought to be returned to its owner: this allows him to avoid offending the Romans without (necessarily) falling foul of the Palestinian zealots. He then changes the tone by reminding his audience of their duties towards God, thereby bringing the confrontation to an end. His opponents realise that Jesus has outwitted them and leave the scene. ■

## REFLECT

Discussions often take place about the relationship which should exist between the bodies we usually call Church and State, and this text is pressed into service to separate the two. Thus, people can argue the Church should keep out of politics, that it should confine its activities to spiritual matters and leave politicians to run the country.

When we consider those situations where the Church has, effectively, become part of the government, or at least a close collaborator, we could conclude that there is something to be said for this argument. The history of the twentieth century testifies to the Church being allied to repressive dictatorships and suffering from a lack of credibility as

a result. But while the “official Church” may have been in large part involved in this way, there were bishops, priests and religious who saw that Gospel values, the teaching of Jesus, compelled them to become involved in what were political issues. Liberation theology arose, based on the book of Exodus, which presents a God who abhors slavery of any kind; and on the prophets, whose target was the political and spiritual leaders of the nation, for failing in their duty and responsibilities.

A Church which confines itself to “spiritual” matters soon becomes a Church of the sacristy, largely irrelevant to the wider community. The mission of Jesus’ disciples is to preach the Gospel,

## SAY

**I can make a difference.**

## DO

What pressing issues are there in your local or national community? Find a way to help to resolve them.

## LEARN

The Herodians were supporters of the puppet rulers of the Romans, the house of Herod.

The Herodian kings were not of the line of King David, and therefore not regarded with any great respect by the local population.

The poll (census) tax had to be paid in a Roman coin which bore the image of the emperor: this was a further insult to Jewish sensibilities.

which involves promoting human values such as dignity, respect, proper wages and so on. How this is done is another matter: we find Christians in every political movement, with different opinions on how these principles should be established, and attempts to found explicitly Christian parties have run into all sorts of human problems. Perhaps the parable of the leaven in the dough is appropriate in this context, where Christians, motivated by the teachings of Jesus, involve themselves in the life of their local and national community and thus, simultaneously, “give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God”. ■

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

*To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;  
turn your ear to me; hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
grant that we may always conform our will to yours  
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whom he has taken by his right hand  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip the loins of kings,  
to force gateways before him  
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,  
of Israel my chosen one,  
that I have called you by your name,  
conferring a title though you do not know me.  
I am the Lord, unrivalled;  
there is no other God besides me.  
Though you do not know me, I arm you  
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun  
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 95

**RESPONSE: Give the Lord glory and power.**

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,  
to be feared above all gods;  
the gods of the heathens are naught.  
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,  
give the Lord glory and power,  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.  
O earth, tremble before him.  
Proclaim to the nations: "God is king."  
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

**SECOND READING** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika  
which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you  
grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you  
all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you

have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered  
through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been  
chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it  
came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy  
Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Your word is truth, O Lord,**  
**consecrate us in the truth.**  
**Alleluia!**

Or

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**You will shine in the world like bright stars**  
**because you are offering it the word of life.**  
**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to  
trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him,  
together with the Herodians, to say, "Master, we know that you are  
an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and  
that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means  
nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay  
taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus was aware of their malice and  
replied, "You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me  
see the money you pay the tax with." They handed him a denarius,  
and he said, "Whose head is this? Whose name?" "Caesar's,"  
they replied. He then said to them, "Very well, give back to Caesar  
what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Grant us, Lord, we pray,  
a sincere respect for your gifts,  
that, through the purifying action of your grace,  
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Behold, the eyes of the Lord**  
**are on those who fear him,**  
**who hope in his merciful love,**  
**to rescue their souls from death,**  
**to keep them alive in famine.**

Or

**The Son of Man has come**  
**to give his life as a ransom for many.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things,  
we may be helped by what you give in this present age  
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



*After the Consecration we acclaim the mystery of faith:*

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

*or*

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

*or*

**Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

*At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer:  
Amen.*

### **The Communion Rite**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us...  
**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And with your spirit.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of  
the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of  
the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of  
the world, grant us peace.**

Behold the Lamb of God...

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

**Behold, the eyes of the Lord  
are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their souls from death,  
to keep them alive in famine.**

*or*

**The Son of Man has come  
to give his life as a ransom for many.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that, benefiting from participation in  
heavenly things,  
we may be helped by what you give in this  
present age  
and prepared for the gifts that are eternal...  
**Amen.**

### **THE CONCLUDING RITES**

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*At the end of Mass the people respond:*  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **THE INTRODUCTORY RITES**

#### **Entrance Antiphon**

**To you I call; for you will surely heed me,  
O God;  
turn your ear to me; hear my words.  
Guard me as the apple of your eye;  
in the shadow of your wings protect me.**

*All make the Sign of the Cross as the priest  
says:*

**Priest** In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**People** Amen.

*The priest greets the people in one of these ways:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.  
**And with your spirit.**

*or*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
**And with your spirit.**

*or*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

#### **Penitential Act**

*One of the following acts of penance is  
now made:*

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have  
failed to do,**

*(all strike their breast and say:)*

**through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;**

**therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

*or*

Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**For we have sinned against you.**

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.  
**And grant us your salvation.**

*or*

Lord, have mercy. *or* Kyrie, eleison.  
**Lord, have mercy. Kyrie, eleison.**

Christ, have mercy. *or* Christe, eleison.  
**Christ, have mercy. Christe, eleison.**

Lord, have mercy. *or* Kyrie, eleison.  
**Lord, have mercy. Kyrie, eleison.**

*After the absolution all respond: Amen.*

### **The Gloria**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the  
Father, have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### **The Collect**

**Almighty ever-living God,  
grant that we may always conform our will  
to yours  
and serve your majesty in sincerity of  
heart...  
Amen.**



## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First Reading Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

**I have taken Cyrus by his right hand to subdue nations before him.**

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm Psalm 95

#### R. Give the Lord glory and power.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples. **R.**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise, to be feared above all gods; the gods of the heathens are naught. It was the Lord who made the heavens. **R.**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts. **R.**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple. O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: "God is king." He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R.**

### Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.

**We constantly remember your faith, your love and your hope.**

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!**

*or*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You will shine in the world like bright stars because you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

**Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.**

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, "Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then.

Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, "You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with." They handed him a denarius, and he said, "Whose head is this? Whose name?" "Caesar's," they replied. He then said to them, "Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## The Homily

### The Profession of Faith

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;**

**through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,**

**he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins**

**and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*The bidding prayers now follow:*

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*If the prayers of blessing are said aloud the people acclaim each time:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters)...  
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve...  
**Amen.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right and just.**

*The priest gives praise to God and all acclaim:*

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**