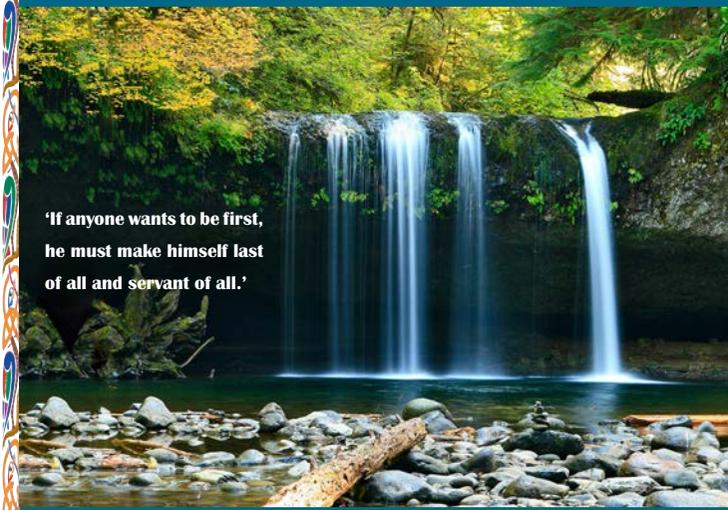


focus on sunday

There is no such question as to who is "the greatest in the service of God". We are all infinitely loveable in the sight of God.



'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.'



Competition starts very young in life – we have here a story about jealousies among the first disciples of Jesus. He has just spoken about his death and now they are arguing who is the best of the group. But... He does not get involved in their argument instead He calls a child – the child was a nobody in those days and greets that child with love. He does not ask us here to become like little children but to welcome them just as they are. He is somehow highlighting something very important – welcome and hospitality. A welcome for everyone in the love of God and in the church. This was his lesson to their jealousies. Our care for all whom we meet. Our care should also extend not just to each other as individuals but to all of creation. We are here to care for and not subdue creation. This requires a change of mindset.

Climate change affects us all; but it affects the poorest and weakest of us most of all. Children, suffering poverty and hunger, families made homeless, farmland made barren or flooded. We have a duty to act to protect these most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. Take time each day to give thanks for the earth, for the food we eat and the air we breathe. Give thanks for the beauty of creation – the things that nurture not our bodies but our souls. The quiet places we escape to when the busyness of life is too much, the beauty of nature which can brighten our dark days. The more we remember to be grateful for the earth the more we will remember our duty to care for it. Jesus reminded His disciples that they must be humble servants – in our care for creation we are the humble servants of future generations. This week – start making some small changes: refuse plastic in a store; turn off lights you do not need; it won't change the world immediately but if we all get into this mindset, things can change. Why care – because the heart of God goes out to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Donal Neary SJ is editor of the Sacred Heart Messenger.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

PENITENTIAL ACT

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, 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. May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**



THE GLORIA

Glorify 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.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Wisdom 2:12. 17-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom
 The godless say to themselves, 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.'

Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after - we have his word for it.
The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 53: 3 - 6.8

R. The Lord upholds my life.
 1. O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause. O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth. **[R]**
 2. For proud men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life. They have no regard for God. **[R]**
 3. But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good. **[R]**

SECOND READING James 3:16-4:3

A reading from the letter of St. James
 Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 9:30-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
 After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again'. But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself



last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

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

NICENE CREED

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 for following 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again