

SUNDAY *Plus*

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week II** Year A

Don't be discouraged

I have always noticed that when I compared myself to the saints, there is between them and me, the same difference that exists between a mountain whose summit is lost in the clouds and the obscure grain of sand trampled underfoot by the passers-by. Instead of becoming discouraged, I said to myself: God cannot inspire unrealisable desires. I can, then, in spite of my littleness, aspire to holiness... and so I must bear with myself, such as I am, with all my imperfections. But I want to seek out a means of going to heaven by a little way, a way that is very straight, very short, and totally new.

We are living now in an age of inventions, and we no longer have to take the trouble of climbing

stairs, for, in the homes of the rich, an elevator has replaced these very successfully. I wanted to find an elevator which would raise me to Jesus for I am too small to climb the rough stairway of perfection. I searched, then, in the scriptures for some sign of this elevator, the object of my desires, and I read these words coming from the mouth of Eternal Wisdom: "Whoever is a little one, let him come to me". And so, I succeeded. I felt I had found what I was looking for... The elevator which must raise me to heaven is your arms, oh Jesus! and for this... I had to remain little and become this more and more.

St Thérèse of Lisieux, *Story of a Soul*



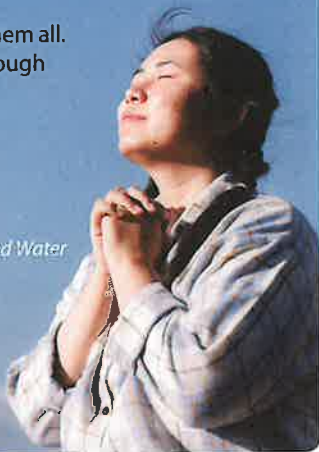
St Augustine says to us that if we want the world to be a better place, we have to begin with ourselves, we have to begin with our own lives, our own hearts.

Pope Leo XIV

Jesus is the bridge

When you're weary, feeling small,
When tears are in your eyes, I will dry them all.
I'm on your side. Oh, when times get rough
And friends just can't be found,
Like a bridge over troubled water,
I will lay me down.
Like a bridge over troubled water,
I will lay me down.

Simon and Garfunkel, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*



Gentle Saviour, when I feel weary and burdened,
teach me your humility and grace. May I rest in
your love, finding peace in your closeness.  Amen.

Feast of the week Monday 6 July

St Maria Goretti (1890-1902)

St Maria Goretti was a young Italian martyr celebrated for her purity, forgiveness, and deep faith. Born in 1890 to a poor farming family living in Corinaldo, Italy, she was prayerful and hardworking, helping to care for her siblings after her father's death when Maria was nine. A teenage neighbour, Alessandro Serenelli, attacked and tried to rape eleven-year-old Maria. She resisted, crying out that it was a sin, and was stabbed multiple times. As she lay dying in the hospital, Maria forgave her attacker, expressing her hope that he would repent and one day join her in heaven. Alessandro later experienced a profound conversion while in prison, eventually testifying to her holiness. Pope Pius XII canonised Maria in 1950, thereby making her one of the youngest saints in the Catholic Church. She is the patron saint of purity, youth and forgiveness, and her powerful example continues to inspire people of all ages today.



READINGS

Today:
Zechariah 9:9-10
Romans 8:9, 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

Monday:
Hosea 2:16-18, 21-22
Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday:
Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13
Matthew 9:32-38

Wednesday:
Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12
Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday:
Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9
Matthew 10:7-15

Friday:
Hosea 14:2-10
Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday:
Isaiah 6:1-8
Matthew 10:24-33

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 55:10-11
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23