

Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

18th Sunday in OT (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Ps 69: 2, 6

**O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.**

FIRST READING:

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

What does a man gain for all his toil?

PSALM: Ps 89:3-6.12-14.17.R.v1

**R) O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.**

You turn men back into dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. **(R)**

You sweep men away like a dream,
like grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. **(R)**

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. **(R)**

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. **(R)**

SECOND READING:

Colossians 3:1-5. 9-11

*You must look for the things that are in
heaven, where Christ is*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Cf. Jn 17:17

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

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

This hoard of yours, whose will it be?

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Wis 16: 20

**You have given us, O Lord, bread from
heaven,
endowed with all delights and
sweetness in every taste.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In Lister Park, Bradford, there is statue of Samuel Lister. Lister was an inventor and mill owner who made a fortune from the textile industry. His motto was "Tha is what tha 'as" (You are what you have). It is a motto which many of today's billionaires appear to live by, but one which many ordinary folk, in dreaming of becoming wealthy, believe in, without knowing it. In the Gospel about Mary and Martha we see the importance of being rather than doing. Here we see the importance of 'being' rather than 'having'. In this Gospel Jesus says: 'a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even if he has more than he needs.' And what are our needs? If we look seriously at our material needs, we will see that many of the things we own are not really 'needs' at all. If we look at the increasing

number genuinely needy people in our own society today, those on low incomes who have to make a choice between 'eating' and 'heating', we may well feel compelled to review our own expenditure on items that are more 'wants' than 'needs'. If we do this, we will make ourselves 'rich in the sight of God.'

POPE FRANCIS' ENCYCLICAL
FRATELLI TUTTI
BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL



ENVISAGING AND ENGERERING AN OPEN WORLD

87. Human beings are so made that they cannot live, develop and find fulfilment except "in the sincere gift of self to others".⁶² Nor can they fully know themselves apart from an encounter with other persons: "I communicate effectively with myself only insofar as I communicate with others".⁶³ No one can experience the true beauty of life without relating to others, without having real faces to love. This is part of the mystery of authentic human existence. "Life exists where there is bonding, communion, fraternity; and life is stronger than death when it is built on true relationships and bonds of fidelity. On the contrary, there is no life when we claim to be self-sufficient and live as islands: in these attitudes, death prevails".⁶⁴

62. SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes*, 24.
63. Gabriel Marcel, *Du refus à l'invocation*, ed. NRF, Paris, 1940, 50.
64. Angelus (10 November 2019): *L'Osservatore Romano*, 11-12 November 2019, 8.



Our Father St Benedict*

THE DESERT



One blessed by God? No, a blessed down-and-out! Benedict has begun to discover what he is not.

The closer we come to Truth the more false we see we are. Benedict, faced with his own defects without any excuses, has to bear with himself with great patience, day after day.

Emptiness!

All the good in him comes from God. Only the bad is his own. From the depths of his sins, recognising the evil in his heart, Benedict is completely crushed, weighed down, humiliated. He utterly despises himself.

Night!

Unworthy to raise his eyes to God since he is a sinner.

Insanity!

A worm thrown in the dust, a lamb led to the slaughter, a donkey before his master.

Is Benedict now in despair of God's infinite mercy? No.

The emptiness is full of all his longings, his desires, all his spiritual anguish.

The night is spent in the certainty of being strong in him who can do all things, of emerging the conqueror in him who loves him.

And sanity indeed, with an understanding which can only be the fruit of the Spirit.

On his own, a blessed down-and-out. God-with-him! A blessed man, a man favoured by God, a man whom grace has filled.

*This set of mini-reflections is taken from *Our Father St Benedict*, published by New City

