

SUNDAY *Plus*

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week III** Year C

Prayer before a Five-Pound Note



Lord, see this note, it frightens me.
You know its secrets, you know its history.
How heavy it is!

It scares me, for it cannot speak.
It will never tell all it hides in its creases.
It will never reveal all the struggles and efforts it
represents, all the disillusionment and slighted dignity.
It is stained with sweat and blood.
It is laden with all the weight of the human toil which
makes its worth...

It is heavy, heavy, Lord.
It fills me with awe, it frightens me...
Through how many hands has it passed, Lord?
And what has it done in the course of its long, silent trips?

It has offered white roses to the radiant fiancée.
It has paid for the baptismal party and fed the growing baby.
It has provided bread for the family table.
Because of it there was laughter among the young
and joy among the adults.
It has paid for the saving visit of the doctor,
It has bought the book that taught the youngster,
It has clothed the young girl...

O Lord, I offer you this note with its joyous mysteries,
its sorrowful mysteries.
I thank you for all the life and joy it has given.
I ask your forgiveness for the harm it has done.
But above all, Lord, I offer it to you as a symbol of
all the labours of men, indestructible money, which
tomorrow will be changed into your eternal life.

Michel Quoist

The kingdom of heaven is the opposite of the
superfluous things that the world offers; it is the
opposite of a dull life: it is a treasure that renews life
every day and leads it to expand towards wider horizons.

Pope Francis

The real treasure

By Michael George

In teaching writing and encouraging children to grow in empathy, many teachers will have drawn on the experiences of child evacuees during the Second World War. Separated from their families, with just one case of belongings, children from London and other cities were put on trains and taken out into the countryside, to a relatively safer environment.


Many children and families of today are able to reflect not only on the experiences of others

from the past, but also on their own experience of sudden and frightening escape from conflict or persecution.

Leaving suddenly, decisions must be taken about what to pack in a very small amount of luggage. What is it most important to bring? What cannot be managed without?

The experiences of the past and the present can help any of us to reflect and prioritise – what do I need most in life and must always carry with me?

Michael George has worked in Catholic schools in the south of England for twenty-five years, as a teacher, headteacher and chaplain.

I pray, Lord, that my family may know friendship and courage, cheerfulness and understanding, carefulness in their duties, advice when life is tough, patience when they are in pain.  Amen.

After St Thomas More

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

The memory of love

The memory of love becomes a task of love and thus opens us to the future, to the hope of Easter, to the hope of full happiness. It is not enough to participate in the Mass "to feel good with God", but rather to let this risky love of Jesus form our lives. How many mothers, how many fathers, together with the daily bread cut at the table at home, break their backs to raise their children, and raise them well! How many Christians, as responsible citizens, have gone out of their way to defend the dignity of all, especially the poorest, marginalised and discriminated! Where do they find the strength to do all this? Precisely in the Eucharist: in the forgiving victim, in the power of the love of the Risen Lord, who today also breaks bread for us and repeats to us: "Do this in memory of me".

International Eucharistic Congress 2024, Quito

READINGS

Today:
Wisdom 18:6-9
Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19
Luke 12:32-48

Monday:
Deuteronomy 10:12-22
Matthew 17:22-27

Tuesday:
Deuteronomy 31:1-8
Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday:
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Matthew 18:15-20

Thursday:
Joshua 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17
Matthew 18:21 – 19:1

Friday:
Revelation 11:19a;
12:1-6a, 10ab
1 Corinthians 15:20-26
Luke 1:39-56

Saturday:
Joshua 24:14-29
Matthew 19:13-15

Next Sunday:
Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53