

SUNDAY *Plus*

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I** Year C

A Welsh response



The ironworkers started to work in the pit for not much more than some of the boys. Some of them even started pulling the trams in place of the ponies. A lot of the older and better-paid men got discharged without being told why, although it was put out that they

were too old and could not work as well as they ought. But that was nonsense... So strike work they did... So, on it went, right into winter...

By that time people were feeling the pinch. Food was scarce and so was money, and if the women had not been good savers in better times, things would have gone very hard. As it was, savings were almost at an end and my mother was dipping into our box to help women down the Hill who had big families still growing...

My father came back worried but steady after speaking to the men... "We have finished the strike, Beth," he said. "But our wages must come down. They are not getting the price for coal that they used to, so they cannot afford to pay the wages that they did." ...

The men went back the morning after my father had spoken to the owners, and you should have seen the Hill as they went down. As the doors opened and the men came out, their

wives and children followed them into the road and stood to watch them go. My father... waved them all quiet and started to sing. As soon as they heard his voice, tenors and altos waited for their turn, then the baritones and basses, and then the women and children. As soon as the singing started, all the doors opened all the way down the Hill, and men and women and children came out to fill the road. I... heard the rich voices rising in many harmonies,... and my heart went tight inside me.

And round about us the Valley echoed with the hymn, and lights came out in the farms on the dark mountain, and down at the pit, the men were waving their lamps, hundreds of tiny sparks keeping time to the beat of the music.

Everybody was singing. There was peace, see.

Richard Llewellyn, How Green Was My Valley

May the power of hope fill our days. May we bring hope to people who feel that their lives and situations are hopeless. Fill us with compassion.  Amen.

The "cry of the poor"

By Peggy Healy

The cry of the poor is not some pathetic whining – nor is it poverty pornography where we think of the poor as helpless victims whom we must save. It is the clamour to the heavens of those who are systematically dispossessed, marginalised and oppressed by systems and governments – the excluded and subjugated who cry out to be seen and to be heard and to be accompanied in their legitimate and valiant quest, not only for survival and safety, but also for justice and equality.

Part of a talk given to the Romero Trust during Romero Week 2023.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

"The little details of love"

As we journey [through] the Holy Year, I urge everyone to become pilgrims of hope, setting tangible goals for a better future. Let us not forget to keep "the little details of love": stopping, drawing near, giving a little attention, a smile, a caress, a word of comfort. These gestures are not automatic; they require a daily commitment and are often hidden and silent, but strengthened by prayer. In this time, when the song of hope seems to give way to the clamour of arms, to the cry of many innocent wounded and the silence of the countless victims of wars, we turn to God with our plea for peace. We stretch out our hands to receive peace as a precious gift for we are "poor" in this regard, while at the same time committing ourselves to weave it back into daily life.

Pope Francis, Message for the World Day of the Poor 2024:10

READINGS

Today:
Malachi 3:19-20a
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Luke 21:5-19

Monday:
1 Maccabees 1:10-15.
41-43, 54-57, 62-64
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday:
2 Maccabees 6:18-31
Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday:
2 Maccabees 7:1.
20-31
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday:
1 Maccabees 2:15-29
Luke 19:41-44

Friday:
1 Maccabees 4:36-37.
52-59
Luke 19:45-48

Saturday:
1 Maccabees 6:1-13
Luke 20:27-40

Next Sunday:
2 Samuel 5:1-3
Colossians 1:12-20
Luke 23:35-43

Help us, one and all, to build bridges through dialogue and encounter, joining together as one people, always at peace.

Pope Leo XIV

