

**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Sunday 1 October 2023**

**Readings at Mass**

**Collect**

O God, who manifest your almighty power  
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,  
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us  
and make those hastening to attain your promises  
heirs to the treasures of heaven.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**First reading**

**Ezekiel 18:25-28**

**When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live**

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘You object, “What the Lord does is unjust.” Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.’

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 24(25):4-9**

*Remember your mercy, Lord.*

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour.

*Remember your mercy, Lord.*

Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord.

*Remember your mercy, Lord.*

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,  
He guides the humble in the right path,  
He teaches his way to the poor.

*Remember your mercy, Lord.*

## **Second reading**

**Philippians 2:1-11**

### **Be united in your love**

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,  
yet he did not cling  
to his equality with God  
but emptied himself  
to assume the condition of a slave,  
and became as men are;  
and being as all men are,  
he was humbler yet,  
even to accepting death,  
death on a cross.  
But God raised him high  
and gave him the name  
which is above all other names  
so that all beings in the heavens,  
on earth and in the underworld,  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Jn14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,

and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.  
Alleluia!

**Or:**

**Jn10:27**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice,  
says the Lord,  
I know them and they follow me.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Matthew 21:28-32**

**Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before  
you**

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Grant us, O merciful God,  
that this our offering may find acceptance with you  
and that through it the wellspring of all blessing  
may be laid open before us.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord,  
restore us in mind and body,  
that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ,  
to whose suffering we are united  
whenever we proclaim his Death.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.