

Social Justice Sunday Liturgy Notes

25th September 2005

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Social Justice Sunday Statement 2005

JESUS, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD Living the Gospel Today



Overview

The 2005 Social Justice Sunday Statement considers our calling to be and to bring the light of Christ to the world. As a people engaged in nurturing the reign of God in ourselves and our world, we are called to notice the many situations of injustice that exist and to embrace in love the people affected.

Liturgy Notes

The following notes may be of use to link 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time with Social Justice Sunday 2005.

On this Sunday, the Church in Australia invites us to focus particularly on our mission to act with justice and so bring about the reign of God in our world. It has always been our tradition to link justice and Eucharist. In this Year of the Eucharist, we recall how our communion in God involves communion with each other since it is the one Bread and the one Cup we are invited to share.

Readings

Ezekiel 18:25-28

Everyone is responsible for oneself and one's actions. God will forgive the repentant person, so we know that if we renounce our sin, we shall certainly live.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24:4-9

The Psalm is our prayer, asking God to teach us his ways, so that instead of taking the easy way of life, we may choose the way of God.

Philippians 2:1-11

We are reminded that as witnesses to Christ, we must endeavour to become more like him, and live in a manner worthy of the call to be a follower of Christ by foregoing concern for self as the driving force of life, and focussing on meeting the needs of others.

Matthew 21:28-32

In this parable, "vineyard" is symbolic of God's chosen people, working for the kingdom here on earth. Jesus warns the chief priests and elders of the people that tax collectors and prostitutes will precede them into the kingdom of heaven. These people, who were considered by the religious leaders to be sinners, were watching and listening to Jesus and allowing the Gospel message, the Word of God, to change their lives. They had lived lives that said "no" ("we are not religious people, we don't follow the rules, we are not holy"), but were now starting to respond to the invitation of Jesus to change their ways.

The point of the story of the two sons is that neither son was right. The first son was saying "no" with his mouth, but "doing yes" with his behaviour, the second son was saying "yes" with his mouth, but "doing no" with his behaviour.

Clearly, what Jesus is looking for are followers who say "yes" in word and deed.

Homily Notes

The Word of God invites us to be followers of Christ by responding through our decisions and choices to the invitation not to take the easy way of life, but to choose the way of God.

The 2005 Social Justice Sunday Statement, *Jesus, Light for the World – Living the Gospel Today*, reminds us that the light of the Risen Christ illuminates our lives, transforming us and bringing hope to the realities of our world.

We are called to follow the light and to be the light for others by carrying Christ's love and compassion wherever we go and to whomever we meet.

In this Year of the Eucharist, we are mindful that truthful Eucharistic remembering challenges us to realise our baptismal duty of recognising Christ both in the shared communion of the consecrated bread and wine and in those who suffer in our world: the poor, the sick, the marginalised. We will fulfil our prophetic calling if our remembrance challenges us to go from our Eucharist to liberate others.

Prayer of the Faithful

One or more of the following could be added.

- We pray for the people of Australia. Generate in our hearts the ability and readiness to respond generously to those in need.
- May the light of the Risen Christ illuminate our lives and transform us into the lights of Jesus Christ, for others.
- May we recognise Christ both in the shared communion of the consecrated bread and wine and in the suffering of our world, so that justice may prevail and light shine in the darkness.

The Eucharistic Prayer

- For Masses for various needs and occasions
D. Jesus the Compassion of God
- For Reconciliation I
- For Reconciliation II

For the Parish Bulletin: This is Social Justice Sunday

To mark this occasion, the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has produced the 2005 Social Justice Sunday Statement, *Jesus, Light for the World – Living the Gospel Today*.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

He is light for our footsteps and the guide for our path.

As we walk in the light we give it a chance to shine in our world.

How today are we light for the world?

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Sunday Statement, can be downloaded from the websites of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (www.acbc.catholic.org.au) and the ACSJC (www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au).