

Liturgical resources

- Introduction to Mass
- Homily notes
- Action points



INTRODUCTION TO MASS

Today is Home Mission Sunday – the day annually when we are invited to pray for and support the Church’s work of Evangelisation in England and Wales.

The theme this year is: Proclaim the joy of love. We are reminded that the work of evangelisation begins with our families, in our homes and also with the spiritual family of our parish. As we listen to today's Scripture readings let us reflect on how the Lord might be calling us to proclaim the joy of love to those we know and those who are non-churchgoing Catholics.

Please support the second collection which funds the bishops’ national work of evangelisation and the development of evangelisation initiatives. Commemorative prayer cards are available to take away. Please support the work of Home Mission through your prayers and generosity. God bless you and thank you.

HOMILY NOTES

Today’s Scripture readings provide us with a three stage journey in proclaiming the joy of love through our prayer life, home life and in wider society.

Joy of love in our prayer life – 1 Timothy 2:1-8

In our reading from the first letter to Timothy we hear how prayer and praying are active not passive forms of relating to God and each other; and that prayer makes a huge difference to our lives and the lives for whom we pray. Prayer should take priority in our lives since through prayer we are able to hear God; discern how to make wise decisions; intercede for others in our families, parishes, local, national and international communities; pray for the church and the church’s mission and for the daily challenges that we all encounter.

In the first verse different words are used for prayer. There are nuances of difference that reveal different needs at different times. Not only do we need all kinds of prayer, but also we need to pray for different kinds of people and issues.

The Catholic Church has always placed special significance on prayer and praying – both as individuals and in our corporate life of worship and liturgy. On Home Mission Sunday we especially pray for the mission of the Catholic Church, that it will continue to grow and that more people will be transformed through the Gospel. When we proclaim the joy of love through prayer we are evangelising. May these prayers draw people to Christ, that he will make his home in them.

Joy of love in our home life – Luke 16:1-13

In this parable the principle that Jesus is sharing is that we are to be wise with our resources and to use them with integrity since they come from God: we are the stewards not the owners of these resources. We should have a healthy and balanced attitude towards money and material possessions because if we can’t be faithful with earthly wealth, which isn’t even ours to begin with, then how can we be entrusted with ‘true riches’? The ‘true riches’ here are stewardship and responsibility in God’s kingdom. The climax of Jesus’ teaching is that no-one can serve two masters. We cannot serve God and money.



In our home life we evangelise best by the way we treat each other. This parable teaches this through how we show trust and honesty, love and respect to our family members. We also learn how to value people and life in the way we treat money and possessions.

We all know that money can make life easier to manage but doesn't automatically make us happier if other areas of our life need attention. On Home Mission Sunday this parable guides us to consider what our priorities are in our family relationships. Can we proclaim the joy of love in our families by treating each other justly and with care or do we sometimes place material possessions ahead of real time made for each other? If we model the meaning of this parable in our home life we will be evangelising to others through our actions and they will see how our faith in Gospel values is more lasting than faith in material possessions.

Joy of love in wider society – Amos 8:4-7

Our reading from the prophet Amos is centred on the need for justice. Justice is a social concept concerned with the right ordering of society in which the most number of people can thrive. Justice requires a continuous concern for the powerless- those who lack the capacity to protect their own welfare. Justice is also a legal concept. The whole legal system was established to create and maintain justice. God uses the law for a 'civil' purpose- to create a more civil society. God also uses the law for a 'theological' purpose- to remind us of our sins and that even the most just people need grace and forgiveness.

However, salvation does not come through the law because it was never designed to save and because those in power can also turn the best intentioned of laws to their own benefit. We therefore, have a significant role in wider society in the ways we uphold justice and challenge injustice – at home, in school, at work, in our parish and in our communities. This is central to our evangelisation since it is when we model justice that we model Christ's kingdom on earth.

On Home Mission Sunday our evangelisation takes us from praying daily, to modelling right relationships in our homes, to upholding justice in our communities. In each of these areas of evangelisation, God's power is working through us when we respond to his call.

ACTION POINTS

We are created, we are related, we are keepers, we are seekers.

We are created- in God's image,
to share in his life and this is the source of our dignity.

Let us proclaim the joy of love in how we are made.

Action: Offer one prayer to God to show this.

We are related- one to another by our heavenly Father,
we find God through our love for each other.

Let us proclaim the joy of love in all our relationships.

Action: Think about one action you can do in your home to show this.

We are keepers- of the gift of faith,
it is given to us for our own salvation and to share with generations to come.

Let us proclaim the joy of love in our sharing of the Gospel.

Action: Think about one action you can do to share the Gospel.

We are seekers - of the kingdom of heaven,
we are spiritual beings with a hunger for what is good and just.

Let us proclaim the joy of love in upholding justice wherever we live.

Action: How can you uphold justice and challenge injustice this week?

Ask God to guide you in all these prayers and actions.