

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today we hear about God's beautiful commandment of love. We're instructed to love God and our neighbour. Let us learn about God's generous love and consider ways to be more loving ourselves and as a parish community.

Exodus 22:20-26

An instruction to look after strangers and avoid exploiting people who are poor.

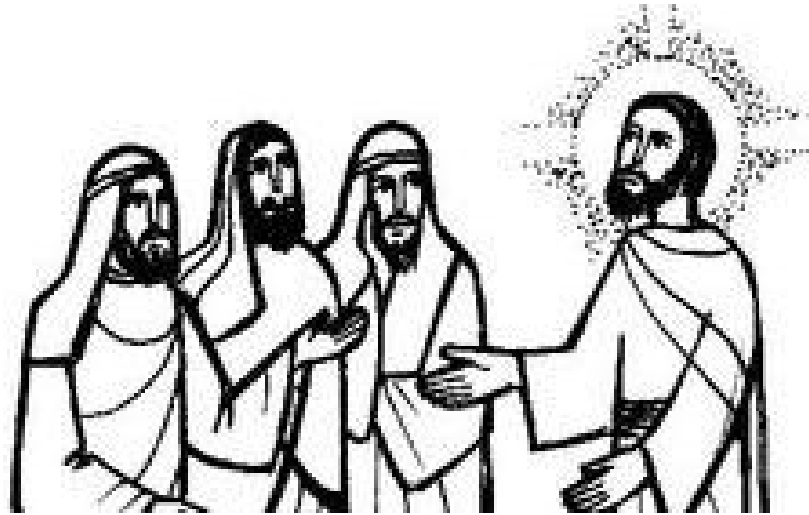
Matthew 22:34-40

Jesus teaches that we are called to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Reflection



When you look at something like the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and see its 691 pages, or look at the 2,000 pages of the big Jerusalem Bible, you might be forgiven for thinking that Christianity is a complicated affair. But Jesus reminds us today that it is essentially very simple: everything can be summed up in two basic rules: love God, love your neighbour. Our first reading today (Exodus) backs this up, by talking about the simple love that we must show to each other. Not that this is easy - love is always costly, and involves some degree of sacrifice. We will have to change, to become perfect in love; but it is possible, and when we do, we become a great example to people everywhere.



The Pharisees believed in all the written Hebrew Scriptures (“the law and the prophets”) as well as the oral interpretations of the law. These included 613 precepts, which were divided into categories of greater or lesser importance. The Sadducees, on the other hand, accepted only the first five books of the law (the Pentateuch) and rejected any oral tradition. Both groups were opposed to Jesus.

It was a scribe, an expert in the law, who challenged Jesus by asking which of the laws was greater than the others. Jesus summed up the entire law with two commands: to love God and to love your neighbour as oneself.

The first commandment that Jesus quoted was Deuteronomy 6:5. That verse was part of the Shema, the basic creed of Judaism with which every Jewish service still begins. It means that human beings must give God their total love.

The second commandment that Jesus quoted came from Leviticus 19:18. Love for God must issue forth in love for one another. But the order of the commandments must be noted: love for one another is firmly grounded in the love of God. To be truly religious is to love God and to love the human beings made in God's own image. The whole law is based upon these two commandments. Jesus perfectly fulfilled this law of love in his words and deeds.

A prayer of Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman:

I believe O my Saviour, that you know just what is best for me. I believe that you love me better than I love myself, that you are all-wise in your Providence and all-powerful in your protection.

I am as ignorant as Peter was, as to what is to happen to me in time to come; but I resign myself entirely to my ignorance, and thank you with all my heart that you have taken me out of my own keeping, and, instead of putting such a serious charge upon me, have bidden me put myself into your hands.

I can ask nothing better than this, to be in your care, not my own.

Amen.



Blessed Carlo Acutis was born in London on 3 May 1991 to an Italian family with Irish and Polish roots. He was baptised on 18 May 1991 in the Church of Our Lady of Do lours, Chelsea. Shortly after, the family went back to Milan, Italy.

Carlo loved travel and a favourite place for him was, the town of Assisi. Carlo became a frequent communicant and would go to confession every week. He is said to have had several models as guides for his life: especially Saint Francis of Assisi.

Carlo's friends thought of him as a "computer geek" on account of his enthusiasm for, and skill with, computers and the internet. That's why this Italian teenager is Patron saint of the internet


As a computer whizz, Carlo used his computer skills to spread his Catholic faith. He was beatified at a ceremony in his beloved Assisi, putting him on course to become the first "millennial" saint.

Carlo Acutis, born in London to Italian parents and brought up in Milan, died of leukaemia in 2006 aged 15. He was buried in Assisi in accordance with his

own wishes. He has been called the “cyber-apostle of the Eucharist.” He built a website providing information on religious miracles. He also worked with the homeless. The Vatican agreed to his beatification after accepting that a Brazilian boy had been cured of a pancreatic disease in 2013, as a result of a priest praying for Acutis’ intercession.

WOODSEARCH

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PHARISEES
 JESUS
 SADDUCEES
 DISCONCERT
 QUESTION
 LAW
 MASTER
 LORD
 HEART
 SOUL
 SECOND
 NEIGHBOUR