

SUNDAY *Plus*

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I** Year C

God will provide



Passing through one of the streets of Milan, I observed a poor beggar. Evidently, he had a full belly that day, for he was laughing and joyful. I sighed and pointed him out to the friends around me. We were burdened with all the sorrows of our frenetic lives. We were goaded by our ambitions to keep up. I worked while dragging along the baggage

of my own dissatisfaction, which was only feeling heavier. One day we hoped to arrive at the same state of joy that beggar was showing in front of us...

What the beggar had gained was not true joy, but it was just as real as what I was trying to get with my ambitious plans. Certainly, he was happy, and I was anxious. He had

no fears, where I was full of them. If the beggar had asked me whether I would prefer to be in his merry state or my own fearful one, I would have answered that I would rather be merry. On the other hand, if he asked whether I would rather be a beggar like him, I should say that I would choose to be myself, even though worn out with cares and

fears. But was that poor judgement and was it the truth? Shouldn't I prefer to be like him? I had more knowledge than he, but no joy in all my pursuits...

Your plan put ours to shame, and your purposes would provide for us. You would open your hand and fill our souls with blessing.

St Augustine, Confessions

Thank you, dear Jesus,
for all you have given me,
for all you have taken away from me,
for all you have left me.  Amen.

St Thomas More

An Old English Prayer

Give us, Lord, a bit o' sun
A bit o' work and a bit o' fun.
Give us in all the struggle and sputter
Our daily bread and a bit of butter.
Give us health our keep to make
And a bit to spare for others' sake.
Give us, too, a bit of song
And a tale and a book to help us along.
Give us, Lord, a chance to be
Our goodly best, brave, wise and free.
Our goodly best for ourselves and others
Till all men learn to live as brothers.

Anon.



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

God will provide

How often have you looked at the weather forecast as you plan your day's activities? Are you a farmer or grower? Does your work involve buying, selling or processing food? One thing is certain: you depend on regular food supplies for yourself, your family and everyone you know. You also know that this time of year is critical as so many crops ripen and approach harvest.

In Judaism, the Jubilee, which happened every fifty years, guaranteed farmers time for prayer and study because fields remained uncultivated. No planting took place before the Jubilee, because crops wouldn't be harvested, or during the year itself because that needed land to be cultivated. It took supreme faith in God's loving care to go for two years without planting crops. People believed that God would reward such faith – but life was not easy. The Jubilee was another way of saying, "God will provide".

READINGS

Today:
Genesis 18:20-32
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

Monday:
Exodus 32:15-24.
30-31
Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday:
Exodus 33:7-11;
34:5b-9,28
John 11:19-27

Wednesday:
Exodus 34:29-35
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday:
Exodus 40:16-21.
34-38
Matthew 13:47-53

Friday:
Leviticus 23:1. 4-11.
15-16. 27. 34b-37
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday:
Leviticus 25:1. 8-17
Matthew 14:1-12

Next Sunday:
Ecclesiastes 1:2;
2:21-23
Colossians 3:1-5. 9-11
Luke 12:13-21

Before the eyes of the Father, with the humanity of Jesus, there are and always will be our lives, our hopes, our wounds.

Pope Francis

