

SUNDAY *Plus*

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week II** Year C

God of my Life

Only in love can I find you, my God.
In love the gates of my soul spring open,
allowing me to breathe a new air of freedom
and forget my own petty self.
In love my whole being streams forth
out of the rigid confines of narrowness and anxious self-assertion,
which makes me a prisoner of my own poverty and emptiness.

In love all the powers of my soul flow out toward you,
wanting never more to return,
but to lose themselves completely in you,
since by your love you are the inmost centre of my heart,
closer to me than I am to myself.

But when I love you,
when I manage to break out of the narrow circle of self
and leave behind the restless agony of unanswered questions,
when my blinded eyes no longer look merely from afar
and from the outside upon your unapproachable brightness,
and much more when you yourself, O Incomprehensible One,
have become through love the inmost centre of my life,
then I can bury myself entirely in you, O mysterious God,
and with myself, all my questions.

Karl Rahner SJ

Help me, Lord, to see with your eyes, to love with your
love and to speak with your gentleness.  Amen.

Beyond material gains

Recently I came across a photograph I took some years ago. The photograph is of some paper on which a child had written, "I love school. It is the best." Sadly, I cannot recall the child who wrote it, though judging by the handwriting, he or she was five or six years of age.

In seven words the child communicated that what he or she valued was an experience. He or she valued the opportunity to learn, to be amongst friends and to be in a safe and loving environment. It was that experience and the relationships



within it that brought happiness. I regularly tell children that as well as teaching them, the adults in the school learn from them. How much we can learn from that young child: happiness is rooted not in what we own but in how we spend our time and who we spend it with.

Michael George has worked in Catholic schools in the south of England for twenty-five years, as a teacher, headteacher and chaplain.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee for everyone

As we celebrate the Jubilee of Hope, we remember that the Jubilee Year continues the ancient practice of Judaism as a time of joy, freedom, rest and social justice. Slaves were to be freed. Fields would lie fallow – and anybody whose poverty forced them to sell their land to provide for their family, would regain it. The Jubilee was for everyone and all property was returned to its original family.

As Rabbi Levi Avtzon wrote, "In the Land of Israel, where each tribe was allotted its province and each family its estate, 'the land may not be sold forever, for the land is Mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with Me.'"

So, if a person became destitute and was forced to sell his estate, the 'sale' was in fact only a long-term lease until the next Jubilee year, at which time it reverted to the owner."

READINGS

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

Monday:
Numbers 11:4b-15
Matthew 14:13-21

Tuesday:
Numbers 12:1-13
Matthew 14:22-36

Wednesday:
Daniel 7:9-10. 13-14
2 Peter 1:16-19
Luke 9:28b-36

Thursday:
Numbers 20:1-13
Matthew 16:13-23

Friday:
Deuteronomy 4:32-40
Matthew 16:24-25

Saturday:
Deuteronomy 6:4-13
Matthew 17:14-20

Next Sunday:
Wisdom 18:6-9
Hebrews 11:1-2. 8-19
Luke 12:32-48

