

SUNDAY *Plus*

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week IV** Year C

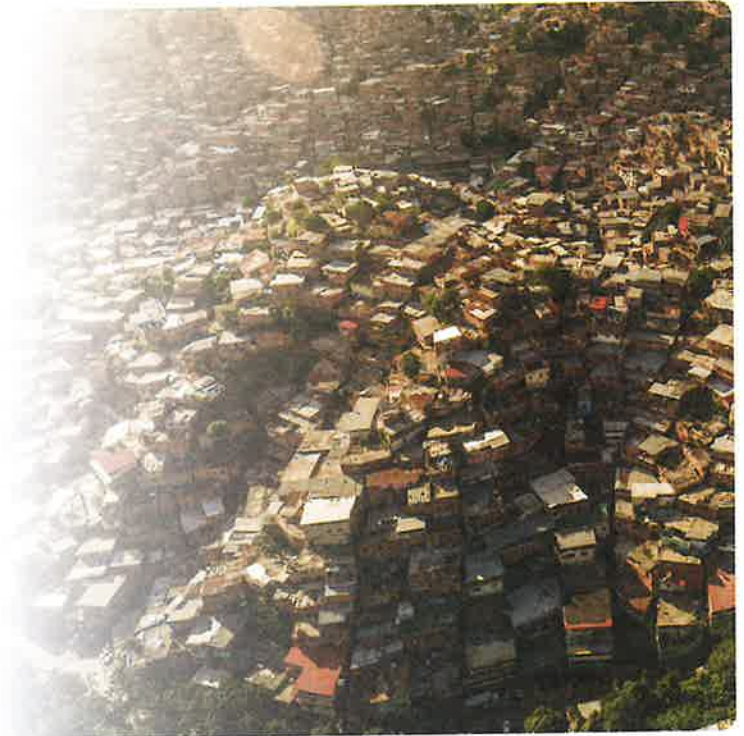
Kind hearts

A few years ago, I was visiting Jesuit province in Latin America. I was invited, with some timidity, to celebrate Mass in a suburban slum, in a favela, the poorest in the region as they told me. There were around 100,000 people living there in the midst of mud since the town had been built along the side of a depression and became almost completely flooded whenever it rained. I readily accepted...

At the end [of Mass] a big fellow, whose fearful looks could have inspired fear, told me: "Come to my house. I have something to honour you." I remained uncertain, not knowing whether I should accept or not, but the priest who was accompanying me said: "Go with

him, Father; the people are very good". I went to his house, which was a half-falling shack. He made me sit down on a rickety chair. From where I was seated the sun could be seen as it was setting. The fellow said to me: "Señor, see how beautiful it is!" And we remained silent for some minutes. The sun disappeared. The man added: "I did not know how to thank you for all that you have done for us. I have nothing to give you, but I thought that you would like to see this sunset. It pleased you, didn't it? Good evening." He then gave me his hand. As I was leaving, I thought: "I have met very few hearts that are so kind."

Pedro Arrupe SJ, Essential Writings



Lord, I love you. Help me to love you more.  Amen.

The fire within

Jesus' love for us is inspiring when we take time to contemplate what he did for us on the cross. What is holding us back from truly following him? Are we losing faith, becoming weary and hindered by the demands of this world? Jeremiah did not give up and was rescued in his time of need. We are encouraged today to throw off whatever is holding us back from fixing our eyes on Jesus and just keep persevering. There are so many things that

can entangle us and prevent us from following faithfully but we know our Lord and Saviour is always there for us. If today, you are thinking of giving up, be encouraged that Jesus' love for you is the fire within to sustain you. The Holy Spirit is within you, so continue to share God's love with others, while remaining steadfast and running with faithful perseverance, looking only towards Jesus.

Actor, singer, writer and journalist Stephanie Pena, plays the part of Mary Magdalene in the Wintershall production of The Passion of Jesus (<https://youtu.be/xTGvpz9DM-w>)

The Church is young, she needs your generosity, your joy, your will to build a different world, imbued with the values of fraternity, peace and reconciliation.

Pope Francis



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

A Medieval Jubilee

Proclaiming a Jubilee can be complicated. The Black Death, between 1347-1351 killed as many as fifty million people across Europe, perhaps half of the continent's fourteenth-century population. In 1349, Rome was caught by the devastating 6.7 magnitude earthquakes which, over two days, caused widespread damage to towns, cities and infrastructure like Roman aqueducts and bridges.

Yet, in 1345, Clement VI had declared a Holy Year for the year 1350.

England and France were then fighting the Hundred Years War. Both Edward III of England and John II of France knew that their knights and military leaders could afford the pilgrimage and would want to travel. However, their absence would leave England and France vulnerable to invasion by each other. England also feared incursions from Scotland.

Eventually, Clement persuaded the two kings to sign a truce to ensure the safety of pilgrims travelling to Rome.

Despite the difficulties, more than 1.5 million pilgrims eventually went to Rome for the Jubilee celebrations.

READINGS

Today:
Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10
Hebrews 12:1-4
Luke 12:49-53

Monday:
Judges 2:11-19
Matthew 19:16-22

Tuesday:
Judges 6:11-24a
Matthew 19:23-30

Wednesday:
Judges 9:6-15
Matthew 20:1-16

Thursday:
Judges 11:29-39a
Matthew 22:1-14

Friday:
Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22
Matthew 22:34-40

Saturday:
Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11;
4:13-17
Matthew 23:1-12

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 66:18-21
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Luke 13:22-30