

SUNDAY *Plus*

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week I** Year C

True love



The boy bit his cake, spat it out again and suddenly began to cry.

"Why are you crying?" asked the father.

"I am not hungry," said the boy.

The father's smile became more marked than ever.

"You need not be hungry to eat a cake." ... "Throw it to those swans." ...

Meanwhile, the two little vagabonds had approached the cake at the same time as the swans. It was floating on the water. The smaller boy looked at the cake. The other looked at the retreating tradesmen...

When they were no longer in sight, the elder boy hurriedly lay down flat on his stomach on the rounding edge of the basin, and holding to it with his left hand, bending over the water till he all but fell in, he stretched

out his stick towards the cake with the other hand. The swans, seeing the enemy, hastened up; and as they hastened, their breasts produced an effect favourable to the little fisher. The water flowed back in front of the swans, and one of these gentle, concentric waves softly impelled the cake towards the boy's stick. When the swans reached it, the stick touched the cake. The lad gave a quick blow, startled the swans, seized the cake, and sprang up. The cake was soaked; but they were hungry and thirsty. The elder boy divided the cake into two parts – a large one and a small one – kept the small one for himself, and gave the larger piece to his brother, saying, "Shove that into your breadbasket."

Victor Hugo, Les Misérables

Dearest Jesus, it's very easy to be greedy and to want the best things for myself. Teach me to be generous.  Amen.

Will you say yes?

To be patient and wait our turn can be a hard lesson to learn, especially when we are going through a challenging season. I don't know about you but often in my daily activities God gives me uncomfortable opportunities to be patient. Never forget that even when things are hard, God is good; being disciplined by him will later produce a harvest. We must trust God in the pruning season. In his great love for us, he has given us free will. Personally,

I would rather be in God's will than out of it. Waiting on the Lord can be hard, but when we do, he renews our strength and in his beautiful timing we learn the fruitfulness of being patient. Come close to God, spend time with him, getting to know his word. God lovingly invites us to take the narrow door; will you say yes to the invitation?

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

If you in your family, in your neighbourhood start out with envy, with fights, there will be "war" in the end. Instead, if you start out with love, sharing love, forgiveness, there will be love and forgiveness for everyone.

Pope Francis

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee 1600

Pilgrims who climb the Scala Sancta in Rome, learn that crawling up the first two or three of the twenty-eight white marble steps is not particularly uncomfortable. The last few require huge willpower and determination! Yet every year, thousands of pilgrims tackle the staircase which, tradition says, Jesus climbed towards Pilate. St Helena apparently brought the Scala Sancta to Rome from the Praetorium in Jerusalem in AD 326.

During the Jubilee Year of 1600, Pope Clement VIII (the first Pope to drink coffee!) climbed the steps on his knees, served meals to pilgrims, and ate with twelve of the city's poor each day. Rome's Jewish community supplied five hundred blankets so that pilgrims could sleep more comfortably. As a sign of penitence, cardinals renounced their red regalia for the year. Despite the huge difficulties and dangers involved in making a pilgrimage, more than one million people travelled to Rome for the Jubilee.



READINGS

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

Monday:
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8-10
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday:
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday:
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday:
1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday:
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
Mark 6:17-29

Saturday:
1 Thessalonians 4:9-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Next Sunday:
Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29
Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
Luke 14:1, 7-14