



Day for Life

Faith is a gift which is deepened or weakened in the experiences of our lives. Joy and success can make it easy to believe in God; sorrow and failure threatens our faith in God's care. Our readings encourage us to keep faith in all life's ups and downs.



"Fan the flame of God's gift" says Paul to Timothy in today's second reading. Life is God's gift. It's a journey we try to make the most of. When we stop, things don't go right. What makes life's journey go right? What makes it worthwhile?

"A man may take to drink because he feels himself to be a failure, but then fail all the more completely because he drinks" – George Orwell. The old Greek philosophers taught that the goal of life is happiness. People often choose paths in life that lead only to pleasure and not happiness. Despite appearances to the contrary, money does not buy happiness. Check the lives of the rich and famous.

Before I left school my grandfather advised me to do something with my life that would be of benefit to others. I have had no regrets. Jesus taught his disciples that the purpose of their lives of following him was to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others. Many remember the words of the old school catechism: "God made us to know, love and serve him in this life...." There is a poster outside a Carmelite monastery in Dublin which says "God is Life." Very true, very rich, yet very simple. An old line attributed to St. Irenaeus runs, "The glory of God is a person who is fully alive."

We need to be like the apostles in the gospel who asked Jesus to increase their faith. We need to pray, slowly and sincerely, for the courage to trust in God. Maybe there is some cynicism about religion in our lives that blocks the growth of faith and trust. The Spirit of God can lead us through prayer to read the gospel through the lens of faith rather than through the eyes of material profit.

Fr. Joe Walsh

focus on sunday

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Have mercy on us, O Lord.
For we have sinned against you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant us your salvation.

May almighty God have mercy on us,...Amen.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.



THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2 - 4

A reading from the prophet Habakkuk

How long, Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear and you will not save? Why do you set injustice before me, why do you look on where there is tyranny? Outrage and violence, this is all I see, all is contention, and discord flourishes. Then the Lord answered and said, 'Write the vision down, inscribe it on tablets to be easily read, since this vision is for its own time only: eager for its own fulfilment, it does not deceive; if it comes slowly, wait, for come it will, without fail. 'See how he flags, he whose soul is not at rights, but the upright man will live by his faithfulness.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM P.S.94: 1-2. 6-9

R. O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. [R]
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. [R]
3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' [R]

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 1:6 - 8 13 - 14

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy.

I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you. God's gift was not a spirit of timidity, but the Spirit of power, and love, and self-control. So you are never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord, or ashamed of me for being his prisoner; but with me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God.

Keep as your pattern the sound teaching you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. You have been trusted to look after something precious; guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSEPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSEPEL Luke 17: 5 - 10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately"? Would he not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty."'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,



born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifices instituted by your commands and, through the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate with dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Though many, we are one bread, one body, for we all partake of the one Bread and one Chalice.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, almighty God, that we may be refreshed and nourished by the Sacrament which we have received, so as to be transformed into what we consume. Through Christ our Lord.