

# Sunday Readings

## 10th November 2024

### Collect

Almighty and merciful God,  
graciously keep from us all adversity,  
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,  
we may pursue in freedom of heart  
the things that are yours.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the first book of Kings 17:10-16

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring me a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent,  
jug of oil shall not be emptied,  
before the day when the Lord sends  
rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 145:7-10. R/v.2*

**R/. My soul, give praise to the Lord.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R/.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who loves the just  
the Lord who protects the stranger. **R/.**

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age. **R/.**

### SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

9:24-28

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### Gospel Acclamation

Apoc 2:10

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Even if you have to die, says the Lord,*

*Keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.*

*Alleluia!*

### GOSPEL

Mark 12:38-44

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

*Glory to you, O Lord.*

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Prayer after Communion

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord,  
we give you thanks and beseech your mercy,  
that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit,  
the grace of integrity may endure  
in those your heavenly power has entered.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year B

## The Word of God

## Saint of the Week

In the readings today the Lord is not just talking about the need to give, but perhaps more importantly the need to trust in God, which enables us to be free to give. Jesus pointed out the poor woman who put the last of her money into the treasury, because she wasn't afraid. She obviously had faith in God which gave her the freedom to do this. She believed God would look after her and that's why Jesus pointed her out. It wasn't a criticism of the others so much as giving her credit for her generosity because of her faith. Her faith gave her the freedom to be able to do this.

In the first reading the prophet Elijah asks for food from a woman who has almost nothing left and is about to die. But he convinces her to trust in the word of God and because she does she is rewarded. God is never out-done in generosity. She believes and trusts in God and God then takes care of her through the prophet Elijah.

The Lord is inviting us to do the same, that is, above all to trust him that He is looking after us and will look after us. 'Seek first the kingdom of God and then all these other things will be give you as well. Your heavenly Father knows what you need even before you ask.'

God is very practical and knows exactly what we need and also what we are capable of doing. God doesn't ask us to do something we are not capable of doing, but He is all the time getting us to push the boat out a little bit more. That's what faith is all about. Trusting in God enables us to take steps that we might not take otherwise. We're not just talking about material things here either. The Lord wants us to believe that He is looking after us, our families, those we love, those who are sick, those who have died. There is no aspect of our life in which God is not interested. No one is asking us to sell everything. But the Lord does say, 'do not be afraid to give.' God will never be outdone in generosity.



Monday 11 November 2024

**St Martin of Tours**  
(c.316 - 397)



St Martin of Tours is one of our "soldier saints" depicted in the east window above the High Altar.

He was born in the Roman province of Pannonia (approximating to the western half of modern Hungary) in about 316 and was educated at Pavia in Italy. He was baptized, left the army and after spending some time as a

hermit on an island off the Ligurian coast, founded a monastery at Ligugé in western France, where he lived a monastic life guided by St Hilary. Later he was ordained priest and became bishop of Tours. In his actions he gave an example of what a good shepherd should be. He founded other monasteries, educated the clergy, and preached the Gospel to the poor. He died in 397.

The famous story about St Martin is that while a soldier in Amiens he gave half of his military cloak to a beggar and later had a dream in which the beggar revealed himself as Christ.

## Prayer of the Week

**A Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi**

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O, Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.