

Thought for the Week
1st September, 2019
22nd Sunday in Ordinary time

Luke 14:1, 7-14

After last Sunday's Gospel: *"there are those now last who shall be first, and those now first who will be last"*, this Sunday we have: *"for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted"*.

We are told not to take the seat in the place of honour at a wedding feast. In our over organised society, most weddings or formal banquets we attend have seating plans devised no doubt made with some thought and concern. No one is likely to place themselves on the top table unless clearly shown on the table plan.

The main message is clearly "humility" and in a modern world that almost worships "celebrities", this is a demanding key Christian virtue. Somehow our human condition makes us self-conscious, of a nagging need to outrank/out brag each other. We are all prone to this fault.

Pope Francis has set an example of avoiding the pomp and circumstance of his office. He lives simply and travels in a small car. Jesus, even more so, sets us an example for: *"he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross"*. (Phil 2:8).

So, let us take a moment to pause over today's prayer after Communion:

"Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you Lord, that being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour"

Stephen and Judy