

Thought for the week
Sunday, 18th October, 2020
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Render unto Caesar...

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,
we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;

For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.
Amen.

Today's Gospel is the first of four questions asked of Jesus trying to trap him; we hear the third of the four next weekend.

Often today this text is used to justify the separation of Church and State, but at the time of Jesus the trap was far more political. Paying the annual poll tax to the Romans was unpopular, but not doing so would result in prosecution. If Jesus said that it should be paid, he could be held in less regard by the crowd and his authority diminished. However, if he seemed to be aligning himself with the ultra-nationalists, who opposed the very idea of paying taxes to an occupying power, he would give the Pharisees ammunition they could use to report him to the Roman authorities.

The lower denomination copper coins in local circulation did not have the ruler's head on them because of Jewish sensitivities to portraits and pagan images. However, the silver denarius Jesus called for was a Roman coin with the emperor's head on and was used across the Empire to pay the army. The Roman state then collected the same coins back in from local populations by making them pay their taxes with them. By choosing Caesar's coin designed to be paid back to Caesar Jesus outwits his opponents.

But what does this leave as a message for us today?

Jesus tells the Pharisees to give the secular state the coins in its image and to give to God what is God's. We are made in God's image and are called by Jesus to give ourselves back to God: being faithful to what he asks of us; cleaning ourselves up to be ready to meet him and sharing his Good News through our words and our actions.

A Parishioner



Prayers Please

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Patricia Cox (Sister of Sheila Rush)

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has been readmitted to hospital due to the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 7 and has leukaemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including; Teresa Carter, Jessie McGinn, Jill Frildo, Alan Waller, Marnie Cotter, Bill Rodgers, Michael and Francis Coffey, Raymond Enright, Leonard Godfrey, Peter Gerald Smyth, Pam Kizer,