

Thought for the Week
27th October 2019
30th Sunday in Ordinary time

Last week, Deacon Brian drew our attention to the theme of prayer that has run through the Gospel for the last three weeks. He noted that the Gospel this week reminds us of our place in the world – our equality with others, especially in the sight of God. We see this message clearly in the first sentence of the first reading:

The Lord is a judge who is no respecter of personages.
(Ecclesiasticus 35:12)

Does this mean God doesn't respect us? Far from it, God loves us with a love greater than any we will ever experience anywhere else. With love, comes respect. God respects us – and gave us free will – but he does not regard worldly position or status as worthy of respect. God views us as persons, not as CEOs or street cleaners, or the unemployed or unemployable. God 'sees' us!

We should do the same. We should see God in all we encounter – actively looking for Him, that we may serve Him in our service of one another. He will be right there, alongside us, giving us power when we have none – just as He did for Paul in the epistle.

We should do all this for the glory of His name, for the furthering of His Kingdom and not for our own glory or for furthering our own careers or social standing.

In this week that will mean so much for our country, let us not be divided from one another, or drawn into dislike or distrust. Let us hold firm to the God who will never change, who will never stop loving us, or serving us, or working good for us. Let us shine His light and share His peace in these dark and troubled times, and let us stand or kneel before Him, in prayer, aware of just how small we are in the whole of creation, but just how vital we are to His work.

May your faith sustain you this week – may you be drawn to God in prayer, and find the Risen Christ at your side, supporting, encouraging and guiding you.

A Parishioner