

Thought for the Week
4th August, 2019
18th Sunday in Ordinary time

Summer is often a time of celebration: weddings, graduations, GCSE and A level results, are all opportunities to come together and rejoice with our friends and families. Often, these occasions are accompanied with a measure of pride and a sense of achievement, and there is nothing wrong with that. We should all celebrate one another's triumphs, just as we should all share in one another's sorrows. The readings from last week and this offer words of both reassurance and caution though.

The readings for the 17th Sunday were filled with messages we need to hear in the turmoil of our modern world. The boundless mercy of our God, the magnified reflection of our own humanity, the indication of what we should be. The Gospel gave us the template for our petitions – We should first praise, then ask for our needs.

On this the 18th Sunday, we are reminded that all our successes are but vanity, "*the vanity of vanities*", and that earthly treasures will not last. Put the two weeks together and the message for me is that we are urged to acknowledge and give thanks for all the blessings we have, making full use of them and taking full enjoyment, but never forgetting who the instigator of all these good things is. All that is good in our lives comes from God, who '*is everything and is in everything*'.

As you mark Summer, in whatever way, be sure to not only offer up thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father, but to actively seek ways to share His gifts with others. An invitation to someone to join you, a smile shared with a stranger, a note of congratulations to an acquaintance who is celebrating, an offer of help to a neighbour – all these are ways of both thanking God and sharing his love. Let us not labour in vain to '*store things up*' for ourselves, but instead share what we have, ringing out our joy to the Lord.

A Parishioner