

**Thought for the week**  
**28th Sunday of the Year (B)**  
**14th October 2018**

***'Everything is possible for God' Mark 10:27***

In a world driven by earthly desires – material goods, friend “likes” on social media, the next promotion, a bigger house – it is really hard to hear that we are called to give up everything to follow Christ. Today’s readings provide encouragement.

Solomon, a wealthy ruler, desired wisdom more than wealth. Personifying wisdom, he seeks a deep and abiding relationship and acknowledges that wisdom brought *'all good things...with her'*. The psalmist notes that God, who sees into the heart of all things, can give even the least of us a *'heart of wisdom'* – we have only to ask, to call on Him in our despair. He will hear us and answer us. It is in the Gospel that we find the ultimate encouragement. No matter what struggles we face, we can call on Him, for in Him, *'everything is possible'*. The readings help me to see beyond the material, encouraging me to improve my relationship with, and reliance on, God.

The gifts we are given are for sharing, not hoarding. Giving up everything does not mean being penniless, living on the street, or any such drastic measure. It means not holding on to what we have, sharing freely with those in need, in accordance with our ability to do so. What we need will vary from person to person, family to family and even from one time period to another. We are called to recognise this, using the wisdom God grants us, and to give (up) to others those things we can. The early Christians lived in community, we should do the same. We may not live in communes, but we can live in harmony, with shared responsibility for one another and pooling resources wherever possible.

Think on the meanings of the readings today. Advent is not far off, start preparing now for a new/renewed you, a new/renewed commitment to give of our gifts to those who need them more than we do. God will provide for our needs, and in Him, *'everything is possible'*.