

Sunday Readings

19th October 2025

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to
yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Exodus 17:8-13

In those days: Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 120. R/. cf. v.2

R/. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains;
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. **R/.**

May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. **R/.**

The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. **R/.**

The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and coming
both now and for ever. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter
of St Paul to Timothy

3:14 - 4:2

Beloved: Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia.
The word of God is living and active,
discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 18:1-8

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, "Give me justice against my adversary." For a while he refused, but afterwards he said to himself, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming." '

And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

Friday 24th October 2025

Saint Antony Mary Claret
(1807 - 1870)

The readings this Sunday point to the fact that God will always carry us and strengthen us during periods in our life when we face set-backs or crises or suffering and that we, then, on our part, should always persevere in trusting him and having faith in him, especially - Jesus seems to imply - at moments when we feel we've fallen victim to injustice of some kind. Keep praying, he says, and never lose heart.

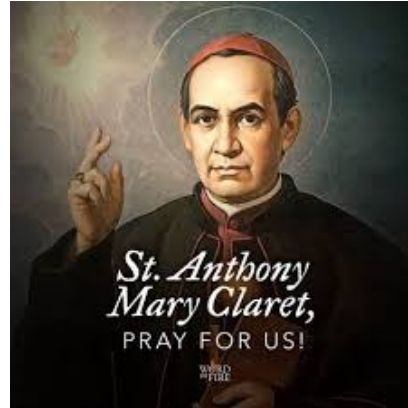
The very fact that he issues this advice or exhortation shows that he was well aware how difficult it is to maintain a mood of serenity and cheerfulness when we're under pressure or when tragedy strikes. Christ knew how easy it is in those circumstances to lose faith in God, to feel ignored by God and to start believing that he doesn't really exist. It's common for people to abandon religious belief in response to some set-back or disaster in their life, and it's this attitude that Jesus wants his followers to avoid.

One part of our whole framework of Christian faith is a belief in God's providence, as we call it - which doesn't mean a glib optimism about the future or a naive belief that "everything will turn out for the best". It means that everything that happens to us has a purpose or a meaning in terms of our relationship with God.

If we believe our real vocation, and the vocation of every individual, is to be united with God and to take on all the different facets of his holiness - rather than simply to be successful in material or worldly terms - then we will start to interpret our experiences of suffering and injustice as events which have the potential to bring us closer to God and to help us realise our vocation.

Jesus himself prayed continuously and never lost heart, and never wavered in his commitment to his unique mission, but that didn't mean that God acted to prevent him from suffering and dying. The conclusion that Jesus' first followers eventually reached was that his submission to suffering and injustice were a necessary part of his mission, and that God was close to him and did act on his behalf - not to divert him from the experience of the cross but to carry him through it.

A very similar pattern emerges sometimes in the lives of the holiest men and women in our tradition, the people we've come to regard as Christian saints. Very often they were men and women whose efforts to bring about spiritual and moral renewal brought them into conflict with others. Rather than blaming God or losing their faith in God, they turned to him to ask him to increase the power of his grace in them - to strengthen their faithfulness, their forgiveness and their love of their enemies.



He was born at Sallent in Catalonia. After becoming a priest he spent several years preaching to the people throughout Catalonia and also in the Canary Islands. Returning to Spain, he established a missionary order, and founded a great

religious library and publishing house in Barcelona which published millions of cheap copies of ancient and modern Catholic works. In 1851 the Pope appointed him Bishop of Santiago de Cuba. The diocese was in a terrible state and everything needed reform and renewal. He reorganised the seminary, enforced clerical discipline, and regularised thousands of marriages. He built a hospital and many schools. This was not done without opposition and he was the subject of fifteen assassination attempts.

Recalled to Spain in 1857 by Queen Isabella II to act as her confessor, he did further great work for the Church. His health began to fail, and he died at the Cistercian abbey at Fontfroide.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer for Perseverance

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe in You as my God and my Saviour. Make me more faithful to Your Gospel and commandments. By sharing in the Eucharist, may I come to live more fully in the life You have given me.

Keep Your Love alive within my heart and soul so that I may become worthy of You. Teach me to value and be thankful for all of Your Gifts.

Amen.

