



**St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



**June 18, 2023**

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

“Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you; your walls are ever before me.”

**ISAIAH 49:15-16**

## **READINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Ex 19:2-6a**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Romans 5:6-11**

**GOSPEL Matthew 9:36—10:8**

**Introduction:** The main theme of today's readings is that we are commissioned or sent, to transform others with the “Good News” of God's love, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation through Jesus His Son.

**Scripture lessons summarized:** The first reading gives Israel the good news that the God of Mount Sinai loves and cares for his people. God showed His continuing care for Israel by liberating the people from slavery in Egypt and by offering them a relationship in which they would be God's “*special possession,*” “*a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.*” Paul, in

today's second reading, reflects on how Jesus in his life, death, and resurrection made manifest God's love and care for mankind. According to Paul, the greatest proof of God's love and care for us was Jesus' willingness to die on behalf of sinful mankind and so make possible a new and better relationship with God. Today's responsorial psalm is permeated by a strong sense of God's loving care for His people as "the flock He tends." The Psalm affirms that the Lord is good, and that His kindness endures forever. Today's Gospel is, in effect, a reminder from God to each one of us, saying, "You have received grace and talents from Me without charge, and so you have to give without charge through your simple, responsible and sharing lives." This, indeed, is the core of the priestly vocation and of the vocation of every Christian through his or her Baptism.

Today's lesson marks a turning point in the establishment of the Christian Church as presented in the Gospels. Up to this point in the story, Jesus himself was the focus of the healing, teaching, and controversy. With the commissioning of his disciples, others began to assume some of the responsibility for the new movement that heralded the kingdom of God. That new movement was destined to grow later, with increasing diversity, as it extended beyond the borders of Galilee, into the Gentile world and became the Universal Christian Church.

**First reading, Ex 19:2-6, explained:** All ancient religions assumed that the gods were distant from and indifferent to humans. The best people could hope for was that a few members, their priestly class, could deal with the gods on their behalf. In today's first reading God overturns that class distinction. In the instruction given to Moses, God wants all the members of His chosen people to be a kingdom of holy priests. God expects a whole holy nation to join in worship, not just a few holy members to perform sacred duties for the rest. God says that all His people are special, set apart, and holy, and that they should pay attention to their exalted position. A religion in which all the members are to be holy was a stunning innovation. This teaching was last repeated for Catholics at Vatican II, in "The Constitution on the Church," Chapter 5, "The Universal Call to Holiness in the Church," paragraphs 39-42. Hence we

have no right to divide ourselves into the holy group and the ordinary group and reserve holiness only to the priests and the religious.

**The second reading: Rom 5:6-11, explained:** Paul eloquently reminds the gathered community of Romans that God has gone beyond all limits in loving them. Paul's point is that we were quite unworthy of the gift God gave us in Christ. Notice all the expressions of this unworthiness: "*helpless, ungodly, still sinners, enemies.*" It's the contrast between our unworthiness and God's gracious generosity that is so remarkable. Paul argues that Jesus served and taught and healed and died for those who were sinners because they were essentially God's people, God's special ones, the holy nation, the ones set apart. As Jesus walked the streets and taught the crowds, he saw in each of them a sacred and holy child of God.

**Gospel Exegesis:** Matthew has just told us of ten miracles Jesus performed; he has cured people both physically and spiritually. Jesus has "compassion" (9:36) on the "crowds" in their leaderless state, "like sheep without a shepherd"; he has announced that the completion of God's plan, his "harvest" (9:37), to return all to godliness, is about to begin. Now he instructs and commissions his disciples. The message of today's Scriptures is rather simple and to the point. God has moved toward us – and has loved us. God has reached out to nurture us, free us, and heal us through Jesus. We are lovable and good because God loves us and has chosen us as Jesus chose his apostles. Since Jesus loves the leaderless people, he chooses and sends the twelve apostles to awaken the people. He reminds the apostles that the harvest is very plentiful but the laborers are few. He instructs them to pray that the Lord will send laborers into His harvest.

## **JUNE 10/11 COLLECTIONS**

<b>Loose cash</b>	<b>121.22</b>
<b>Gift Aid</b>	<b>61.00</b>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>182.22</u></b>

## **St Winefride's Well & Shrine, Holywell, Pilgrimage and Events Programme 2023**

Please find a poster for the National Pilgrimage to St Winefride's Shrine, Holywell on 25<sup>th</sup> June as well as the Events Programme for the Pilgrimage Season which started on Pentecost Sunday, for display on Parish notice board Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 2.30pm: Procession from the Church of St Winefride, 3.00pm: Mass in the Shrine Grounds Followed by refreshments

### **MASS INTENTIONS June 17-23**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Offered by</b>	<b>Intentions</b>
17/06/23-		For the Parishioners
18/06/23	Juliana	Astrida RIP
19/06/23	Michael and Natalie	Dan Bradley RIP
20/06/23	Tony Parry	Healing of Chris Healey
21/06/23	Tony Parry	Healing of Tony Parry
22/06/23	Vania Mendes	Felis Mendes
23/06/23	Martin Joe	Martin & Evan Family

### **Please Pray for our Sick**

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,  
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

### **ANNIVERSARIES (June-17-23)**

Simon Roger Warburton. 2021

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday**  
**ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>

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