

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Musselburgh 6.00pm & Tranent 9.30am

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

**We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

FIRST READING A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him."

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity" **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v.2)

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:

Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible are published and copyright ©1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc. Text of the Psalms: Copyright ©1963 The Grail (England)

when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**

SECOND READING A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians (1:5-10)

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming. **The word of the Lord.**

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (22:34-40)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.' **The Gospel of the Lord.**

The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;**

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Musselburgh 6.00pm & Tranent 9.30am

through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all Bow until man)
*and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.*
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYING FOR OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

“Let your generosity extend to all the living, do not withhold it even from the dead.” Sirach 7:33

We, Catholics traditionally offers prayers for our deceased relatives and friends and indeed it is our duty to pray for all who have died, especially those who have no one else to pray for them. By doing this, it demonstrates the last and only act of love we can offer for the departed. The dead are alive in the Lord even as they journey to heaven. They are alive to us, remain part of our living relationships, as we hold them in our prayers.

Now in the early books of the Old Testament there is nothing said about praying for the dead because there was no clear idea of the resurrection of the dead in fact quite the opposite. *For the grave cannot praise you, death cannot sing your praise; those who go down to the pit cannot hope for your faithfulness. The living, the living—they praise you, as I am doing today. Isaiah 38: 18*

No surprise then that it was only in the later Old Testament period that, as the doctrine of the resurrection took hold, so too did our responsibility to pray became clear: *‘For if he had not hoped that they that were slain should rise again, it would have seemed superfluous and vain to pray for the dead, and because he considered that they who had fallen asleep with Godliness, had great grace laid up for them. It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins. 2 Maccabees 12:44-46*

In the New Testament St Paul prays for his friend who has died and for his grieving family. He is praying that God may have mercy on his friend on the day of judgement. *May the Lord grant mercy to the family of Onesiphorus because he often gave me new heart and was not ashamed of my chains. But when he came to Rome, he promptly searched for me and found me. May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day. And you know very well the services he rendered in Ephesus. 2 Timothy 1:16-18.*

Now while Paul is seeking mercy for a faithful follower of the Lord, St Peter holds out the hope that others too might find mercy: “for this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead that, though condemned in the flesh in human estimation, they might live in the spirit in the estimation of God.” 1 Peter 4:6

We pray for the dead because we believe in the resurrection, we believe in interpersonal relationship – we call it communion! If all of our lives we have been in communion with those whom we love then why stop? If we have prayed for our family while living then why stop? It is an act of generous love; it is an act of thanksgiving and appreciation for those who once loved (and continue love) us. *“May he be blessed by the Lord, who is ever merciful to the living and to the dead,” Naomi exclaimed to her daughter-in-law; and she continued, “he is a relative of ours, one of our next of kin.” Ruth 2:20*

And when we pray for the stranger and those unknown to us then we grow in holiness as much as the one prayed for.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace and rise to glory. Amen