

on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Creed is omitted

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer

The salvation of man by a man

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For we know it belongs to your boundless glory,
that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity
and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself,
that the cause of our downfall
might become the means of our salvation,
through Christ our Lord.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty
and rejoices in your presence for ever:

Communion Antiphon

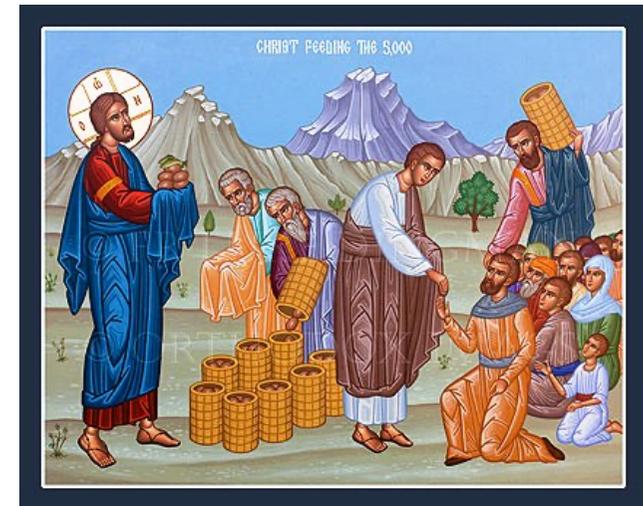
(to be recited privately)

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA, LARGS OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR, MILLPORT

18th ORDINARY SUNDAY (A)
1~2 AUGUST 2020

Readings and Hymns



“Then he took the five loaves and the two fish,
raised his eyes to heaven
and said the blessing.
And breaking the loaves
handed them to his disciples
who gave them to the crowds.”

(Matthew 14:19)

CONFIDENCE IN JESUS

“Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ.” These words are spoken by St. Paul in today’s second reading. What we need to remember is that Paul considered himself the worst of all sinners at the time Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. This means that no amount of personal sin on our part can or will, from His side, stop Christ from coming close to us. In fact, the more we are in sin, the closer he comes to us to free us from it. “Behold! I stand at the door and knock.”

It is the great triumph of divine mercy that someone as sinful as Paul would not resist Jesus when He came to free him. It is the great tragedy of human pride that others, sadly, are not moved even by such mercy.

Even so, we must hope and pray without ceasing for the conversion of heart of those who are as yet unresponsive to Jesus. It is Jesus’ own love, in fact, which moves us to hope and pray in this way. He wants us to have the confidence in his love that others do not yet have. Through our confident trust in his victory, the attraction of the sinful heart to Christ increases. Our confidence cannot replace the will of the unrepentant to repent, but it can make stronger the appeal of Christ’s love. Think of the tears of St. Monica which eventually wore down the stubbornness – and it was truly a great stubbornness of a great mind – of her son Augustine.

The hardness of the human will in resisting the mercy of Jesus is the only “line in the sand” which Jesus will not trespass because He takes our freedom more seriously than we do ourselves. All the other things St. Paul mentions in the second reading – trouble, worry, persecution, hunger, nakedness, death, life, angels, etc. – are no obstacle to the love of Christ.

What can help someone find the will to rub out that line in the sand is the warmth of our love, the sincerity of our entreaty, the light of our example, the persevering commitment of our prayer. If we can stir the curiosity of the unrepentant by the joy of our Christian lives; if we can move their hearts by the music of our virtuous ways: then we can have confident hope in Christ that the prodigal son or, indeed, the elder brother outside the front door of the Father’s house, will eventually relent and come in.

In the confident witness of our Christian lives, it is the power of Christ’s love which attracts others to Him. The conversion of the world is, in this sense, in our hands.

Due to Covid-19, there will be no singing at Mass

The Gloria is omitted

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Romans 8:35,37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 144(145):8-9,15-18

You open wide your hand, O Lord; you grant our desires.

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist’s death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, ‘This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.’ Jesus replied, ‘There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.’ But they answered ‘All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.’ ‘Bring them here to me’ he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down