Prayer Resources Week 3 Monday 21st September



25th Sunday Ord. time (A)

Matthew 20:1-16

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, "You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you." So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, "Why do you stand here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You go into the vineyard too."

'And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, "Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" So the last will be first, and the first last.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Prayer One

The Sign of the Cross

**Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**



Reflection:
Has your ego ever got you into trouble?

There is a theory which says that a lot of the world's problems are caused by people not wanting to back down from something.

Sometimes, we get ourselves so entrenched in something that we can't let it go, even though to all the world it might just be completely ridiculous.

Once we get ourselves backed into a corner like that, the things we do to defend our position can quickly go from bad to worse.

This sort of arrogance goes against everything Jesus was talking about in the Gospel when he told us to put others first and to be humble above all else.

Final Prayer

LOVING FATHER…

Help us to know when it is right to fight for something, and when it is right to put our own will to one side for the sake of something greater. Make we always be slow to judge, quick to make peace and generous in valuing those around us.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN



Prayer Two

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection: ***This week's Gospel ends with one of the most famous phrases in the bible: 'the last will be first, and the first, last.'***



'..the last will be first, and the first, last'

What you have to understand about Jesus is that he came to upset the established order. He had no interest in protecting the strong and the important. In fact, a lot of the time he wanted to upset them and challenge them to look out for the weak and the unloved. Those people were 'the last' to be thought of in Jesus' time, and he wanted to put them first.

Have a think:

Who do you put first in your life?...

In your decisions and choices? ...

Is it ever the weak and the vulnerable? ...

Which CST does this idea link to?...





Final Prayer

LOVING FATHER…

May we have the generosity, the love and the wisdom to see the world with your eyes.

May we always see the people the world puts last, and may we reach out a loving hand.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
AMEN.

Prayer Three

The Sign of the Cross

Let us remember that everything we do is
In the name of the Father, and of
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Reflection
The Church celebrates the feast of St Vincent De Paul on Sunday 27th September





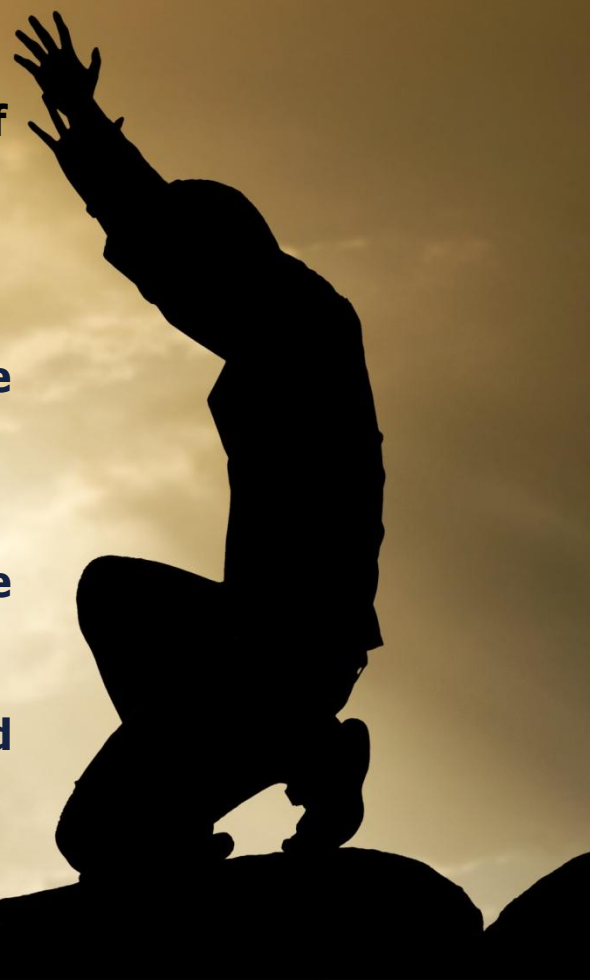
Prayer Three

Many of you will have heard of "the SVP" - the society that bears his name and does so much good charitable work, but few people know that much about the man himself.

Vincent was a French priest who lived in the late 16th and early 17th century. He dedicated himself to serving the poor and is known as the "Great Apostle of Charity."
He was made a Saint in 1737 by Pope Clement XII.

The SVP The Society was founded in 1833 by a group of students in Paris. They were challenged to serve the poor of the city and inspired by the example of St Vincent de Paul, they served the local population face to face, as part of their spiritual formation. In 1844 a group of men came together in London and started the first group in Britain.

Today SVP still exists with the mission to seek and find those in need, to help them in a spirit of justice and to tackle the causes of poverty where they can.



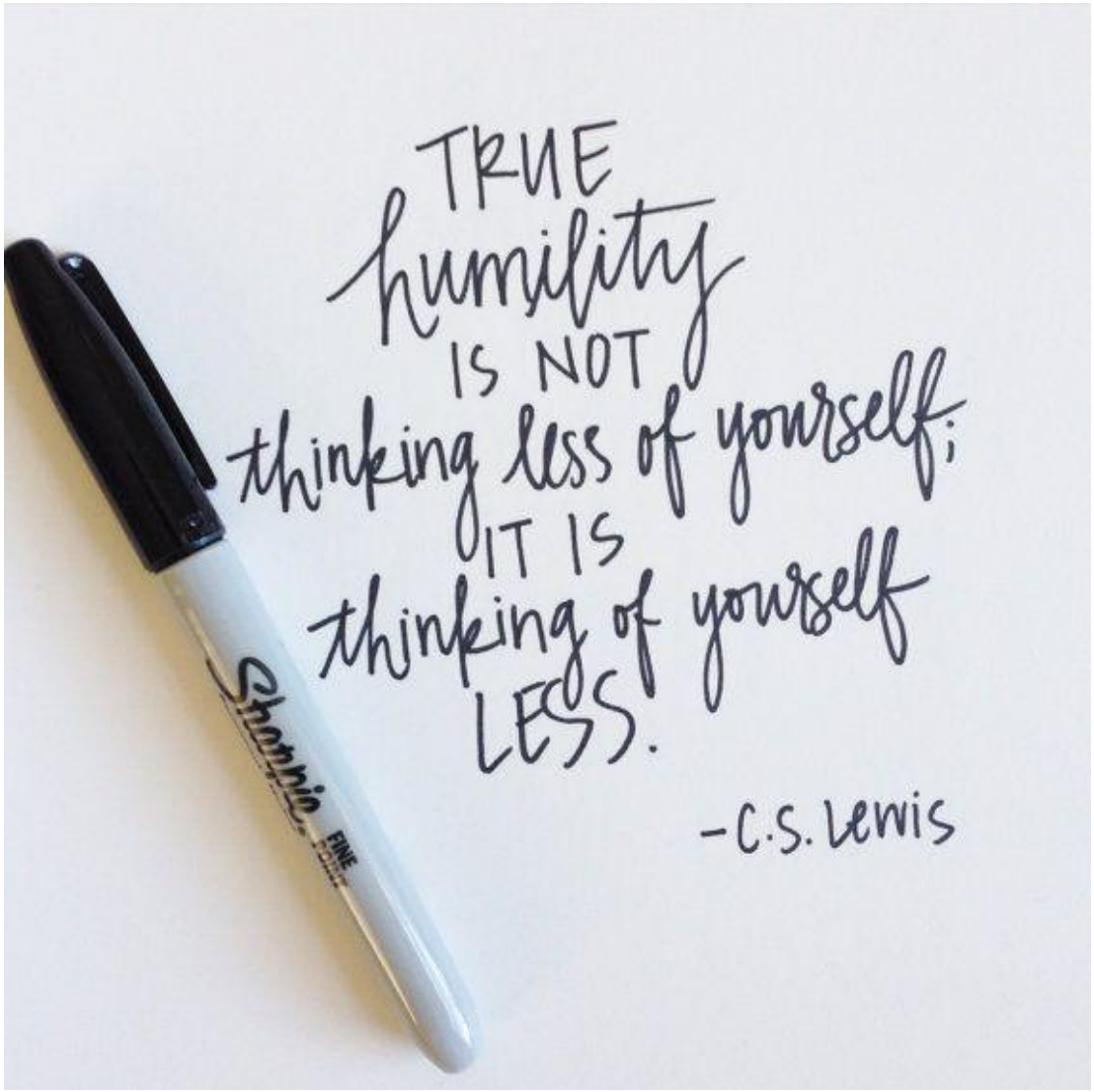
Final Prayer

St Vincent De Paul



Pray for us

Final Thought…



Next Week:* *Obedience