

This Sunday's Gospel

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

(Matthew 22:1-14)

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'



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: Our theme this week is
INVITATION, and it reminds us that Jesus
invites us all to the Kingdom of God*

In the Gospel reading Jesus compares the Kingdom of God - which is about being with him both in this world and in the next - to a wedding feast.

Something that brings a lot of joy and celebration.

Although the invitation has strings attached, it is sent to absolutely everybody. Nobody is excluded, and that is a comforting thing.

In fact, it is one of the things which early on made Christianity different from other faiths: it isn't about just one culture and set of people, but it is universal. In fact, universal is actually what the word CATHOLIC means!



Final Prayer

LOVING FATHER...

We thank you for inviting us to the joy and peace of living as your children. Give us the courage to accept this invitation and the grace to accept everything that it means.

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: There is a sort of
unwritten rule that when you are
invited to a party you bring something
with you***



The phrase 'do you want me to bring anything?' is a common one these days when invitations are being issued and people are talking about parties. The point is that sometimes it's not okay to just turn up.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus makes the point that although everybody is invited to the Kingdom of God, it's not okay to just roll up as they are.

The king in the parable kicks one of the guests out for not having a wedding garment, and in the same way God gets a little bit ticked off with us if we don't let out Christian faith change us.

Yes, we are all invited, but we have to bring something too! We have to let the invitation change our behavior!

Final Prayer

LOVING FATHER...

**May we welcome the invitation to
your kingdom and may it change our
hearts and lives for the better.**

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



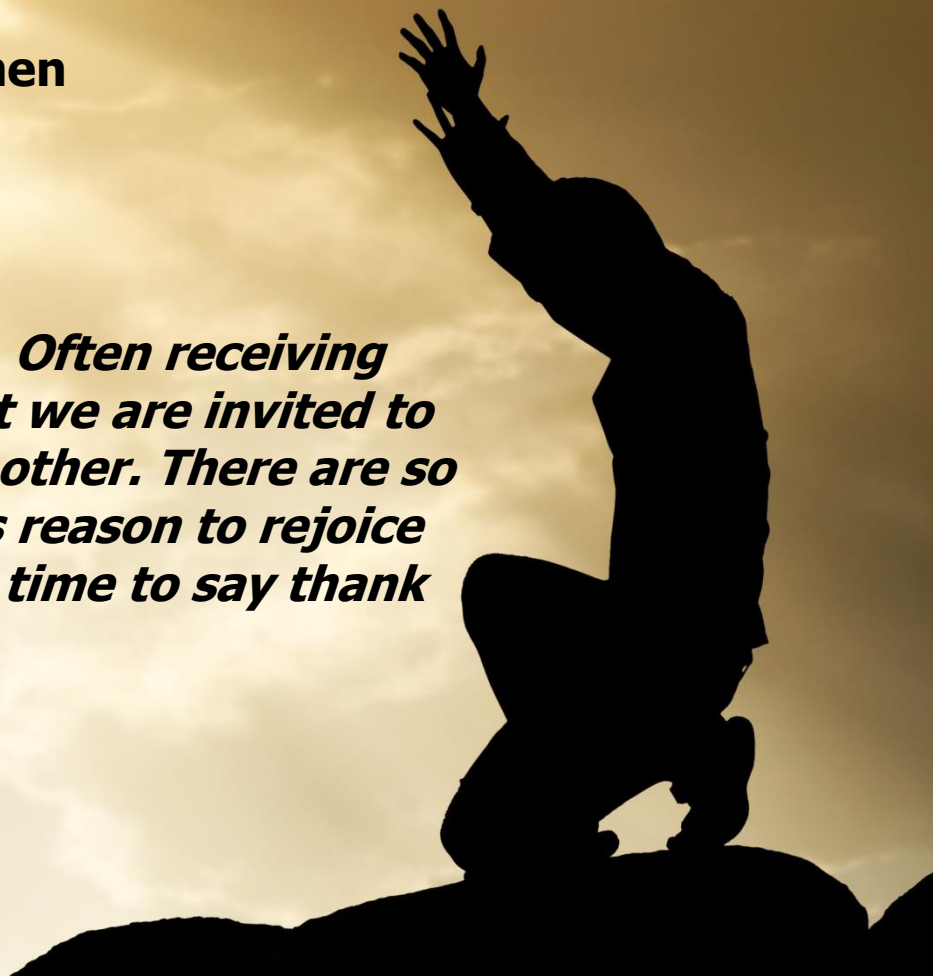
Prayer Three

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

Our theme this week is "Invitation". Often receiving an invite fills us with joy, often what we are invited to is a celebration for one reason or another. There are so many things in our lives that give us reason to rejoice but how often do we really take the time to say thank you...



As you go through today, try not to focus on the negative things, but try to think about the things that make you rejoice, and try to be grateful.

Try to focus on the people in your life who like you and without whom your life would be different.

Try to focus on the things you can do that you couldn't do this time last year.

Try to focus on what's good about the place you live and the people you know.

Try to focus on your family and the people you call friends.

Try to focus on the things you believe in, and on the hope and joy that they give you.

Let us try today, not to take good things for granted, but to pause for a brief moment to remember everything that's special.



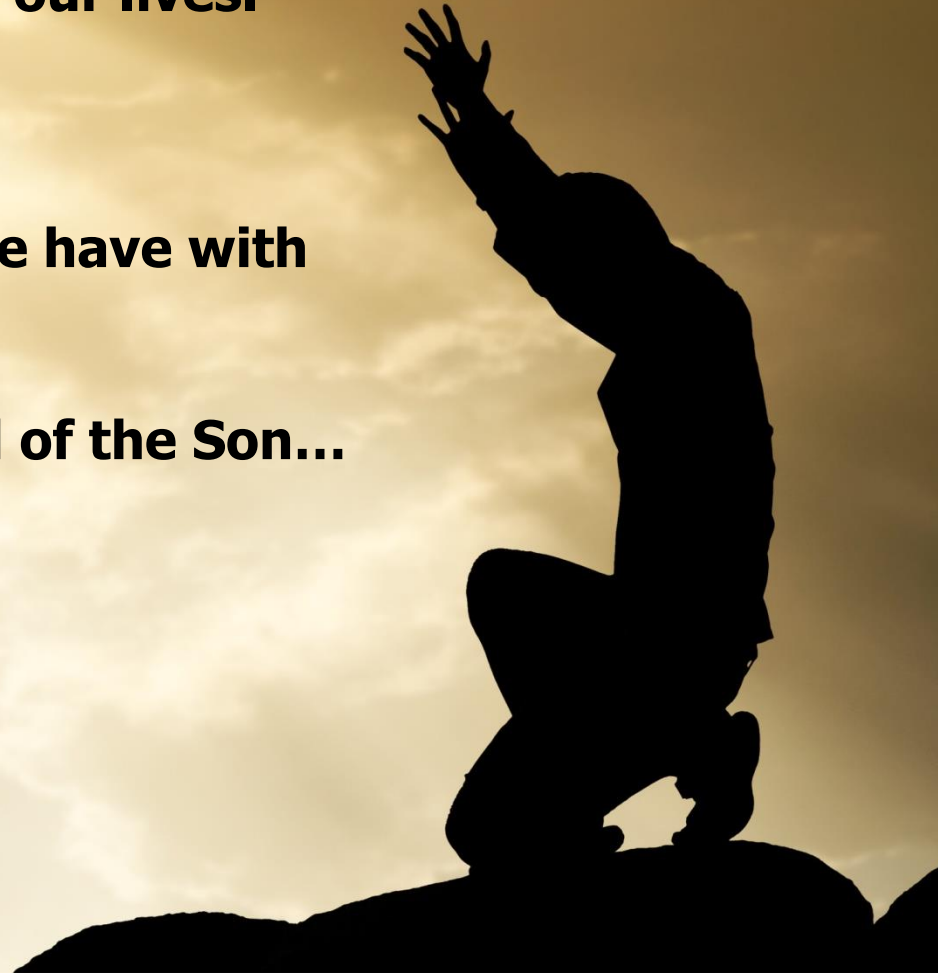
Final Prayer

Loving Father,

**We know that all good things come from you,
and we know that they enrich our lives.**

**Give us a grateful heart,
and give us the kindness
to share all the good things we have with
others.**

In the name of the Father and of the Son...



Final Thought...



*After the break: **Saints***