

Birkenhead, Sunday 28th July 2024

10th Sunday after Pentecost

“Jacta cogitatum tuum in Dómino, et ipse te enútriet¹”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

“Cast your care upon the Lord, and He will support you.”

This tenth Sunday after Pentecost is noticeable for various reasons. For the children, it is an easy teaching to remember, with the well-known parable of the Pharisee and the publican.

For a religious, it would be the humility of the publican, who would teach him/her so many lessons regarding the common daily life.

For a musician, it will be the obvious inspiration of the Gregorian melody, which leded Johan Sebastian Bach to compose one of his masterworks, the Passacaglia, from the Communion Antiphon.

For all of us, it would be the complete confidence and abandon into God's desire, because He wants to care for us. Unfortunately, most of the time, we are like the Pharisee, blinding ourselves with our supposedly good works, taking them for being our own work, and not God's grace operating through us. We withdraw, should it be possible, a part of the Glory which is only due to God, and we self-honour ourselves. Such vanity and pride should not have any root in our hearts.

“To correct yourself of vanity, of the desire to please men, of self-consciousness, the best means is:

1.—To do everything directly to please God. The more you look at God, the less you will look at yourself;

2.—To thank God, Who is the source of all good, for all the good you do, for your successes, etc.;

3. —Not to be astonished, nor troubled, when you happen to fall into imperfections, but to ask forgiveness and, immediately, *sursum corda*².”

Blessed Columba Marmion just gave us very simple, but precious advice, helping us to put into practice the words unceasingly repeated in various psalms, and which should be prayed to obtain a real christian life: “*Non nobis Domine*, Not to us, O Lord, not to us; * but to thy name give glory³.”

In that sense, the communion antiphon is answering the introit of this mass. The Introit depicted our sorrow and sadness because of our iniquity, our unworthiness, our unfortunate

¹ Ps., 54, 23. Introit.

² Dom Marmion, *Union with God*, Chp. 3, the desire of perfection, letter of the 1st May 1915.

³ Ps., 113, 9.

betrayals, but placed a tiny sparkle of hope at the end: “Cast your care upon the Lord, and He will support you”.

The communion antiphon, which conclude mass, brings us a partial consolation. Partial, because our consolation will be completed only in Heaven. Consolation, because the deep desire of our souls was just fulfilled above any hope: The Lord came and made our soul His Home, His Temple. Therefore, we say with confidence, and reassured through the graces we just received: “You shall be pleased with due sacrifices, burnt offerings and holocausts on Your altar, O Lord⁴”.

The Lord is always here to listen; he is expecting our prayer, our adoration, our thanksgiving, our requests, our offering and our reparation. These are the five purposes of prayer. A simple, kind, humble prayer, which will make you look like a little child, will please the Lord and obtain whatever you ask. Do not force God’s hand, but let Him guide you. He might a little bit force your hand at the beginning, but if you let yourself be guided, you will soon acknowledge the sweetness of God’s way to go to heaven. A sweetness sometimes mixed with bitterness, like the wine “mingled with gall⁵”, that Jesus was offered to drink on the Cross.

“You know that when we are in a state of grace, Jesus abides always in our heart. His great desire is to be all for us. It seems like a dream too beautiful to be true that Jesus so good, so powerful, so tender, wishes to be our Brother, and yet it is He Himself Who says so. ‘Whosoever shall do the will of My Father, that is in heaven, he is My brother, and sister, and mother?’ These are Jesus’ very own words. So to arrive at the happiness of having Jesus as our Brother, our closest Friend, we must do His Father's will.

Well! what is His will?

First of all, to avoid sin, and if we fall into it by frailty to ask forgiveness at once.

Next, to do all our actions for Him. For you, that is easy. Your ‘order of the day’ is fixed; you know your duties; it only remains to sanctify them by consecrating them to God⁶.”

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

⁴ Ps., 50, 21.

⁵ Mt., 27, 34.

⁶ Dom Marmion, *Union with God*, Chp. 1, Love, the Principle of union, letter of the 9th June 1903.