

'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

Jesus is once again in conflict with the Pharisees. They cannot see who Jesus is, nor can they hear and understand His teaching about the Kingdom of God. Jesus deals with them with open honesty and gentle firmness. He stuns them with the challenge to think deeply about what in truth belongs to God. We are urged to return to the world all that belongs to the world that is, our deep-seated prejudices, false assumptions and irrational fears, our worship of society's current 'idols', along with unhealthy desires and cravings for all that is passing and ultimately meaningless. In doing this we can then be open to His call and to give to God our unconditional commitment to do His Will.

Today, we are asked to respond to our baptismal call to mission by saying, "Here I Am, Send Me." When I have 'given back to Caesar' can I, with Pope Leo say: 'Here I am, Lord, send me!'.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, Lord, we pray a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purify action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.

Twenty-Ninth Sunday

Year A

18th October 2026

Every year, something special happens!

World Mission Sunday

Today, World Mission Sunday is a time when all the Catholics of the world join as one community of faith. At Mass, we recommit ourselves to our common vocation, through Baptism, to be missionaries, through prayer and participation in the Eucharist. In his message for World Mission Sunday this year, Pope Leo asks us to respond to our baptismal call to mission by saying, "Here I Am, Send Me." This is the mission that all Christians have received, and God gives us the grace to live it out wherever we may be. As we pray and respond on World Mission Sunday here at home, we share in those celebrations taking place in every parish and school throughout the world. Together, through our prayers, we bring the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions. In a world where so much divides us, World Mission Sunday rejoices in our unity as missionaries by our Baptism, as it offers each of us an opportunity to support the life-giving presence of the Church among the poor and marginalized throughout the world

Entrance Antiphon

*To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me;
hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.*

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.

ISAIAH 45: 4-6

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: 'For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Cyrus the Great was the Persian king of a great empire and in Scripture he is the only non-Jewish person to be called God's 'anointed one'. He was known as a gifted administrator who respected the customs and religions in all the lands he conquered, including Israel. God chose someone who 'does not know' God to be His instrument, someone we might say is unsuitable or even unable to be an instrument of God's grace. We are reminded that, in mystery, God chooses whomsoever He wants to be His missionaries of justice and mercy.

Today I am called by God to be a missionary of Justice and mercy

- Do I hear this call? / How am I living it?

PSALM: 96(95):1, 3. 4-5. 7-10

Response: *Ascribe to the LORD glory and power.*

O sing a new song to the LORD; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples.

For the LORD is great and highly to be praised, to be feared above all gods. For the gods of the nations are naught. It was the LORD who made the heavens.

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and power; ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name. Bring an offering and enter his courts.

Worship the LORD in holy splendour. O tremble before him, all the earth. Say to the nations, 'The LORD is king.' He will judge the peoples in fairness.

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-5

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

St Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians takes up the theme of being chosen by God and sent out to the nations to proclaim new life in the Risen Christ, who leads us to the Father by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul met this enormous challenge with an active faith, which was motivated by love, and with the sure and certain hope that God would ensure his mission would bear fruit. Our God-given mission draws us away from our own small worlds to reach out to those throughout the world in need of genuine, life-changing Good News.

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia!*

MATTHEW 22: 15-21

The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' They said, 'Caesar's.' Then he said to them,