



**St Margaret Mary,  
Birmingham  
27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Talking Faith and Finance II  
8<sup>th</sup> October, 2023  
Welcome**

*If you need detailed readings they are on p.137 of  
the books available from the back of church.*

Priest: ✠ In the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the  
Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: **And with your Spirit.**

Confiteor: I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I  
have failed to do, through my fault,  
through my fault, through my most  
grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed  
Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May Almighty God have  
mercy upon us, forgive us our sins

and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

**Kyries**

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and on  
earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore  
you, we glorify you, we give you  
thanks for your great glory, Lord  
God, heavenly King, O God, almighty  
Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only  
begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of  
God, Son of the Father, you take  
away the sins of the world, have  
mercy on us, you take away the sins  
of the world, receive our prayer, you  
are seated at the right hand of the  
Father, have mercy on us. For you  
alone are the Holy One, you alone are  
the Lord, you alone are the Most  
High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy  
Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**First reading: Isaiah 5.1-7.** *The  
vineyard, the House of Israel, was supposed  
to yield good grapes.*

**Psalm Response:** *The vineyard of the  
Lord is the house of Israel.*

**Second reading: Philippians 4.6-  
9** *If there is anything you need, pray for it.*

**Gospel Acclamation: (Please  
stand):** *I call you friends, says the Lord,  
because I have made known to you everything  
I have learnt from my Father.*

**The Gospel: Matthew 21.33-43.**

*The parable of the tenants.*

**Homily**

**Apostles Creed** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only son, Our Lord, *who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary*, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

**Bidding Prayers**

**Offertory hymn**

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise;  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways!

O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against the foe,

should strive, and should prevail;

and that the highest gift of grace  
should flesh and blood refine:  
God's presence and his very self,  
and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he who smote  
in man for man the foe,  
the double agony in Man  
for man should undergo.

And in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise;  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways!

*St John Henry Newman*

Pray Brethren that my sacrifice and  
yours may be acceptable to God the  
almighty Father. All: **May the Lord  
accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his  
name, for our good and the good  
of all his holy Church.**

**Sanctus:** Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God  
of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of  
your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**The Mystery of faith: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper of the Lamb. All: **Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### **Communion**

**Dismissal:** Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Notices** \* Figures for 1/10/23, Gift Aid: £57, Loose: £253.32, Attendance: 221

\*Christian giving is the responsibility of us, that is, the 'household of faith,' of those who are committed to Christ and the proclamation of his Kingdom in the world! To that end, the scheme, '*Talking Faith and Finance*' has been produced to enable Catholics to reflect on their giving, and in particular the principles of giving. *If anyone wants to talk finance and giving to Terry Brown, our Treasurer, he will be in attendance at all three masses this weekend.*

\* The deadline for application for secondary schools (for Y7 in September 2024/25) is 31 October. Those applying for St Paul's School can supplement their form with a signed '*Certificate of Catholic Practice*'. Nb It is worthwhile parents of children in Year 1 and 2 noting that this is the time to start or restart attendance at mass, as this certificate is given for regular attendance at weekend mass over 5 years.

### **\*Sycamore Course Autumn, 2023**

Meetings take place in the Newman Gallery in Church (upstairs) on Wednesdays at 6pm - 7pm.

11/10, Creation and the fall

18/10, The Sacraments

*Half term*

8/11, The Mass

22/11, Forgiveness

29/11, Vocations

6/12 The Church

\* The Portal magazine

portalmag.co.uk is out on 1 October: <https://soundcloud.com/user-666404058> for the weekly podcast.

\* October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Please consider praying the rosary more regularly and if you do not have one, there are rosaries available at the piety stall at the back of church.

\*Pope Francis Apostleship of Prayer for October: *For the Synod.*

*We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.*

\*We would like a least a dozen people – from all three masses - to know where our defibrillator is and how to use it. Please see Fr Simon if interested.

**\*Prayers for the departed:**

Fr Martyn Gough, Jessie Chinyere, Arthur Slater, Frances Fitzpatrick, Jeanette Kelsey, Ryan Lyndsey, Dawn McLoughlin, William Henry Burns, Mary O'Shaughnessy, Jemima Rathbone, Onyebuchi Kenneth Madu, Linda Calland, Joshua Ntui, Dean Martin Edwards, David John McCarthy, Nwadiuche Okeke Ihejirika, Justice Kwamin, Anna Egboh, Christina Burn, Baby Joseph Joshua & Star Rain Bradshaw, Judy Winn, Anthony Coonan, Joan Denny, Martin Anthony Conlon, Celine Nganwuchi, Sister Mary Bernadette CHC, Michael Fahey, Annie Whelan, Ester Mutumwa, Noel Hand, Helen Thomas, Bernie Layden, John Lenehan, Stephen Jones, Fred Hall, Jason Murtagh, Christina Alice Timmins, Fr John Morley-Bunker, Pauline Cassidy, Mgr David Silk, Claire Banks, Elizabeth McKeever RIP

**THIS WEEK** Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> 12 Noon Guild of St Stephen's Mass at St Chad's Cathedral (Servers assemble at school at 11am). 5.45pm-6.20pm Confessions. 6.30pm Vigil Mass (Robin Ellis).

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> October **Talking Faith and Finance II** 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. 9.30am Mass (Derrick West). 11am Mass (Bill Welch RIP). 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Cafod (Harvest Collection).

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> **ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.** 9.30am Mass at The Convent of the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 99 Old Oscott Hill, Kingstanding. 6.30pm Adoration and Benediction. 7pm Mass (The members of the Ordinariate).

Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> St Paulinus 8.55am Rosary. 9.15am Mass (Nassiem Illahikent RIP).

Wed, 11<sup>th</sup> St John XXIII . 8.55am Rosary. 9.15am Mass. 6pm Sycamore course in the Gallery.

Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> St Edward the Confessor. 9.15am Mass.

Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> 5.45pm-6.20pm Confessions. 6.30pm Vigil Mass (Catherine and Christopher Russell).

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> October **Talking Faith and Finance III** 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. 9.30am Mass. 11am Mass (Pro Populo RIP). 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Ordinariate Clergy Relief Trust.

## Faith and Finance– Briefing 1



One day, during the last week of his life, Jesus and his friends were sitting near one of the gates which led into one of the Jewish Temple courtyards in Jerusalem. On each side of the gate stood a large trumpet-shaped offering box. As people entered they put money into one of the boxes to pay for the upkeep of the Temple complex, and for the support of those who looked after it. As they gave Jesus watched.

‘Many rich people,’ we are told, ‘dropped in a lot of money; then a poor widow came along and dropped in two little copper coins, worth about a penny.’ ‘See her?’ Jesus said to his friends. ‘She’s put more money into Temple funds than all those rich people put together. All they’ve done is given what they had to

spare from their riches. She’s given all she had to live on!’

Who was she, this widow? If she gave all she had, what happened to her afterwards, with no Social Security benefit next week? Why did she do it? We shall never know. But God knew, and through the eyes of Jesus, his Son, he saw her. Two thousand years later she’s still remembered, and commended.

Like the Jewish Temple, our Church needs money to keep going and to evangelise, to make new disciples. We need money to share the wonder of God’s love in Christ for everyone. Working towards the re-conversion of this country costs money.

Sometimes people assume that there are huge reserves that the Archdiocese or the parish, can draw upon. That is not the case. Neither do we receive grants from the Government. By and large, we’re on our own. But shouldn’t the mission of God’s Church be financed by God’s people? Yes!

How will you give to your church next week, or the week after or next month? Jesus says it’s not the amount we give that’s

important, but the *proportion* of what we have. Then, as now, money talked, and people measured themselves by their wealth. But Jesus offered a different way. 'Sell all you have and give the money to the poor,' he said to a rich young man, 'and you will have riches in heaven; then come and follow me.'

Now that particular gospel proportion (100%) being given away, is followed by some, like monks and nuns, but for others a bench mark is around 10% (the biblical 'tithe'). Then there is the discussion of detail, for example, is it 10% before tax or after tax, and does that 10% include other charities? What about my dependents? These are real questions. The important first step is to pray and reflect on scripture. However you approach the tithe, the 10%, it is challenging: but we are disciples and our faith is our life, not simply a hobby or club. Even if you do compare with a club, the average giving in this Archdiocese is nowhere near what people spend on watching Aston Villa or Birmingham City!

The point of the poor widow is our giving is *proportionate* to our income. If we give

proportionately and regularly (e.g. through Standing Order or Envelopes) we will help to build a secure future for our parish.

Over the next three weeks we're sharing in this project called *Talking Faith and Finance*. At the heart of the project we hope many of us will think carefully about our giving and, at the end of the project, during a special **Pledge Sunday (21st/22nd October)**, we shall pledge our giving (obviously in sealed envelopes to ensure confidentiality) to our church for the next twelve months.

What really matters, as with the poor widow, is the attitude with which we give. When we get that right Jesus will be known more in our towns and villages and, in particular, in our parish of St Margaret Mary and the cluster of the parishes in Maryvale and Kingstanding.

So come and get involved. As John D Rockefeller once said, 'Think of giving not as a duty but as a privilege.'

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Working in collaboration with the  
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Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale and  
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