



## **Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**† Sunday 3rd March 2019**

In England and Wales –

Cycle of Prayer: For the Unemployed

Keynote: Jesus invites us not to be blind to our own faults

### **Book of Ecclesiasticus 27: 4-7**

*'In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a person appear in talk.'* This simple strong message from the Prophet is followed by some more strong examples: *'the orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit,'* and similarly: *'a persons' words betray what they feel'*. The Prophet then sums up with this lesson for living: *'Do not praise someone before they have spoken since this is the test of men.'*

**Responsorial Psalm 91 (92)** – The song of someone happy with God's blessing

### **First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 15: 54-58**

In last week's reading from Paul's letter he was contrasting the life of a person in Christ with the life of a person without Christ in their lives. One is living and the other is as good as dead. Continuing with his theme, when we have put on Christ our *'perishable nature has put on imperishability and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: "Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?"'* The apostle warns us that: *'The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So, let us thank God for giving us the victory thorough Jesus Christ our Lord.'*

### **Gospel according to Luke 6: 39-45**

In Jesus' day infections of the eye and the blindness that often may have followed seems to have been commonplace. Using this example from everyday life, Jesus says: *'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit?'* But it is not so much about that form of disability that Jesus now speaks. Rather, *'the disciple is not superior to the teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like the teacher.'* Here comes the real point of the parable: *'Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother: "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye" when you cannot see the plank in in your own?'* In strong language, Jesus says: *'Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.'* We all might recognise that it is all too easy just to see the faults and failings of others while glossing over, or not noticing our own failings. So, a little shaking and sifting as in the first reading today might help us to remove a blind spot or two in our own lives!

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Note: Ash Wednesday – 6th March – Day of Fast and Abstinence