

Living the Word: 2 Timothy 2: 8 – 15

This passage recalls us to the Gospel message for which Paul was in prison: Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. Paul reminds Timothy of this truth, which serves as an anchor for our times as well. Our faith can sometimes be used as a crutch, and at other times we might think of it as a bit of a ball and chain. Yet Paul demonstrates to us here that it should be on our minds and on our lips at all times, even if it causes us discomfort. Indeed, it is all the more important that we do not lose faith and our ability to proclaim it, should we find ourselves in strife. The martyrs are so important to us as their willingness to proclaim Christ until their last breath acts as a source of inspiration.

From the Fathers

From St Wilfrid (c. 634-709), Bishop & Missionary, Feast Day: 12th October

In the New Testament we read how the great Shepherd of the Sheep and Head of the whole Church, Jesus Christ, was crucified by the Jews and his disciples scattered. Later dispersed throughout the entire world, they and their followers after various tribulations received the crown of martyrdom. They did not forget those words of comfort which are addressed to us too as His sons [and daughters], in the epistle to the Hebrews: “My son, neglect not the discipline of the Lord; neither be thou wearied whilst thou art rebuked by him, for whom the Lord loveth he chastiseth and he scourged every son he receiveth,” so brethren and helpers in Christ, in the words of the same epistle, “Let us also who have so great a cloud of witnesses over our head run with patience the race that is set before us”.

Sunday 12th October 2025 17th Sunday after Trinity or 28th in Ordinary Time Gospel: Luke 17: 11 – 19



The encounter between Jesus and the ten lepers illustrates an aspect of prayer. The lepers, in effect, pray to Jesus out of the tragedy of their isolating illness: ‘Jesus, Master have mercy on us’. This prayer, arising from desperation, is one that many of us know ourselves. In times of great need we turn to Jesus ‘our Master and our Friend’. But Jesus does not respond in a way they might expect, he gives them an instruction: ‘Go show yourselves to the priests’ as an examination by the Temple Priest was necessary to certify that the disease was healed. This means that Jesus had immediately answered their prayer, and they did not realise it. Only one of the ten, realising what happened, turns back to give thanks to God, the other nine hurry to return to their lives. Only one is confirmed in faith and begins a new transformed life conscious of what God has done for him. He is a Samaritan and outside the worship and community of Israel. The Samaritan illustrates the full effect of prayer: it brings us into a deeper relationship with Jesus, our Saviour and our healer.