

I Thessalonians 1: 1 – 10

In this reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul shares three characteristics he appreciates about the Thessalonian believers. Firstly, he mentions their 'work of faith': Paul blesses these believers because of the works that they do as a result of their faith, which are important to us as Christians. Secondly, Paul refers to their 'labour of love': this reminds us that it is hard work loving others, but it is what Christ commands us to do. Thirdly, Paul refers to their 'steadfastness of hope': in English, 'hope' can often seem a bit uncertain, perhaps like wishful thinking. Yet Biblical hope is 'sure and certain', the idea that we have assurance in the future because of who God is. What that means is that the problems we currently face do not daunt us, because we see beyond the moment, even to eternity, and this helps us in the midst of trials and difficulties. Most importantly, it is Christ who gives us these graces when we are baptised.

St Luke: feast day of 18th October

"Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." Luke 15: 7.

Almighty God, Who didst inspire Thy servant St. Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of Thy Son: Graciously continue in Thy Church the love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of Thy Name; through the same Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
St. Luke, patron saint of physicians and artists, pray for us!



Sunday 18th October 2026
Trinity 20 / 29th Ordinary
Gospel: Matt. 22: 15 – 22



In today's Gospel the Pharisees try to trap Jesus once again. Should God's followers pay taxes to Caesar? If he answers yes, the Jews will think he is in collusion with Rome; if he answers no, then Rome might seek to kill Jesus. Of course, the answer for Jesus is that we give to Caesar, or the state, that which is rightfully theirs, but likewise we give to God what belongs to him. In doing so, Jesus avoids the trap: by not saying whether the taxes should be paid, but by also reminding people that God is above all, even Caesar. We are left in Jesus's answer asking: "What belongs to whom?" Jesus's teaching suggests that everything belongs to God. The question for us is therefore: Are we prepared to pay it?

From St Augustine:

The root of all evil is covetousness. Many who have coveted riches have turned aside from the faith and encountered affliction. But I will encounter you, you who are truly poor, because although you were rich, for my sake you became poor. Lord, when I meditate on your poverty, whatever I may look at loses attraction for me. So, give me something eternal, grant me a foretaste of eternity.