

The loser's script where everybody wins

With this parable, Jesus invites us to struggle with the contrast between a spirituality of perfection and what I'm calling a spirituality of imperfection... Jesus, a consummate Jew, uses examples from his own culture and time. According to common definitions of the day, the Pharisees are the good guys and tax collectors are the bad guys. The tax collectors are those who have totally aligned with the Roman Empire, charging money to their own Jewish people, and giving it to the Empire. No one likes the tax collectors, and

everyone looks up to the Pharisees. The Pharisees are simply religious people trying to obey the law, just like faithful Catholics or Bible-reading Protestants today. And as always, Jesus, with his nondual way of thinking, turns it all on its head... This [parable] repositions the whole role of religion. Didn't most of us think that it's all a meritocracy? I certainly did! Many religious people think that it's all a merit badge system – all achievement, accomplishment, performance, and perfection. The good people win and the bad people lose. Of

course, once we cast anything as a win-lose scenario, the irony is that everybody loses. Why can't people see that competitive games are not the way to go? I'm convinced that Jesus' good news is that God's choice is always for the excluded one. Jesus learned this from his Jewish tradition: God always chooses the rejected son, the barren woman, the people enslaved in Egypt or exiled in Babylon. It's not a winner's script

in the Bible – it's a loser's script. It's a loser's script where, ironically, everybody wins.

Richard Rohr OFM, The Little Way: a spirituality of imperfection



It is the risen Lord, present among us, who protects and guides the Church, and continues to fill her with hope through the love "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us".

Pope Leo XIV

Humility helps

By Mary Bell

Nobody likes a show-off. Unhappily we live in a society where there is endless scope for self-publicity: selfies, television reality shows which declare, "Look at me. Aren't I the bees' knees?". Humility is a rare and endangered commodity. There is plenty of false modesty about, like a friend who sells her paintings and exhibits regularly whilst denying she is an artist. "It's all an accident," she will say until we contradict her. Self-deprecation was

a device used by medieval writers, expected of the author, who really didn't think he was all that bad. There is no harm in acknowledging our God-given talents. The danger is to think we are therefore better than people less fortunate, or who don't seem to be as pious as we are. We are all subject to temptation. True humility acknowledges both shortcomings and success. God sees into our hearts. He sees hypocrisy. We shall not be able to pretend before him.

Following many years in the classroom, retired teacher and head of RE, Mary Bell now has time to enjoy the beauties of the natural world around her.

Loving Lord, when I make a mistake, please pick me up and set me on the right path once again. Teach me humility so that I can boast about you and not about myself. Amen.



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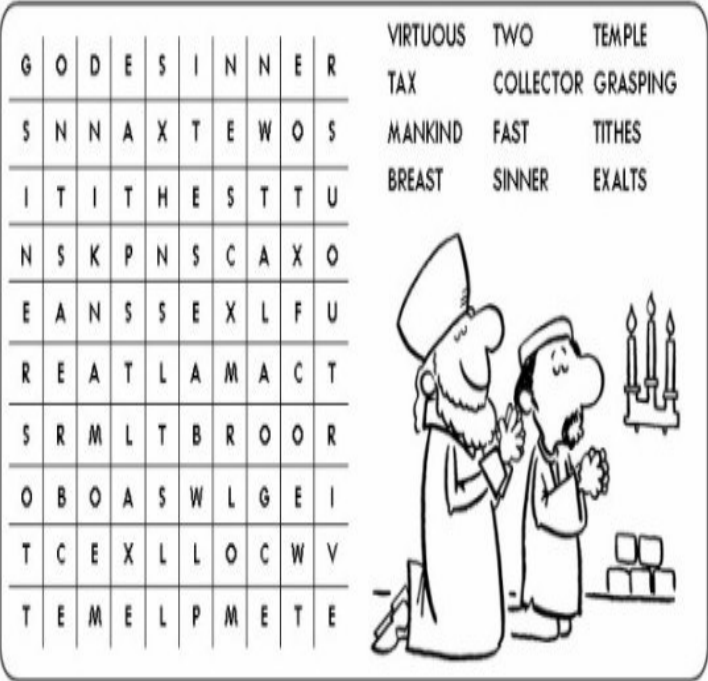
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Registered Charity no: 250037

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday 26th October 2025

The Word This Week

A few weeks ago (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time) we had a Gospel about humility in social life – today we hear the Lord reiterating the message, but this time in reference to our prayer lives. The two Gospels are linked by the last words today, which also appear in the other story: "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." This phrase is obviously a key part of our Lord's teaching! The sin of "self-exaltation" consists in putting others in a lower place – as the Pharisee does to the tax collector. Perhaps the most telling phrase in today's Gospel is where Jesus refers to the Pharisee saying "this prayer to himself," rather than offering it to God! And since the Pharisee wasn't talking to God, how could he expect to be heard?



Mass Times 26th October 2025		
Sunday 26th	Vigil - Saturday 25th Sunday Morning	4pm - Irene Miller (A) 11am - Parish
Monday 27th	Mass	9.30- Irene Miller (A)
Tuesday 28th	No Mass	
Wednesday 29th	Mass	10.30 Requiem mass for Lillian Gorman
Thursday 30th	Exposition Mass	6pm 6.30pm--Angela Howard
Friday 31st	Mass	9.30- Peter & Cathy (special day)
Saturday 1st	Vigil Mass	4pm—Sick & infirm clergy
Sunday 2nd	All Saints	11am – Parish
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

November Remembrance List -
Envelopes are at the back of each church to list those loved ones you wish to be remembered in the month of November.



Christmas Hamper Raffle
There is a Christmas Hamper on display at the back of church for which raffle tickets will be sold after each Mass. Your support for this will raise much needed money for Church Funds.
Thank you for your support.



Vigil Mass; 4pm St Mary’s, Denton ; 5pm St Josephs, Reddish; and 6.30pm Holy Family, Dane Bank

Sunday Morning; 9am St Joseph’s, Reddish; 10am Holy Family, Dane Bank and 11am St Mary’s, Denton

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 26th October 2025

The Sanctuary	Anthony Scanlon
Sacred Heart	
Our Lady	

Mass Offerings
Deceased members of the Coriam Family; Tom Lally; Thomas Beirne (A); Angela Howard (A); Angela Howard (B’d day A);
Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)

Recent deaths in our Parish

The death has occurred of **Lillian Gorman**, her Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 29th October at 10.30am. Our prayers and condolences go to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

The death has occurred of **Sheila Stevenson** Her Funeral Service will be on Tuesday 4th November at 10.30am. Our prayers and condolences go to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

The death has occurred of Paul Miller. Our prayers and condolences go to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.



Celebration of HumanDignity

This event which was due to take place this Sunday 26th October at Sacred Heart Church Gorton has unfortunately had to be postponed.

What’s coming up in your parish



November

Tuesday 11th November Sacramental Programme meeting (SJF Cohort) 3.30pm SJF School Hall

Tuesday 11th November Sacramental Programme meeting (StM Cohort) 6.30pm Parish Hall

Wednesday 12th November **Scripture Course** 6.30pm Parish Hall

Wednesday 19th November **Faith in Action** 6.30pm to 8.30pm in Parish Hall

Saturday November 29th 9.30am **CATHOLICISM COURSE** Parish Hall

December

Wednesday 3rd December **Scripture Course** 6.30pm in Parish Hall

Wednesday 17th December **Faith in Action** 6.30pm to 8.30pm in Parish Hall

CATHOLICISM - JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD AND DEEP INTO THE FAITH.A once-monthly course that explores the rich beauty and truth of our Catholic faith. In a series of films, Bishop Robert Barron travels to many different locations showing how our faith is celebrated throughout the world.

9:00am - Refreshments - Course starts 9:30 - 11:00.

Saturday 25th October

Saturday 29th November

Scripture Course

Due to the interest in the Scripture course last year. We are putting on a new course which will start in October.

It will be held on a Wednesday Evening from 6.30m in the Parish Hall. The dates are:

2025 12th November; 3rd December

2026 28th January; 11th February; 4th March; 1st April (Holy Week); 6th May; 11th June

Faith in Action Team Fundraiser Strung Sung Supper

Thankyou to everyone who supported this event last Friday. We raised £721.00 .



New Monthly youth Group for Yr4,5 & 6

As part of our young people's Faith in Action programme, **we will be offering a group for children in school years 4, 5 and 6.**

The group will take place monthly and be from 6:30pm until 7:30pm.

Our Faith in Action young people will run it (though there will be adult supervision as well) and it will consist of liturgy alongside games and activities.

There is a maximum of 20 places and this will be on a first come first serve basis. The dates are as follows: 19/11/25; 17/12/25; 21/01/26; 25/02/26; 18/03/26; 22/04/26; 20/05/26; 17/06/26

This is a lovely opportunity to allow our Faith in Action young people to develop their skills further as well as bringing the young of the Parish together.

If you are interested in your child attending or would like any further information please could you speak to Claire Cull after Sunday mass for a parental application form.

The Post Confirmation programme—A Call to Lead for our older young people will take place on the same evenings 7.30pm to 8.30pm

Potential opportunity for setting up a twinning scheme with a Parish in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

We have an exciting opportunity to explore looking at how to develop links with a parish in the Latin Patriarchate. Bishop John is happy for us to explore the opportunity of links with another parish, if our parish wants to. If you have any objections to this please let me know in writing.

Also if you would like to be considered for part of any potential development team, please also let me know