



TOO CLEVER BY HALF

(MATTHEW 11:25-30)

Stained glass in the Chapel of Notre-Dame-des-flots in Sainte Adresse, Le Havre, France, depicting Christ in the Temple of Jerusalem among the doctors (1857)

Jesus has been preaching throughout his home region of Galilee. He must have had high hopes that the Pharisees and the religious leaders would accept his message and recognise that it came from God.

After all, these are “the learned and the clever”, the experts on the Law who know it inside out. They, above all others, should be able to recognise God’s Son when he speaks to them.

But Jesus’ efforts haven’t succeeded. In fact, he faces mounting opposition. The Pharisees and the religious leaders reject him and his message. They see no evidence that he is the Son of God.

Jesus must have been terribly disappointed at his failure to win over “the learned and the clever” but he doesn’t lose heart. He knows that he is doing the Father’s will, and that’s all that counts.

And he realises too that his preaching has not been in vain. The ordinary people, those he describes as “mere children”, have grasped his message. The simple and ignorant, who have no education or training in the Law, recognise who he is – people like his disciples, and those who are sick, and sinners.

Jesus realises that this was God’s plan all along. He thanks God his Father for choosing to reveal his truth to the little ones, while hiding it from the self-important.

The lesson for us is that we must be open to God’s plan for us, as Jesus was, and actively trust that our heavenly Father knows best. ■

REFLECT

There are times when we all experience life as difficult and painful. We can feel overburdened with problems or worries of one kind or another. The death of a loved one may have left our heart broken. A person close to us may be sick. Our bank balance may be deep in the red. Our business may be going under. We may have lost our job. There may be problems in the home or with an addiction. We may find ourselves stuck in a crucifying depression we can’t shake off.

Bring all of that to Jesus today. Lay your worries and anxieties on him, for he is gentle of heart. Ask him for the rest and peace that you seek. ■

LEARN

A yoke was a bar laid across the shoulders of a slave for carrying a heavy burden. Many rabbis referred to the Law as a yoke placed on the shoulders of the people of Israel. By contrast, the yoke that Jesus invites his followers to take on is not a burden but something that is gentle and life-giving.

The Good News is for everyone.

PRAY

There is so much trouble and anxiety in our world today, so many people caught up in civil conflict and violent unrest. Ask the Prince of Peace to ease people’s suffering and grant them the rest for their souls that he alone can give.

DO

Look at how children relate to their parents. Observe them. Note how they trust their parents completely and instinctively, how they feel secure when they hold a parent’s hand, how utterly receptive and open they are to their parents. That is how we are called to relate to our God.



SAY

“I thank you, Lord, for being so close to me. Strengthen my faith. Amen.”

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

GLORIA

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.

COLLECT

O God, who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery
to sin
you bestow eternal gladness.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Zechariah 9:9-10

A reading from the prophet Zechariah.

The Lord says this:

“Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of
Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 144

Response:

I will bless your name for ever,
O God my King.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. (R.)

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their
blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. (R.)
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 8:9.11-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but
in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has
made his home in you. In fact, unless you
possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not
belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who
raised Jesus from the dead is living in you,
then he who raised Jesus from the dead will
give life to your own mortal bodies through
his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity
for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live
unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way,
you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit
you put an end to the misdeeds of the body
you will live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and
earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to
mere children.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Jesus exclaimed, “I bless you, Father, Lord of
heaven and of earth, for hiding these things
from the learned and the clever and revealing
them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that
is what it pleased you to do. Everything has
been entrusted to me by my Father; and no
one knows the Son except the Father, just as
no one knows the Father except the Son and
those to whom the Son chooses to reveal
him.

“Come to me, all you who labour and
are overburdened, and I will give you rest.
Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I
am gentle and humble in heart, and you will
find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy
and my burden light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation dedicated to your name
purify us, O Lord,
and day by day bring our conduct
closer to the life of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Come to me, all who labour and are
burdened,
and I will refresh you, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, having been replenished by such great
gifts,
we may gain the prize of salvation
and never cease to praise you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

“Unless we look at a person and see the
beauty that is in them, we can contribute
nothing to them. One does not help a person
by discerning what is wrong, what is ugly,
what is distorted. Christ looked at everyone
he met, at the prostitute, at the thief, and
saw the beauty hidden there. Perhaps it
was distorted, perhaps damaged, but it was
beauty none the less, and what he did was to
call out this beauty.”

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom



Saint Francis Xavier's

19 Broad Street, Hereford HR4 9AP

(01432) 273485

www.sfxhereford.org.uk

Parish Priest: Dom Michael Evans OSB

Office enquiries: hereford2@rcadc.org

Newsletter: hereford2@rcadc.org

SFX School:

HT Mrs. Diana Pearce 01432 273941

Parish Safeguarding: Margaret Daron

safeguardingsfx01@gmail.com

Hospital Chaplain: Fr Patrick Tel 07922323603

Archdiocese of Cardiff Charity no. 242380

Please pray for the sick:

Pat England, Joan Sheeran, John Harries, Pat Morris Lynne Howells, Velina Milson, Mary Elizabeth, Nicola Merrick, Alison Alder, Anthony Craig, Ann Currie, Cynthia Barnett, Katie Balnaves, Kathleen Hanna, Flo Brown, Fr. James Norris, Barbara O'Sullivan, Eileen Walker, Kerry Harnett, Noah Wright, Marc de Jersey, Maureen McCaughey, Beverley Loader, Andrew Pearce, Rosie Scott-Lee, Sr Catherine Jackson O.P., Fr. Joseph, Kevin Roberts, Brother Bernard, Sr de Angelis O.P., Dom Alex Echeandia

Lately Dead:

Carole Ann Moore

Remembrance:

Francis Eamonn O'Grady, Joseph Lambert, Maria Sanchez, Dennis Francis, Frederick Billingham, Zofia Maria Kucharska, Frank Sidney Truman, Angela Cook

Rotas for weekend 4th & 5th July

Ministers of the Word

Saturday 6pm Fiona Stokes
 Sunday 8am Stephanie West
 Sunday 10am Audrey Fussell

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday 6pm Isabel Fawcett
 Wendy Winterburn
 Sunday 8am Jane Gennard
 Angela Holmes
 Sunday 10am Mia Brennan
 Mary Cook
 Thomas Kottuppallil

The Cycle of Prayer: During Ordinary Time (Summer)

We are asked to pray for these intentions: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; Human life; Seafarers

	Feasts of the week	Mass intentions
Saturday 4 th July 6.00pm	14 th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (VIGIL)	E.B.C
Sunday 5 th July 8.00am	14 th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	
Sunday 5 th July 10.00am	14 th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Doreen Bowen RIP
Monday 6 th July (Private Mass)	St Maria Goretti	Diane Hankinson RIP
Tuesday 7 th July (Private Mass)	Feria	Elsie Power RIP
Wednesday 8 th July 12.30pm	Feria	Dennis Francis (anniv.)
Thursday 9 th July (Private Mass)	St Augustine Zhao Rong and Comp. Martyrs	Holy Souls
Thursday 9 th July 9.00am	Funeral (crematorium) Carole Ann Moore RIP	
Friday 10 th July (Private Mass)	Feria	Mark – In God's Keeping
Saturday 11 th July (Private Mass)	ST BENEDICT, ABBOT, PATRON OF EUROPE (FEAST)	Private Int.
Saturday 11 th July 6.00pm	15 th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (VIGIL)	Elikkutty RIP
Sunday 12 th July 8.00am	15 th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	David McLees RIP
Sunday 12 th July 10.00am	15 th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	The Parish

Live simply so others may simply live
 and care for our common home



Plant wildflowers to attract insects and birds

See the Parish website for more CAFOD information

SFX open for Holy Mass this weekend



The public celebration of Holy Mass at SFX will re-commence this weekend 4th / 5th July.

From this weekend there will be three Masses each weekend: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 8am and Sunday 10am. We will continue to livestream the 10am Mass. There will also be one weekday Mass on Wednesdays at 12:30pm.

Keep your distance

Regulations mean that a distance of 2m (about 6ft in old money) must be maintained between individuals or household groups. Sadly, this will mean a strict limit on the number of people allowed in the church for Mass. The actual number will depend on the mixture of individuals and groups arriving but will be around 40 - 50 people. Please note that as we are observing the 2m distancing, there will be no requirement for the congregation to wear masks. **Please also be aware that there will be limited availability of toilets.**

Please have patience

We are so looking forward to celebrating Mass together again. We ask for your patience with the required procedures. **Please follow any instructions from the volunteer stewards - without them none of this would be possible so please be patient and kind.**

Learning as we go

We particularly ask for your understanding if all the places are full and we have to ask you not to come in. We are finding our feet as we go with all the rules and regulations. Our aim is to make everything run smoothly and fit people in where we can. If things aren't quite right, please be assured that we will review how things go this weekend and make any changes that are necessary before next weekend.

The doors to Church will be opened approximately 30 minutes before Mass is due to start and we will operate on a first come, first admitted basis. If you do have to queue outside on the pavement, please observe the 2m distancing and make sure it is possible for other, non-Church goers to pass safely by.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is still suspended so you might consider coming on Wednesday if you can't get in at the weekend.

All these procedures require extra work, so we need extra volunteers at every Mass. Please contact us if you can help.

I rejoiced when I heard them say "Let us go to God's house"

Confessions & intentions:

Confessions: Although we are able to celebrate Mass once more, it is still not possible to hear confessions in the usual way. If you wish Fr. Michael to hear your confession, please contact him.

If you have a Mass Intention for Fr Michael to say please post envelopes through Presbytery door or email the Parish office hereford2@rcadc.org

Please remember in your prayers

David Evans who died in America in a plane crash last week. David was the husband of Elena Evans nee Ferrari who attended St Mary's, Lugwardine and whom some parishioners might remember.
May he Rest in Peace.

Private prayer & Adoration

SFX is now open for private prayer and adoration on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays between 10am and 1pm. Holy Mass will be celebrated from 12.30pm on Wednesdays.



"Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

St Alphonsus' Prayer of Spiritual Communion

During Holy Eucharist, if we are unable to partake of the body of Christ and receive Holy Communion in person, we pray together:



My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.

I love you above all things

and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul

so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.

Amen.

Belmont & Our Lady's Open for prayer

If you would like more time for private prayer, **The Abbey Church at Belmont** is now open for private prayer on Tuesdays and Fridays between 10am and 11am.

Our Lady's, Belmont Road is open for private prayer on Thursdays and Saturdays between 10am and 11am. More on the SFX website