

RCIA: INQUIRY SESSION THREE

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION

Week: 14/10/22 – 23/10/22

1. Sacred Scripture:

- ‘Sacred Scripture is inspired by God and truly contains the Word of God. This action of God is referred to as *Inspiration*.
- God is the author of Sacred Scripture, inspiring the human authors, acting in and through them. Thus God ensured that the authors taught divine and saving truth without error.
- The Catholic Church accepts and venerates as inspired the forty-six books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. The unity of the Old and New Testaments flows from the revealed unity of God’s loving plan to save us.
- Our response to God’s revelation is faith, by which we surrender our whole selves to him.’¹

2. Tradition:

- ‘The Church, in her doctrine, life and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes. This is what is meant by the term *Tradition*.
- The teaching office of the Church, the Magisterium – that is, the pope and the bishops in communion with him – has the task of authoritatively interpreting the Word of God, contained in Sacred Scripture and transmitted by Sacred Tradition.’²
- ‘Scripture and Tradition are central to the life of the Church and to catechesis. The apostles entrusted to the whole Church the message of salvation, the ‘sacred deposit’ of faith which is contained in Scripture and Tradition.’³

3. Gospel Reflection: Sunday 23/10/22 is the thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C) and the Gospel reading is Lk. 18:9-14. The text of the reading is below. The following format will be used for all Gospel reflections:

- Read the text aloud.

¹ Irish Episcopal Conference, *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults*, p. 34.

² *Ibid.* p. 34.

³ Irish Episcopal Conference, *Share the Good News*, 47.

- Pause for a minute's silence.
- Read the text aloud again.
- Ask everyone to pick a word or a phrase that struck them. They just say the word or phrase without comment or discussion.
- Read the text again.
- Ask those present to comment on their word or phrase. What struck them about it? Why/how is it speaking to them?
- Continue with the discussion. The following questions may be helpful: What does this mean to me? How does it make me feel? Did I find the text disturbing/hopeful/confusing? What images of God emerge for me? What do I think that God is saying in this text? What impact does this have on my life?

GOSPEL READING

Reader: The Lord be with you.

Response: And with your spirit.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus spoke the following parable to some people who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else. 'Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood there and said this prayer to himself, "I thank you, God, that I am not grasping, unjust, adulterous like the rest of mankind, and particularly that I am not like this tax collector here. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes on all I get." The tax collector stood some distance away, not daring even to raise his eyes to heaven; but he beat his breast and said, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." This man, I tell you, went home again at rights with God; the other did not. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Final Reflection:

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.

Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

(Psalm 33:18-19).