

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 20th Oct 2024

Headings	Gospel (Mark 10:35 – 45)	1 st Reading (Isaiah 53:10 - 11)	2 nd Reading (Hebrews 4:14 - 16)
Context	This passage is from a section of the gospel where Jesus is teaching his disciples what it means to be a disciple. He reminds them that suffering is part of the journey. By uniting their suffering with his it can become a means of redemption for others.	There are four “Servant Songs” in Isaiah. Today’s reading is part of one of them. Here the Servant appears as a priestly figure that offers sacrifice and makes intercession for others. The New Testament shows us that Jesus fulfilled the role of the Servant.	The Letter to the Hebrews envisions Jesus Christ as the high priest of heaven, where he offered his blood once for all for our redemption. He now intercedes with the Father for all men and women. His ministry in heaven was made possible by his resurrection and ascension into heaven.
Key verse	“For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many”.	“By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself”.	“Since, in Jesus, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith we have professed”.
Key themes/ messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus had just given his disciples the third prediction of his Passion. In light of this the request of the brothers seems tactless. • Jesus contrasts how authority is to be exercised in the world and in God’s Church • Jesus reminds his disciples that greatness is shown in service. He, himself, has given us an example of how to serve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The suffering and death of the Servant was part of God’s definite plan to save his people from their sins. • The Servant will suffer to bring many into a right relationship with God. • On the road to Emmaus Jesus told the disciples that the Messiah would have to suffer, as was foretold by Isaiah. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus is a “great high priest” who sits in the presence of God in heaven. • Since he shared our human nature Jesus understands our weaknesses and can sympathise with us in our struggles. • The author exhorts us to approach God with confidence, knowing that our prayers will be answered.
Questions/ application to our lives	<p>James and John were seeking positions of power and authority. What did Jesus suggest they ought to seek? Jesus contrasts the exercise of authority among the pagan rulers and among his followers. Where is the contrast evident in the world today?</p> <p>Describe the example Jesus gave his disciples in the exercise of leadership.</p> <p>Mention any ways this reading has helped you to grow in your relationship with Jesus.</p>	<p>In 1 Corinthians 15:3 Paul states that “Christ died for our sins”. How might this be linked with the message of Isaiah in today’s reading?</p> <p>The suffering of the Servant was part of God’s plan. Is this true of the suffering and death of Jesus? Explain.</p>	<p>What is Christ’s role before the heavenly throne?</p> <p>How well do you think Jesus understands the problems you face?</p> <p>How confident are you to approach “the throne of grace”?</p> <p>How often do you approach it to seek help for yourself and for others?</p>
Further reading	Catechism 599, 608, 618, 1225, 1551,	Catechism 64, 440, 601, 615	Catechism 540, 609, 612, 1137, 2602