

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26th October 2025 (Mission Sunday)

	Gospel (Luke 18:9-14)	First Reading (Ecclesiastes 35:12-14.16-19)	Second Reading (2 Timothy 4:6-8.16-18)
Context	Luke's gospel describes Jesus' birth, childhood and development. Luke tells us that Jesus sometimes used parables to teach people, including the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in today's passage.	The Book of Ecclesiastes teaches us that life without God is meaningless. We are therefore called upon to explore life's meaning from God's perspective in a way that acknowledges the limitations of our own human wisdom.	Paul wrote to Timothy, Pastor of the church at Ephesus, to provide final instructions and encouragement. In writing his letter, Paul knew that many challenges lay ahead in developing the early Christian church.
Key verse	<i>"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the man who humbles himself will be exalted."</i>	<i>"The humble man's prayer pierces the clouds..."</i>	<i>"...all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me..."</i>
Key themes/ messages	• The Pharisee was full of pride when he prayed to God. He judged the tax collector and thanked God for his perceived superiority. • In contrast, the tax collector humbled himself before God by acknowledging his sin and pleading for God's mercy. • The central message is that true righteousness comes from God's grace rather than from human effort, while pride may prevent us from entering the Kingdom of God.	• As God's judgement is impartial, he shows no favouritism towards anyone. • God knows that we sometimes suffer and he listens to our prayers. • God does not ignore the prayers of those who humble themselves before him. It is therefore important for us to have the right attitude towards God when we approach him. • We can be confident that God will deliver true justice for those who put their faith in him.	• Paul's second letter to Timothy was written at a time when Paul was imprisoned. • Paul knew that he was facing death. He likens his life to a drink offering to God that is being "poured away". • Paul, following his conversion to Christianity, "fought the good fight to the end" by honouring God with his life. • Having "kept the faith", Paul knew that he could claim his rightful reward from God on Judgement Day. This opportunity remains open to all who remain faithful to God.
Questions/ application to our lives	What does the Pharisee's prayer reveal about the true strength of his connection with God? What does it mean to be "at rights" with God, and why is this phrase an important reminder for us on Mission Sunday? How can we avoid the sin of pride in our lives, and is it something that we need to be more consciously aware of?	Do you think God is always aware of our daily struggles? If so, do you think it is also important to bring them to him and pray for help? During times when we ask God for help, do we take time to reflect on our own attitudes and behaviours towards others? Why do you think this may be necessary?	What does Paul mean by saying that he had "run the race to the finish"? What does Paul's second letter to Timothy teach us about accountability before God on Judgement Day? What steps can Christians take to ensure we can be as confident as possible when God asks us to account for our lives?
Further reading	Catechism 588, 2559, 2612, 2631	Catechism 2616	Catechism 2628, 2631