

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS FOR
ORDINARY TIME

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 2022



DIOCESE OF **Hexham & Newcastle**
— VICARIATE FOR FAITH & MISSION —

Reflections on the Readings for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading - Luke 12: 32-38

You may recall that in our Gospel a few weeks ago we were told that Jesus was beginning his journey from Galilee up to Jerusalem. On this journey his focus turns from preaching to the crowds, to preparing his disciples for what is to happen, including, ultimately, their own missionary work. In complete contrast to the arrogant farmer in last Sunday's Gospel, who built bigger barns to store his bumper harvest only to be called to account after his untimely death, the disciples are prepared and when their Master returns, in a complete reversal of roles, **He** will be the one who serves them at table. When this will all happen is not known and they must always be alert, on their guard watching. They are to be good stewards of their Master's business, not ruthless and self-indulgent in their mistreatment of others. They **know** what the Master wants of them and they are warned about the demands this puts on them. The message for us is just as clear as for those early disciples.

Wisdom 18: 6-9

In this part of the Book of Wisdom the author is contrasting the behaviour of the Egyptians and the People of Israel at the time of the Exodus. Here the setting is the tenth, and final, plague in which across the land the firstborn child is to die, with the exception of the children of Israel who are prepared for this and who sacrifice a lamb, a sign of their pact with God. This was the first Passover Feast. It is the idea of being prepared for the coming of the Lord that links this with today's Gospel.

Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19

The American Jesuit scholar Daniel Harrington sj, begins his commentary on this book by noting, "Among the books of the New Testament, the Letter to the Hebrews stands out for its theological and rhetorical brilliance. It is arguably the greatest Christian sermon ever preached or written." [1] Over the next four Sundays we will hear extracts from towards the end of the letter (chs. 11 and 12). The basic message of these chapters is a call to persevere in faith. The opening sentence sets the scene of the vital importance of faith on our journey of faith, and goes on to outline the witness to faith given by many of the great figures of the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament).

[1] "The Letter to the Hebrews", in **New Collegeville Bible Commentary**, ed. Daniel Durkin, Collegeville 2017, p.1416.



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