

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 68)

ANTIPHON: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

RESPONSE: Lord, in your great love, answer me.

LECTOR: It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. **R.**

LECTOR: This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. **R.**

LECTOR: The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord, and you also will be my witnesses. Alleluia.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

Or

I am the Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Jer 20:10-13; Rom 5: 12-15; Mat 10: 26-33.

NEXT WEEK (13th Sunday Year A) 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16; Ps 88; Rom 6:3-4, 8-11; Mt 10: 37-42.

Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan

Sacramental Books

Whether preparing for Baptism, Confession, Communion, Confirmation, or a Catholic Wedding, Majellan Media has the books at a great price that provide a comprehensive foundation, setting the stage for a deeper understanding of these sacraments. Details at: majellan.media/sacramental-books-list/



majellan

Be not
afraid



21 June 2026 12th Sunday Year A

In this week's gospel, Jesus is teaching his disciples about their mission. He warns them of the persecutions and trials they will face. Just as he, Jesus, faced opposition and rejection; so, will they. So too did the prophets, including Jeremiah, of whom we read in today's first reading.

Jesus urges his disciples, soon to be his missionaries, to take up their mission to proclaim the good news of the gospel. No matter the opposition and suffering they might face, he exhorts them: "Do not be afraid." But, knowing that they will suffer on account of their faith in him, he offers them consolation. He reassures them that they are precious in God's eyes: "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows."

Moreover, he promises them that "Everyone who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven." We too, his disciples today, will face difficulties and challenges, perhaps derision, rejection and suffering, because of our faith in Jesus.

There will be times of discomfort or perhaps embarrassment, when others deride or disparage us for our faith.

But, like the disciples then, we are to live our Christian faith confidently and fearlessly, working for justice and for peace, standing up for the least among us, doing what we can to help build

a better world, unafraid to profess our faith and to demonstrate it in action.

As an Australian politician once noted, life wasn't meant to be easy. Living our faith, following our Lord Jesus with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength was never going to be easy. Our faith makes demands of us!

Let us examine our consciences in light of the gospel. Do we keep very private our commitment as Christians, keeping it out of view of neighbours, work colleagues, even friends? Do we shy away from professing our faith in Jesus, keeping it hidden? Do we speak up when values or opinions which are alien to our faith are promoted in our hearing? Do we let fear of disparagement or rejection stop us from saying what we believe to be true or from doing what we know to be right?

For most of us, it is not in a public forum, but rather in ordinary day to day interactions and conversations that situations arise to challenge us to speak of our faith and the values that inform our opinions and choices.

It is also what we do and how we conduct ourselves that professes what we believe.

Let it always be with courtesy and respect for others. As the Apostle Peter teaches us: "Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience" (1 Pet 3:15-16).

Anne Hunt

© Majellan Media 2026