

We Respond

www.majellan.media

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 89)

ANTIPHON: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

RESPONSE: In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

LECTOR: You turn men back into dust and say: "Go back, sons of men." To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night. **R.**

LECTOR: You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. **R.**

LECTOR: Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart. Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever? Show pity to your servants. **R.**

LECTOR: In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

Or

I am the bread of life, says the Lord; whoever comes to me will not hunger and whoever believes in me will not thirst.

TODAY'S READINGS Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21

NEXT WEEK (19th Sunday of Year C) Wisdom 18:6-9; Ps 32; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-48

*Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan*

Praying with St Gerard

St Gerard Majella, a Redemptorist brother, has long been known as a helper of families, especially expectant mothers, new mothers, and children. You can ask him to support your petition by his prayers. Your request will be sent to Redemptorist communities in Australia so that they can pray for your intention in their Masses. Details at www.majellan.media/your-prayers



majellan

What is important in life?



31 July 2022 18th Sunday Year C

The story is told of a rich industrialist who was disturbed to find a fisherman sitting lazily beside his boat. "Why aren't you out there fishing?" he asked.

"Because I've caught enough fish for today," said the fisherman.

"Why don't you catch more fish than you need?" the rich man asked.

"What would I do with them?"

"You could earn more money," came the impatient reply, "and buy a better boat so you could go deeper and catch more fish. You could purchase nylon nets, catch more fish, and make more money. Soon you would have a fleet of boats and be rich like me."

The fisherman asked, "Then what would I do?"

"You could sit down and enjoy life," said the industrialist.

"What do you think I'm doing now?" The fisherman replied as he looked placidly out to sea.

This is an interesting story, but it asks us about what is important in life. We all strive to achieve, provide for our families, and the next generation. If we are blessed with a stable work situation and a good income, we are fortunate, but there will come a time in life when we ask what is important.

The gospel begins with a dispute about an estate, and sadly the death of a parent or a relative sometimes leads to arguments about the estate. The person who made

the bequest wanted to divide assets for the benefit of all but sometimes a member of the family gets preferential treatment and others are excluded. It is easy to see how this can lead to dispute and litigation between family members which can end in bitterness and estrangement. This is always a very unfortunate outcome.

The parable of the rich man is like that of the industrialist who spoke to the fisherman, and it asks us to think about our priorities in life and whether or not they are governed by the economics of accumulation or other principles. There is nothing wrong with having assets for they are necessary for life, but it's what we do with these assets. Obviously, we should provide for our family and business partners, but we also have a responsibility if we are blessed with assets to look to the good of those in need. Do we have a plan for the distribution of some of our yearly gains to different charities? Have we considered the needs of our faith community and our commitment to educate children, support those in need of housing, rehabilitation programs, aged care and what can we do for countries suffering disaster?

The gospel is not only about proclaiming good news but witnessing by our actions that the message of Jesus resonates in our lives and leads us to bear witness not just in word but also by deed.

Michael A Kelly CSSR
© Majellan Media 2022