

**October 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year B – Mark 12 : 28 - 34**

<sup>28</sup>One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?”  
<sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one;’  
<sup>30</sup>you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ <sup>31</sup>The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” <sup>32</sup>Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; <sup>33</sup>and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbour as oneself,’ — this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” <sup>34</sup>When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</li> <li>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</li> <li>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do)</li> </ul>
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In this week’s gospel we see Jesus in dialogue with the scribe about which in his view is the first commandment. Jesus answers him by telling him about two commandments – Love God and love your neighbour as yourself. He was saying there is no real love of God without love of neighbour and no lasting love of neighbour without love of God. How do we put this commandment into practice? Who is my neighbour? Do we really feel Jesus believes in us and loves us? This is the message he wants us to bring to and share with our neighbour.

**Prayer:**

**Lord we thank you** for the people who like Jesus brought us back to basics when we felt confused and pulled in many directions.

**Forgive us Lord** for when we did not take the time to notice when people were in need of a listening ear or were in a great state of sadness or loneliness.

**Help us Lord** as your family to enter into dialogue with people who have many questions in a way that will encourage them just like Jesus did, not in a defensive or confrontational way.

