

**September 25<sup>th</sup> 2022 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time– Year C – Luke 16:19-31**

<sup>19</sup>“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ <sup>27</sup>He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ <sup>30</sup>He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ <sup>31</sup>He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

<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 read about the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man dressed in fine linen and royal purple, the dye which was obtained from exotic shellfish and was available only to the very wealthy. The colour was a status symbol. He was rich in privilege and wealth. Lazarus came each day to eat the crumbs which the rich man provided. The rich man was not punished because he was rich but because he failed to notice him or call him by his name.

How do we spend our money and time which are God given gifts to be used for the good of all? Are we so pre-occupied with our goods that we fail to notice those less well off?

**Prayer:**

**Lord we thank you** for the people you send us who recognise our loneliness and feelings of being ignored and rejected who bring us to a new place where we feel safe and cherished

**Forgive us Lord** for the times that we failed to notice those crying out for our help and in a quiet way often give us hints of how they feel.

**Help us Lord** to bring the right values to our children and all those around us teaching them that it is not always fine linen and feasting magnificently that are important but being kind and compassionate to those less well off.

