

Monday 21 October

Rom 4:20-25, Lk 1:69-75, Lk 12:13-21

From Baptised and Sent

The concerns of this world are listed in detail in the Sermon on the Mount. “I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat [or drink], or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?... But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil” (Mt 6:25,33-34). Only faith as eternal life provides the proper measure to everything, to our time, to our relationships. (p. 154-155)

From Pope Francis

If I give to those who are in need “it is a good sign”, but I must also ask myself: “How much do I give? What do I give? My leftovers? In this case, it is not a good sign. I have to realise in giving I may have to deprive myself of something that might be necessary for me. In that case my gesture signifies that love for God is greater than my attachment to wealth. Therefore, the first question: Do I give? second: How much do I give?; third: How do I give? In other words, do I give like Jesus, by giving “with a loving caress, or like one who is paying a tax? When you help people, do you look them in the eyes? Do you touch their hand? We must not forget that before us is the flesh of Christ, it’s your brother, your sister. And in that moment you are like the Father who never leaves the birds of the sky without food.”ⁱ

From the Good Samaritan Benedictine Story

What does God not expect us to do for the poor and the ignorant, who are loved above all others in the world?... Does not the fullness of our heart proclaim within us that as God has generously dealt with us, so should we deal with the widow, the orphan and those who are in sorrow? Do we not feel called to be ministers of God’s mercy and messengers of God’s compassion?”ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Morning meditation in the Chapel of the *Domus Sanctae Marthae*. “How and how much,” Monday, October 19, 2015

ⁱⁱ Archbishop John Bede Polding, 1863