



TOO CLEVER BY HALF

(MATTHEW 11:25-30)

Stained glass in the Chapel of Notre-Dame-des-flots in Sainte Adresse, Le Havre, France, depicting Christ in the Temple of Jerusalem among the doctors (1857)

Jesus has been preaching throughout his home region of Galilee. He must have had high hopes that the Pharisees and the religious leaders would accept his message and recognise that it came from God.

After all, these are “the learned and the clever”, the experts on the Law who know it inside out. They, above all others, should be able to recognise God’s Son when he speaks to them.

But Jesus’ efforts haven’t succeeded. In fact, he faces mounting opposition. The Pharisees and the religious leaders reject him and his message. They see no evidence that he is the Son of God.

Jesus must have been terribly disappointed at his failure to win over “the learned and the clever” but he doesn’t lose heart. He knows that he is doing the Father’s will, and that’s all that counts.

And he realises too that his preaching has not been in vain. The ordinary people, those he describes as “mere children”, have grasped his message. The simple and ignorant, who have no education or training in the Law, recognise who he is – people like his disciples, and those who are sick, and sinners.

Jesus realises that this was God’s plan all along. He thanks God his Father for choosing to reveal his truth to the little ones, while hiding it from the self-important.

The lesson for us is that we must be open to God’s plan for us, as Jesus was, and actively trust that our heavenly Father knows best. ■

REFLECT

There are times when we all experience life as difficult and painful. We can feel overburdened with problems or worries of one kind or another. The death of a loved one may have left our heart broken. A person close to us may be sick. Our bank balance may be deep in the red. Our business may be going under. We may have lost our job. There may be problems in the home or with an addiction. We may find ourselves stuck in a crucifying depression we can’t shake off.

Bring all of that to Jesus today. Lay your worries and anxieties on him, for he is gentle of heart. Ask him for the rest and peace that you seek. ■

LEARN

A yoke was a bar laid across the shoulders of a slave for carrying a heavy burden. Many rabbis referred to the Law as a yoke placed on the shoulders of the people of Israel. By contrast, the yoke that Jesus invites his followers to take on is not a burden but something that is gentle and life-giving.

The Good News is for everyone.

PRAY

There is so much trouble and anxiety in our world today, so many people caught up in civil conflict and violent unrest. Ask the Prince of Peace to ease people’s suffering and grant them the rest for their souls that he alone can give.

DO

Look at how children relate to their parents. Observe them. Note how they trust their parents completely and instinctively, how they feel secure when they hold a parent’s hand, how utterly receptive and open they are to their parents. That is how we are called to relate to our God.



SAY

“I thank you, Lord, for being so close to me. Strengthen my faith. Amen.”

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery
to sin
you bestow eternal gladness.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Zechariah 9:9-10

A reading from the prophet Zechariah.

The Lord says this:
"Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!
Shout with gladness, daughter of
Jerusalem!
See now, your king comes to you;
he is victorious, he is triumphant,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
He will banish chariots from Ephraim
and horses from Jerusalem;
the bow of war will be banished.
He will proclaim peace for the nations.
His empire shall stretch from sea to sea,
from the River to the ends of the earth."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 144

Response:

**I will bless your name for ever,
O God my King.**

1. I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name for ever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever. (R.)

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their
blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. (R.)
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

SECOND READING Romans 8:9.11-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but
in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has
made his home in you. In fact, unless you
possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not
belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who
raised Jesus from the dead is living in you,
then he who raised Jesus from the dead will
give life to your own mortal bodies through
his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity
for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live
unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way,
you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit
you put an end to the misdeeds of the body
you will live.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and
earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to
mere children.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

Jesus exclaimed, "I bless you, Father, Lord of
heaven and of earth, for hiding these things
from the learned and the clever and revealing
them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that
is what it pleased you to do. Everything has
been entrusted to me by my Father; and no
one knows the Son except the Father, just as
no one knows the Father except the Son and
those to whom the Son chooses to reveal
him.

"Come to me, all you who labour and
are overburdened, and I will give you rest.
Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I
am gentle and humble in heart, and you will
find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy
and my burden light."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**
**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,**

**born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;**

**through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation dedicated to your name
purify us, O Lord,
and day by day bring our conduct
closer to the life of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Come to me, all who labour and are
burdened,
and I will refresh you, says the Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, having been replenished by such great
gifts,
we may gain the prize of salvation
and never cease to praise you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

"Unless we look at a person and see the
beauty that is in them, we can contribute
nothing to them. One does not help a person
by discerning what is wrong, what is ugly,
what is distorted. Christ looked at everyone
he met, at the prostitute, at the thief, and
saw the beauty hidden there. Perhaps it
was distorted, perhaps damaged, but it was
beauty none the less, and what he did was to
call out this beauty."

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

PARISH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

Seamoor Road, Westbourne BH4 9AE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Registered charity 246871

NEWSLETTER 5th July 2020 Fourteenth Sunday of the Year (A)

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Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Moore: andrewmoore@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Matthew French: mail@matthewfrench.net

Please remember in your prayers Matthew King who is to be ordained priest this Sunday and Anthony Fyk who is to be ordained Deacon at the Cathedral in necessarily rather quieter circumstances.

Please remember in your prayers Dorothy Campbell who died on Wednesday. May she rest in peace.

As explained last week, we will not at this time be resuming the celebration of public mass at Our Lady Immaculate. There are practical limitations as to what is possible, given the structural nature of our church and an overriding concern for the health and safety of all. Please remember that the Sunday obligation to attend mass is currently suspended. We understand that public mass will be celebrated at the Oratory and at St Joseph's. Our church is, however, open for individual visits for private prayer (see below) and it is encouraging to see a number of parishioners who are availing themselves of this opportunity.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR SHORT VISITS FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER AS FOLLOWS:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10.30 – 11.30 a.m.
Wednesday	10.30 – 11.30 a.m.
Thursday	10.30 – 11.30 a.m.
Friday	10.30 – 11.30 a.m.
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	9.30 – 11.30 a.m.

Please note: There will be no access to the Hall, the lift or to the toilets.

Please do not visit the church: if you are unwell, have a temperature, are showing other coronavirus symptoms or have other vulnerable health concerns.

When making a visit:

- Sanitise hands on entry using the new automatic hand sanitisers.
- The wearing of masks AT ALL TIMES is advised.
- You may be marshalled, as necessary.
- Sit or kneel only in places marked with a green tick ✓
(Two people of the same household may sit together)
- There will be no votive candles.
- Please do not talk in the church.

Fr Andrew has been busy with his sewing machine making face masks. For further details see the 'Face masks' page on the parish website.

St Peter's School Open Evening for children transferring from Year 6 to Year 7 is Thursday 24th September 2020 starting at 5:30pm. This will be held at St Catherine's Road BH6 4AH. However, in these uncertain times, please ensure you check with the school to make sure the evening is going ahead by contacting admissions@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk The closing date for returning signed Supplementary Information Forms and Certificates to the school is 31st October 2020.

A 'Thank you' to those who are using the 'Donate' button on the website. The 'Donate' button has the facility of adding a reference and also the option to Gift Aid any donation. Any donation with no specific reference will be treated as ordinary offertory. The parish's bank details are set out below for those who may wish to take out a standing order or make a bank transfer.

Bank:	Lloyds	Account Name:	PRCDTR Bournemouth Our Lady Immaculate
Sort Code:	30-93-04	Account Number:	00875075

Liturgical Calendar: Fr Andrew continues to offer mass privately.

With only one mass on Sundays – which is always said *For the People of the Parish* – additional intentions booked for Sundays will be moved to the nearest free day. To request mass intentions, please email or phone the Parish Office.

Sunday 5 th July	14 th Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish
Monday 6 th	of 14 th Week	-
Tuesday 7 th	of 14 th Week	-
Wednesday 8 th	of 14 th Week	Eileen Griffiths RIP
Thursday 9 th	of 14 th Week	Lise Van der Syde RIP
Friday 10 th	of 14 th Week	-
Saturday 11 th	St Benedict	-
Sunday 12 th	15 th Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish

Prayer Corner: Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially: Patricia Kowalewska, Win Sheridan, Patricia Plumb, Kathleen Wood, Peter Henry, Phillip Rockford, and Germaine McAulay.