

## 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Dear friends, there may be manifold themes in today's liturgy of the word, but what seems central are the themes: 'Obedience and Conversion' which culminates in the command "Be you doers of the word". Talking about conversion, as can be seen in the parable of Jesus, the words of Dallas Willard come to mind "*spiritual transformation into Christ-likeness is not going to happen unless we act ... what transforms us is the will to obey Jesus Christ*". Yes, conversion is not a name, it is an action. It's seen when we decide to act in accordance with the will of God. When we are "*doers of the word*". If we fail to act, we remain inactive and cold. To undergo this spiritual change, we must be ready to obey and act accordingly. To buttress this point, Jesus narrates 'the parable of the two sons' to the scribes and Pharisees who question the source of his authority.

We must first understand the context that gives rise to this to grasp the message. The Scribes and Pharisees are the custodians of the doctrine and thus religious leaders who only manifest their righteousness without any sincere spiritual commitment. Christ called them "hypocrites". They like the second son who accepted at first to do the job but failed to do it. They claim to do the will of God but in reality, they do the opposite. They only pay lips service to the word. So, Jesus used this parable to show them their spiritual position before God. They are just hearers and not doers of the word (James 1:22). On the contrary, the Tax Collectors like Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) and Prostitutes changed their lives after hearing the message of Christ. They are like the first son who refused initially and later did the work.

So, we have three great lessons today. First, as seen in the words of Matthew Charlesworth "*a late conversion is better than the self-righteous delusion that one needs no conversion*". The two Sons failed their Father in one way or another - words or actions. The first by words and the second in both. To do the will of God, we must harmonize the actions of the first son and the words of the second son. Second, Faith that is not express in action is dead (James 2:14-26) and third, our humility and obedience are essential in following Christ. So, conclusively, there are two important things we must take home this Sunday: first, the Lord demands our full loyalty, and second, repentance is important and has no time limit. "Be doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22)

Have a great Sunday!

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL ST MARY'S CONFERENCE

**Food parcels will now be given out every 1st Sunday of the Month. Do not hesitate to let us know if there is anyone or families in dare need of food or clothing.**

**Legacies:** when making your Will have you thought of leaving a legacy to the Parish or diocese?

**Gift Aid:** If you pay tax as for a Gift Aid form and your one-off signature we get an extra 25%

### Urgent Appeal from The Scottish Catholic Observer.

The SCO team are committed to doing everything they can to keep our national Catholic newspaper alive but they need our help. In this time of existential crisis as they have lost their distribution outlet and businesses are withdrawing their advertisements. The SCO are forced to urgently remodel their approach. Please consider taking out a six-week subscription for £10 by going to [www.sconeews.co.uk/](http://www.sconeews.co.uk/) subscribe, or tel: 0141 241 4956.

### SAVE THE RIGHT TO SAVE LIVES

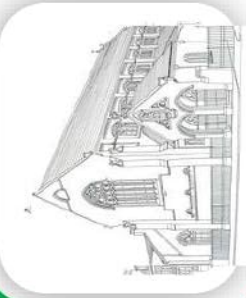
The right to gather peacefully and offer help to pregnant women approaching an abortion clinic is under attack again.

**Pro-life vigils outside abortion clinics can save unborn lives.**

**The offer of help from a caring pro-life person is a lifeline for many women, who feel abortion is their only choice.**

**Pro-life citizens have a right to gather peacefully, and women have a right to receive the information they offer.**

**Abortion clinic buffer zones would set a dangerous precedent for freedom of speech in the UK Go the SPUC website to sign the petition against MP's efforts to curb free speech.**



# ST MARY'S PARISH PAISLEY

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Website: [stmarycpaisley.com](http://stmarycpaisley.com)

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Jude Okorie

## 27th September 2020

## 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

### Parish Mass & Prayer Times

**Weekday Mass:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday @ 9:30am  
Wednesday @ 7:00pm

**Exposition/Adoration:** Tuesday & Thursday @ 9:00am

**Confessions:** Wednesday after evening Mass

**Weekend Masses:** Saturday Vigil @ 4pm, & 5pm,  
Sunday @ 10:00am & 11:00am



*N/B Because of the limited number allowed, we appeal to everyone to make use of the booking system on our Parish website [www.stmarycpaisley.com](http://www.stmarycpaisley.com) to book a ticket for the weekend mass you wish to attend.*

**Baptism: Arrange with the priest**

**Marriage: Give at least six months notice (see Fr Jude)**

### SUNDAY HOLY MASS

**FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 18:25-28

**Psalms Response:** "Remember your mercy, Lord"

**SECOND READING:** Phil 2:1-11

**GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 21:28-32

Mass Book: YEAR A Part 2 Page: 69