

SUNDAY PLUS

Be willing to share



Reflect God's generosity

by Paul Higginson

According to Oxfam half the world lives on less than £4 a day. The globe's richest one percent own half of the world's

wealth — and this figure is rising, not falling. At the other end of the spectrum, seventy percent of the world's population account for just three percent of global wealth. If you live in a developed country it is likely that you are amongst the wealthiest

people who have ever lived.


Generosity is an essential part of the Christian message. In today's Gospel Jesus praises the widow who contributes "all she had to live on" to the treasury, when the rich gave only what "money they had over". Mother Teresa put it this way: "If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving". St Paul urges the early Christians to "give cheerfully", and there is a strong tradition in Christianity of giving a tithe, a percentage of one's

income, to charity.

The Gospel instruction to be generous does not just refer to charitable giving. Giving to others through our acts of kindness and love, or through the generous sharing of our time, will be reflected back to us. In other passages in the Gospel, Jesus refers to reaping what we sow. We are urged to be people who give, people who share, for it is in giving that we receive.

Our generosity should reflect God's generosity to us. It is simply giving back to him what he has first given to us.

Following many years working in the classroom and as a catechist, Paul Higginson is discovering that retirement gives him even more opportunities to support his parish.

Dearest Jesus, teach me to be generous and to give without counting the cost to my personal comfort. Help me to spread your love in everything that I say, think and do.  Amen.

Yours

by St Teresa of Avila

"Christ has no body now, but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which
Christ looks compassion into the world.
Yours are the feet
with which Christ walks to do good.
Yours are the hands
with which Christ blesses the world."

Feast of the week

Thursday 11 November

St Martin of Tours

(316 or 336 - 397)

Martin was only ten when he secretly started attending Christian gatherings. The son of a senior cavalry officer in the Roman army, Martin was obliged, at the age of fifteen, to follow in his father's footsteps.

Martin was possibly only eighteen years old when, in the bitter cold of winter, he rode towards Amiens in modern-day

France. Just outside the city gates, he took pity on a thinly-dressed beggar, pulled off his thick cloak and, with his sword, cut it in half, giving half to the shivering man.

That night tradition says Martin dreamed of the man — except that it was Jesus wearing the half-cloak — who told a group of angels, "Martin, who is still but a catechumen, clothed me with this robe."

Shortly after his vision, Martin was baptised. He left the army two years later, eventually becoming a hermit and, later, the Bishop of Tours. London's church of St Martin-in-the-Fields is named after him.

"Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one's life."

Pope Francis

Today:
1 Kings 17:10-16
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Monday:
Wisdom 1:1-7
Luke 17:1-6
(W): All Saints of Wales (Feast)

Tuesday:
Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
1 Corinthians 3:9-11, 16-17
John 2:13-22

Wednesday:
Wisdom 6:1-11
Luke 17:11-19

Thursday:
Wisdom 7:22 - 8:1
Luke 17:20-25

Friday:
Wisdom 13:1-9
Luke 17:26-37

Saturday:
Wisdom 18:14-16;
19:6-9
Luke 18:1-8

Next Sunday:
Daniel 12:1-3
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Mark 13:24-32