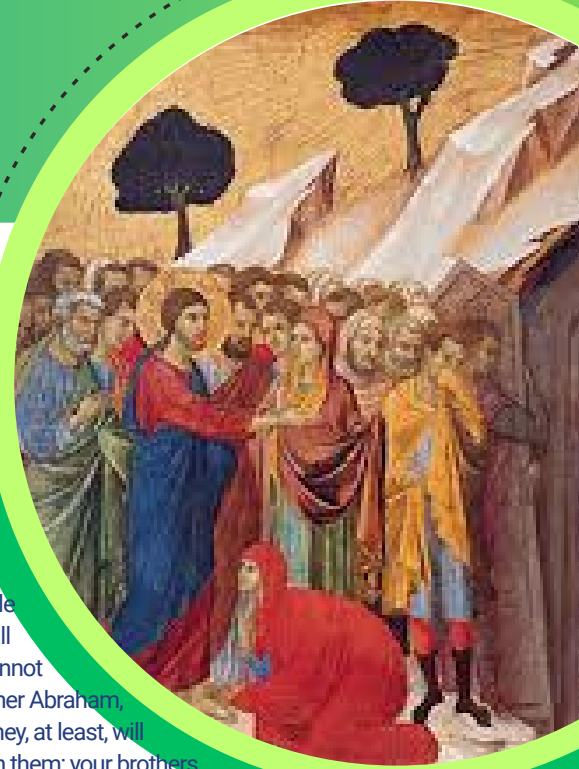


HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS MONDAY MISSION

THIS WEEK'S WORD:

Luke 16:1-13

There was once a rich man who dressed in the most expensive clothes and lived in great luxury every day. There was also a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who used to be brought to the rich man's door, hoping to eat the bits of food that fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the feast in heaven. The rich man died and was buried, and in Hades, where he was in great pain, he looked up and saw Abraham, far away, with Lazarus at his side. So he called out, 'Father Abraham! Take pity on me, and send Lazarus to dip his finger in some water and cool off my tongue, because I am in great pain in this fire!' But Abraham said, 'Remember, my son, that in your lifetime you were given all the good things, while Lazarus got all the bad things. But now he is enjoying himself here, while you are in pain. Besides all that, there is a deep pit lying between us, so that those who want to cross over from here to you cannot do so, nor can anyone cross over to us from where you are.' The rich man said, 'Then I beg you, father Abraham, send Lazarus to my father's house, where I have five brothers. Let him go and warn them so that they, at least, will not come to this place of pain.' Abraham said, 'Your brothers have Moses and the prophets to warn them; your brothers should listen to what they say.' The rich man answered, 'That is not enough, father Abraham! But if someone were to rise from death and go to them, then they would turn from their sins.' But Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone were to rise from death.'



REFLECT

This is not an easy Gospel to hear. A rich man either doesn't notice, or ignores, a poor man and suffers the consequences despite asking for help. It's easy to get caught up in questions about whether our loving God would be so harsh, but that's not our focus.

In telling this story Jesus wants us to know that is how we behave that matters. It is not good enough to say we love God if we are not doing practical things to help people in need. We are very much like the rich man who has good things. Are we aware of all our blessings? Even though we may not have much compared with people we can see around us, most of us are very rich in comparison with the rest of the world. Do we notice that people are in need and are we prepared to do something to help?

In this week, when we are celebrating Family Fast Day, it is good to think about how blessed we are and how we are going to share our resources with those who are not as fortunate as ourselves. We have so much to be thankful for. It will be so good to spend time in gratitude!

LET US PRAY

Loving Lord,

Help me to notice everyone in need, even those no one else sees.

Help me to treat everyone with respect and dignity and to take seriously your command to put my love into action.

Amen

MISSION

This week, as a whole school, we will learn to be grateful for the gift of life, family, friends, and God's love – just as Jesus showed gratitude before giving new life to Lazarus. This week:

- Talk about things you are grateful for that bring you life and joy.
- Think about somebody you are grateful for (teachers, friends, parents) and say thank you to them. Can you think of any other ways you could express your gratitude to them?