



Friday 3rd September 2021
twenty-second week in Ordinary Time Year 1

First Reading

Col 1:15-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

All things were created through him and for him.

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –
all things were created through him and for him.
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.
As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection
to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace
by his death on the cross.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 99:2-5. R. v.2

(R.) Come with joy into the presence of the Lord.

1. Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. (R.)
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. (R.)
3. Go within his gates, giving thanks.
Enter his courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks to him and bless his name. (R.)
4. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. (R.)

Gospel

Lk 5:33-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast.

The Pharisees and the scribes said to Jesus, 'John's disciples are always fasting and saying prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees too, but yours go on eating and drinking.' Jesus replied, 'Surely you cannot make the bridegroom's attendants fast while the bridegroom is still with them? But the time will come, the time for the bridegroom to be taken away from them; that will be the time when they will fast.'

He also told them this parable. 'No one tears a piece from a new cloak to put it on an old cloak; if he does, not only will he have torn the new one, but the piece taken from the new will not match the old.'

'And nobody puts new wine into old skins; if he does, the new wine will burst the skins and then run out, and the skins will be lost. No; new wine must be put into fresh skins. And nobody who has been drinking old wine wants new. "The old is good" he says.'

Reflection By Fr John Lovell

In our Gospel reading today, Jesus is reflecting on the purpose of the Law of God and who originally gave it to us: Himself ('master of the sabbath').

English philosopher Thomas Hobbes published a book in 1651 entitled *Leviathan*, which argued that all people are essentially brutish and nasty. He argued in favour of what we would call a totalitarian state, a system that allowed few freedoms, because humans could not be trusted with freedom and would only use it to deceive and destroy each other.

Jesus had more faith than Thomas Hobbes or the Pharisees in human nature and our entitlement to freedom, which is why He cured so many people afflicted with restrictive disabilities and continues today to happily forgive all repentant sinners. Jesus approach to laws was a moderate, practical, common-sense approach which must have come as a breath of fresh air to so many of the people who encountered Him.

The purpose of all laws must be to *serve* humanity and its needs, not to oppress us. And this has to be case for all kinds of laws: secular laws and Church laws, civil law and moral law. Problems occur, however, not only when there are serious breaches of the law, which need to be addressed, but when laws are applied inequitably and without regard to their true purpose, in order to accuse, scandalize, divide and destroy for personal power and advantage. Since none of us is perfect the Devil could use the Law to declare virtually all of us as unworthy of redemption before the judgement seat of God. For this reason the New Testament teaches we are not saved by compliance with the Law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.