



## Wednesday 11th August 2021

### Nineteenth week in Ordinary Time Year 1

#### First Reading

**Dt 34:1-12**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

*Moses died here praising the Lord; since then there has not been raised such a prophet in Israel.*

Leaving the plains of Moab, Moses went up Mount Nebo, the peak of Pisgah opposite Jerico, and the Lord showed him the whole land; Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the stretch of the Valley of Jerico, city of palm trees, as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, 'This is the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying: I will give it to your descendants. I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you shall not cross into it.' There in the land of Moab, Moses the servant of the Lord died as the Lord decreed; he buried him in the valley, in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor; but to this day no one has ever found his grave. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye undimmed, his vigour unimpaired. The sons of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days. The days of weeping for the mourning rites of Moses came to an end. Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. It was he that the sons of Israel obeyed, carrying out the order that the Lord had given to Moses. Since then, never has there been such a prophet in Israel as Moses, the man the Lord knew face to face. What signs and wonders the Lord caused him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh and all his servants and his whole land! How mighty the hand and great the fear that Moses wielded in the sight of all Israel!

#### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 65:1-3. 5. 16-17. R. vv.20. 9**

**(R.)** Blessed be God who filled my soul with life!

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!' **(R.)**
2. Come and see the works of God,  
tremendous his deeds among men.  
Come and hear, all who fear God.  
I will tell what he did for my soul:  
to him I cried aloud,  
with high praise ready on my tongue. **(R.)**

#### Gospel

**Mt 18:15-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community, and if he refuses to listen to the community; treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

**Reflection - Fr John Lovell**  
**Nineteenth week in Ordinary Time Year 1**

Today's First Reading from Deuteronomy is taken from the last chapter of the fifth book of the Pentateuch, the 5 first books of the Bible which comprise what the Jewish faith calls *the Torah*.

There was a time when most Christians believed all these five books (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy) were written by Moses. This is no longer the case. Why? Well firstly, because a humble soul like Moses wouldn't sing his own praises in the way the writers of the Pentateuch speak of him; and secondly, because scripture scholars believe the Pentateuch was not written down until many centuries later, probably during the Babylonian Exile (597-539 BC). Moses lived sometime in the period 1500-1250 BC.

Although in many ways he seems larger than life when we consider the amazing wonders God worked through him, so that some skeptics have labelled him a myth, Moses was a real person who Jesus recognized in His teachings. Jesus also appeared with Moses and Elijah in the Transfiguration on Mt Tabor. This does not mean we have to believe every detail described in the Pentateuch about the deeds of Moses is being literally true. Information passed down through many generations by oral tradition can become inaccurate in detail; so we focus more on the broad sweep of events and on their spiritual meaning for our lives.

For me, the most extraordinary aspect of Moses' ministry was his great humility and reliance on God to overcome great obstacles, to set practical rules to enable people to live together in justice and peace, and his Christ-like mercy in pleading for a rebellious people after they'd lost faith and wanted to kill him and his brother Aaron.

Another remarkable person we specially remember today is St Clare of Assisi, a friend of St Francis, who being inspired by Francis' word and example put aside a life of comfort and wealth to serve the poor and unloved in 13<sup>th</sup> Century Italy. She went on to inspire countless other women too to follow her example through the Order of the Poor Clares.

The name Clare (Chiara in Italian) means bright or clear. May St Clare's faith and intercession brighten our lives today as we pray for a clear way forward for our world out of the Corona Virus pandemic.