

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

All peoples, clap your hands.  
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

O God, who through the grace of adoption  
chose us to be children of light,  
grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in  
the darkness of error  
but always be seen to stand in the bright light  
of truth.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16

A reading from the second Book of the Kings.  
One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a  
woman of rank who lived there pressed him to  
stay and eat there. After this he always broke  
his journey for a meal when he passed that way.  
She said to her husband, "Look, I am sure the  
man who is constantly passing our way must be  
a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room  
on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table  
and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us  
he can rest there."

One day when he came, he retired to the  
upper room and lay down. "What can be  
done for her?" he asked. Gehazi, his servant,  
answered, "Well, she has no son and her  
husband is old." Elisha said, "Call her." The  
servant called her and she stood at the door.  
"This time next year," Elisha said, "you will hold a  
son in your arms."

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** Ps 88:2-3, 16-19

Response:  
I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;  
through all ages my mouth will proclaim  
your truth.  
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for  
ever,  
that your truth is firmly established as the  
heavens. (R.)

2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king,  
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,  
who find their joy every day in your name,  
who make your justice the source of their  
bliss. (R.)

3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of  
their strength;  
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:  
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;  
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of  
Israel. (R.)

**SECOND READING** Rm 6:3-4, 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were  
baptised in his death; in other words, when we  
were baptised, we went into the tomb with him  
and joined him in death, so that as Christ was  
raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we  
too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we  
shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know,  
having been raised from the dead will never die  
again. Death has no power over him anymore.  
When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his  
life now is life with God; and in that way, you too  
must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but  
alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our heart, O Lord,  
to accept the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mt 10:37-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:  
"Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is  
not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or  
daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone  
who does not take his cross and follow in my  
footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who  
finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life  
for my sake will find it. "Anyone who welcomes  
you welcomes me; and those who welcome me  
welcome the one who sent me. "Anyone who  
welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet  
will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who  
welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man  
will have a holy man's reward. "If you anyone  
gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of  
these little ones because he is a disciple, then I  
tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose  
his reward."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;

through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
(all bow during the next three lines)  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O God, who graciously accomplish  
the effects of your mysteries,  
grant, we pray,  
that the deeds by which we serve you  
may be worthy of these sacred gifts.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all within me, his holy name.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and  
received  
fill us with life, O Lord, we pray,  
so that, bound to you in lasting charity,  
we may bear fruit that lasts for ever.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

You say grace before meals. All right. But I say  
grace before the concert and the opera, and  
grace before the play and pantomime, and  
grace before I open a book, and grace before  
sketching, painting, swimming, fencing, boxing,  
walking, playing, dancing and grace before I dip  
the pen in the ink.

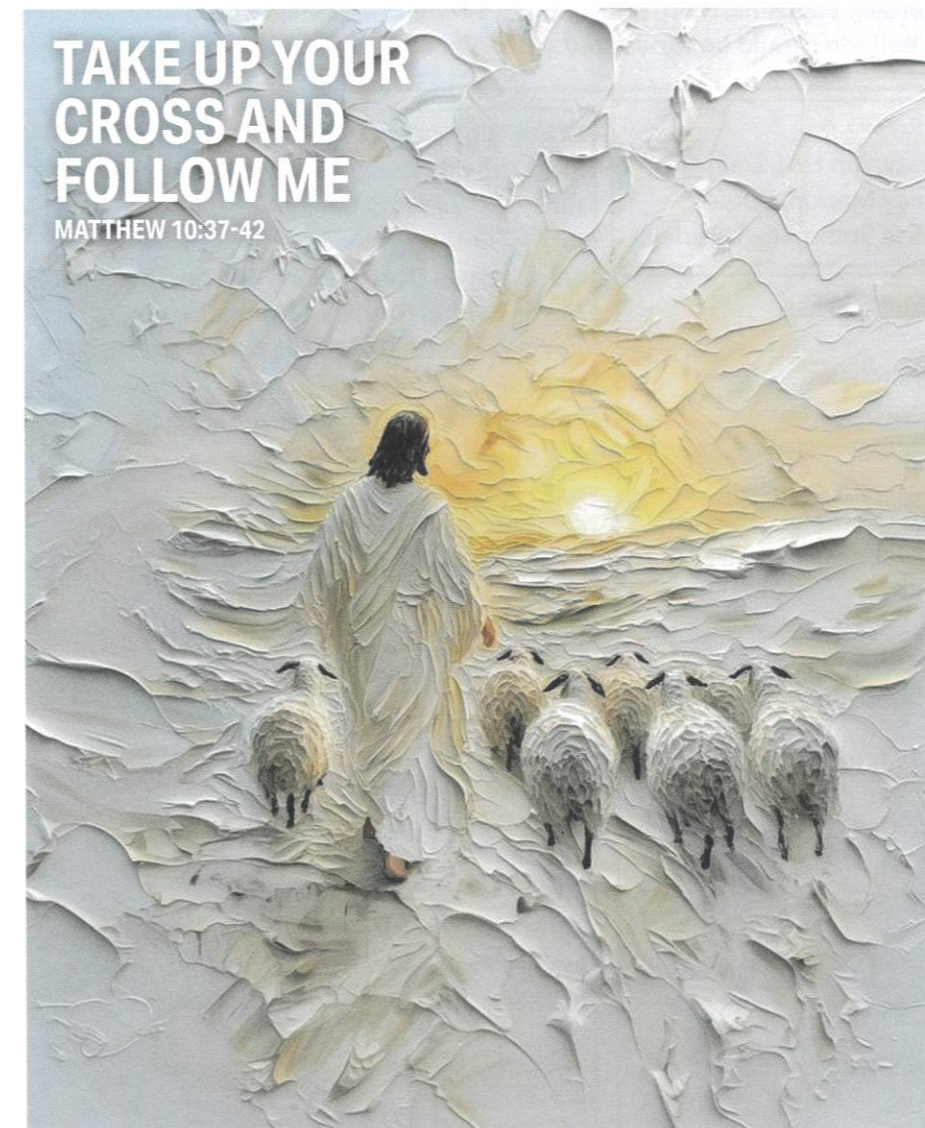
GK Chesterton

# Sunday Message

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**THE WORD**

Year A • 28 June 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



## TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME

MATTHEW 10:37-42

**REFLECT**

Jesus' words in this passage are  
challenging. "Whoever loves father  
or mother more than me is not  
worthy of me." At first, this may sound  
harsh, but he is teaching about the order  
of love. Faith in Christ comes first, not  
because family or other commitments  
are unimportant, but because everything  
else is rightly ordered when it flows from  
him. Discipleship asks for loyalty and  
courage, even when it requires difficult  
choices.

Yet the Gospel is also profoundly  
encouraging. Jesus reassures us that  
no act of love, however small, goes  
unnoticed. Giving even a cup of cold  
water to someone in need is seen and  
valued by God. Discipleship is not only  
about the big, costly decisions; it is lived  
in countless small gestures of care,  
attention, and kindness.

In our daily lives, we are called to  
balance love for God with love for others.  
Following Christ means letting him shape  
our priorities, guiding our relationships,  
and inspiring our acts of service.  
Every gesture of care — every word of  
encouragement or act of support —  
becomes a way of participating in his  
mission. Through faithfulness in both big  
and small ways, we witness Christ's love  
to the world. ■

**DO**

This week, I could support someone quietly,  
without recognition, knowing God sees and  
values it.

**LEARN**

The Church teaches that true discipleship  
requires placing God above all else, and  
that even small acts of charity performed in  
faith participate in Christ's mission and are  
rewarded by God.

**SAY**

Lord Jesus,  
Help us to put you first in our lives.  
Teach us to serve you in small and  
generous ways.  
May every act of love we offer be  
done in your name.

In this passage, Jesus addresses the cost of discipleship, emphasizing the  
primacy of allegiance to him. He begins with a stark statement: "Whoever loves  
father or mother more than me is not worthy of me."

The language is deliberately strong to highlight that following Christ may require difficult choices,  
even within close family relationships. The call is not against natural affection, but against allowing  
anything — even legitimate love — to take precedence over one's commitment to Christ.

Jesus frames discipleship in terms of both sacrifice and reward. Those who accept him may  
face rejection or hardship, yet the passage promises recognition and recompense: "Whoever  
gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones... will surely not lose their reward." The  
reference to the "little ones" underscores the value of humble acts of service, showing that  
discipleship is expressed in practical, everyday care as well as in overarching commitment to  
Christ.

Matthew's Gospel stresses that following Jesus is total: it requires ordering one's priorities  
toward him, yet it also affirms that God notices and honours even the smallest acts of love and  
service. In this way, discipleship is both demanding and deeply rewarding. ■