



# St Albert's CATHOLIC CHAPLAINCY



24th Sunday of the Year • 15th September 2019

Readings for Sunday 15th September: Ex 32:7-11. 13-14; Ps 50, 1 Tim 1:12-17, Lk 15:1-32

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM: I will leave this place and go to my father.



"Return of the Prodigal Son", Guercino, 1619, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna. When Guercino (1591 -1666) painted this image for the Papal Legate to Ferrara, Cardinal Giacomo Serra, he was only 28. Perhaps, he identified with the subject, as he returns to it again and again. There are at least five versions in galleries around the world, all with the Father, the servant and the younger son caught in close-up at the very moment when the son is about to be clothed by the father. It is as if we have just walked into the room just in time witness this intimate and private moment. We are in the father's house. The chair on the lower left suggests the affluent domesticity into which the son is welcomed home. servant is on the right brings the fine garments in which the son will be dressed. The father's arm is placed between the son and the servant as he reaches for the clean linen shirt. It is almost as if he were protecting the son. You can see the ring on the father's finger and the shoe is in the servant's hand. The father's advanced age accent the son's youthfulness. The old man has an abundance of whiskers. But the son's face is smooth with no hint of a beard. His dark locks contrast with the father's bald crown. No doubt influenced by Caravaggio or one of his followers, the young Guercino lets a beam of light pick out the youthful shoulders of the son and the wrinkled skin of the father's face. Light falls on the hands of all three. The son has been welcomed back most tenderly. Notice the father's hand on the small of his back. The father's arms almost enfold the son while he removes his soiled and tattered shirt, the symbol of his waywardness and where it took him. As in his "Woman taken in Adultery" of 1621, now at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, the hands tell the story. These two works are remarkably close not just in time, but in his treatment of the wayward son and the woman who had been caught in the very act adultery. In each, Guercino captures both their vulnerability and their quiet dignity. Have a look online at both and ponder this similarity which (squint-eyed) Guercino clearly saw and portrayed four centuries before us.

## TODAY'S GOSPEL LK 15:1-32

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." And he said, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.'" And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

The text of the Mass can be found at **no 479** in the hymnal or on separate cards.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER:  
Am 8:4-7, Ps 112, 1 Tim 2:1-8, Lk 16:1-3

### FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

Mon 16	Feast of St Ninian
Wed 18	Memorial of St John Macías
Fri 20	Memorial of Sts Andrew Kin Tae-gōn, Paul Chōng Ha-sang, and Companions
Sat 21	Feast of St Matthew

### SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR AIFC NEXT SUNDAY

There is a special collection this week for the Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh. This fund provides living costs and housing for our 24 retired priests. These special collections are one of the main sources of income for the fund.

### HSBC LET'S RIDE UK NEXT SUNDAY

Due to this event roads surround George Square will be closed from 9.30am until 4pm on next Sunday 22nd September. To enter and leave George Square by car please use the West Nicholson Street/ Crichton Street route. Attendants should let you through.

### IF IT WORKS, IT'S CONSTITUTIONAL

This next Albertus Coffee House discussion will be led by David Christie, former lecturer on Constitutional Law, on Monday 7th October from 6pm-7.15pm. It will be led by David Christie, who is a former lecturer in Constitutional Law. To ensure sufficient cake please book on eventbrite. (Search albertus coffee house 3)

### ALBERTUS ANNUAL LECTURE

Professor Robin Gill speaks on "The Future of Christian Ethics" in the Martin Hall, New College, University of Edinburgh on Thursday 24th October at 7pm.

### ALBERTUS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's conference is on Atheism and will take place on Saturday 9th November from 10am until 5pm also at New College. Further details to follow.

### DIVINE OFFICE & MASS TIMES

#### Monday – Friday:

Morning Prayer	8am
Mass	1.15pm, 5:15pm
Evening Prayer	after 5:15pm Mass

#### Saturday:

Morning Prayer	8:30am
Mass	12pm

#### Sunday:

Morning Prayer	8:30am
Mass	9, 10, 12noon, 7.15pm
Evening Prayer	5:30pm

<b>Confessions:</b>	Wed after 1.15pm mass until 2pm or on request.
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### CATHOLICISM SERIES

Starting this coming Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> September, in the Garden Room, we will show episodes of the Catholicism TV series by Bishop Robert Barron. Each episode lasts one hour, and it will be followed by an opportunity for discussion with tea and cake. The event is for both parishioners and Chaplaincy students. The purpose of the event is general catechesis: for those who'd like to learn more about, or refresh their knowledge of, the fundamentals of the Catholic faith.

### HOLY GROUND TALK

Dr Alison Jack of the School of Divinity, New College will speak on "The Prodigal Son in Poetry" on Monday 14th October at 7pm. All welcome.

### DAY FOR ALTAR SERVERS AT THE GILLIS CENTRE

This takes place at the Gillis Centre on Saturday 21st September, from 11am until 3pm. There will be activities, testimonies and games, ending with a Mass during which the Archbishop will present medals to those entering into the Guild of St Cuthbert. If your child would like to attend, please email Fr John. Servers should bring a packed lunch, comfortable clothes and the robes they normally wear for serving at Mass.

### CHILDREN'S CLASSES IN SEPTEMBER

Weekly sacramental preparation classes for children preparing to celebrate Reconciliation and Holy Communion in 2020 begin at St Albert's in September 2019. These classes are suitable for children who are currently in P3 and above, and will celebrate Reconciliation during Lent 2020, and First Communion at Corpus Christi 2020. If you would like your child to attend, and have not already been in touch, please contact Fr John to register your interest: [jd.oconnor@english.op.org](mailto:jd.oconnor@english.op.org).

### EDINBURGH DOORS OPEN DAY

The Chapel will be open for this year's Doors Open Days on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th September. We are open from 1pm to 6pm on Saturday, and 2pm to 5pm on Sunday. If you can help, please let Fr Dermot know.

### PARISH BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Parish Book Group is on Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30pm, in The Library, 24 George Square, when two books will be discussed: "Dissolution" by C J Sansom (420 pages, postponed from July), and "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver (640 Pages). New members are always welcome. For contact details, please see the calendar entry on the Parish website.

### PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Prayers for peace in Palestine and Israel: on Sunday, 22 September, from 2-5pm at Old St Paul's, EH1 1DH.

St Albert's Catholic Chaplaincy is a Parish of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh, entrusted to the English Province of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans) which is a registered charity in Scotland (SC039062) and in England and Wales (231192).

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