

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 43.
October 22, 2023
Proper 24



**“Give therefore to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's”
(Matthew 22:15-22)**

“You will have no other God than me!” Thus begins the Decalogue, and this entire passage from the Gospel of Matthew will be in some way a commentary on this commandment. It all begins with a question from the Pharisees about the tax owed to Caesar. Jesus has two possible answers:

→ If he says that taxes must be paid to the Romans, he will be considered as a collaborator, which will make him unpopular with this crowd who sees in him a liberator.

→ If he says you shouldn't pay taxes; then he could be accused to the Roman authorities of being a kind of terrorist.

To this set trap, Jesus gives this response: “do not therefore make God play the role of Caesar and Caesar the role of God”. It is not because the Roman state deified

the emperor that we must do the same! So what should we do?

The Letter to Diognetus (a writing from the first centuries of the Church) will shed light on the role of Christians in their insertion into the world.

“Christians are not differentiated from other men either by language or by clothing. They do not live in cities of their own, do not use a strange dialect... They each reside in their homeland, but as domiciled foreigners... They participate in everything like citizens... Every foreign land is their homeland, and all homeland is a foreign land to them... They marry like everyone else, have children, but do not abandon their offspring. They share the same table, but not the same bed. They live on earth but are citizens in heaven. They obey the laws in force, but their morals do better than the laws... To put it simply, what the soul is in the body, Christians are in the world. » Which can be summed up by these words from Saint John: **“you are in the world, but you are not of the world.”**

Through this page from the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus establishes a clear separation between the temporal and the spiritual.

To page 2

From page 1

Sunday is the ideal day to give back to God what is God's. It is given to us to do this, not each in his own corner, but as a people of God who comes together and disperses to reach out to others. During the Mass, we will associate ourselves with the offering of Christ to his Father and we will commune with his body and his blood. Rendering to God what is God's is not doing extraordinary things, it is experiencing them in an unusual way, like Jesus under the guidance of the Spirit. Without him, we would not be able to do it. "By him, with him and in him": this is quite simply the orientation of our life! Lord, make our lives a Eucharist, a thanksgiving to the praise of your glory. Amen.

A trained imagination added to a disciplined character forms a powerful and winsome combination.

[Charles Henry Brent, *Adventure for God*, 1920]

Coming up:

- Nov. 1 All Saint's Day, 10:00 am service
- Nov. 2 All Souls' Day, 10:00 am service
- Nov. 4 Wedding, 2:00 pm
- Nov. 11 Wedding, 1:30 pm
- Nov. 12 Remembrance Sunday, 9:30 am.
- Nov. 19 Wedding, 3:00 pm
- Nov. 19 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service hosted by Santuario, 7:00 pm.
- Nov. 30 Wedding, 2:30 pm

Buildings and Grounds Committee

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is looking for new members.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee oversees the renovation, improvement and development of the Church, all the buildings within the compound, including the Rectory, and the grounds including the carpark area. We have a number of interesting and important projects to be carried out now and in the future and this is your opportunity to join us and make a real difference to the present and the future of our Church.

If you would like to get involved, please speak to or email any of the current committee members who are: Andy Malpass, Phil Thoburn & Edison Yap.

Our contact details are available from the Church office or you can see us after Church most Sundays.

Phil Thoburn, *Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee*

SAINTS OF THE WEEK:

Cedd, Abbot of Lastingham, Bishop of the East Saxons, 26 October. Cedd was born in Northumbria in the late sixth century and joined the monastery of Lindisfarne where he served many years. When King Peada of the Middle Angles became a Christian, Cedd was sent with three other priests to preach the gospel in this new territory. Some time later, King Sigebert of the East Saxons was converted and Cedd, now an experienced missionary, went with another priest to Essex. After travelling through the region they reported back to Lindisfarne where Cedd was consecrated bishop for the East Saxons. He returned to Essex to continue his work, building churches, two monasteries, and ordaining deacons and priests. While on a visit to Northumbria he founded his third monastery, at Lastingham, where he died of fever in 664 after attending the Synod of Whitby.

Simon & Jude, Apostles, 28 October. Simon and Jude were named among the twelve apostles in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Simon is called 'the Zealot', probably because he belonged to a nationalist resistance movement opposing the Roman occupation forces. There is no indication in the gospels whether Simon moved from the Zealot party to be a follower of Christ or, on the other hand, if after the resurrection he became a supporter of that group, seeing it as a response to God's call to proclaim the kingdom.

Luke describes Jude as the son of James, while the Letter of Jude has him as the brother of James, neither of which negates the other. It seems he is the same person as Thaddæus, which may have been a last name. Owing to the similarity of his name to that of Judas Iscariot, Jude was rarely invoked in prayer and it seems likely that because of this, interceding through him was seen as a final resort when all else failed. He became known, therefore, as the patron saint of lost causes.

The two apostles are joined together on this day because a church, which had recently acquired their relics, was dedicated to their memory in Rome in the seventh century.