

## Faith or Works?

**U**nfortunately, these two facets of our faith are often pitted against each other. In many of his letters, St. Paul insists on the superiority of faith, while today's reading from St. James underscores the importance of good works. It is understandable that one might get confused. Actually, both are vital. In fact, one without the other does not result in full Christian living. At issue is how they fit together.

Paul's insistence on faith was probably a corrective for the erroneous belief that we can earn eternal happiness by our good works. This was not simply a problem with the Jewish law and practices but with the religious law and practices of many societies. Even today we find people convinced that obeying religious laws assures salvation. To this, Paul insisted that it was faith in Jesus that saved, not conformity to law. Paul never said that believers should not

obey the law. Rather, he would insist that such obedience should flow from faith, not vice versa.

It seems that the people to whom today's second reading was directed took the idea of "faith alone" to an extreme. They were not committed to good works. This letter corrected that error. It states that faith without works is dead. In fact, good works demonstrate the authenticity and depth of one's faith.

The message for today should be clear. Faith and works belong together. Genuine faith manifests itself in works of love and mercy, and the works of love and mercy that flow from faith are of God.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ✳ Which works of mercy does your faith inspire?
- ✳ How are these works fortified by faith?

*Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.*

JAMES 2:18

## ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Community Building Committee Chair:	Grace Lovecchio	email: mglove@northrock.bm	(h) 236-5006

**Weekend Masses:** Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:00am

**Baptisms:** by appointment 3 weeks in advance

**Weddings:** by appointment 6 months in advance

**Vocations:** Fr. Toby Collins [www.vocationculture.ca](http://www.vocationculture.ca)



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Diocesan Webpage: [www.romancatholicbermuda.bm](http://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm)



*We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.*

## MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS...

### SEPT 11/12th The TWENTY-FORTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM **Lector** Karen Marsh **EM:** Willie Forbes  
10:00AM **Lector** Pat Robinson **EM:** Joe Mendonca  
**Collection** The DeFrias

### SEPT 18/19th The TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM **Lector** Alberta Cannonier **EM:** Peter Marsh  
10:00AM **Lector** Jesse Almeida **EM:** Christine DaCosta  
**Collection** The Almeidas

### SEPT 11/12th The TWENTY-FORTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Mary & Benjamin Botelho ++  
Adelina & Jose Botelho +  
10:00AM Giacomino Benito Ferigio +

### SEPT 18/19th The TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM The Parishioners of St. Michaels Living & Deceased  
10:00AM Deolinda & Antonio Carvalho ++  
Maria Ruggeiro & Vito Lovecchio ++

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at  
St. Theresa's - 7:30 Mon.—Fri. | St Anthony's - 8:00 Tues.—Fri.

ST. THERESA'S & ST. ANTHONY'S  
Masses are live streamed via the Diocesan Website  
and their Facebook Page



## STEWARDSHIP

### COLLECTION:

September 4/5th Collection: \$1,087.00  
The monthly Second Collection for Maintenance  
will be taken next week Sept. 18/19th  
at both Masses.

NB: \$2300/week or \$9200/month in the collection  
is needed to break even each month.

**ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTION** are welcomed.  
Consider making a weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction.

*When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name  
and "collection" as your memo on your banking transaction."*

**ST. MICHAEL'S uses your regular collection contributions  
to support the day-to-day operations of our Parish.**

**Thank you to those parishioners who continue to  
answer our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.**

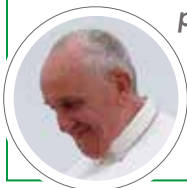
Online donations can be made to St. Michael's Church 's  
BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

Every little bit will help the financial position of our Parish.

## WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*You may know all the commandments, all the prophecies,  
all the truths of the faith, but if this isn't put into  
practice, is not translated into works, it serves  
nothing....A faith without works, a faith that  
doesn't get you involved, isn't faith. It's words  
and nothing more than words.*

HOMILY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014



## The Bishop's Corner



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

A St. Francis International Summer School of Economics recently took place in Gubbio, Italy. The goal of this conference for young scientists and entrepreneurs from around the world was to initiate collaboration towards building an economy striving for the common good and not only for personal profit. The slogan for the meetings, lectures and presentations this year was "Economics in the Age of the Commons."

Young economists believe that the heart of the economy can only be achieved by application of inclusive processes that take into account the common good and do not exclude the poor and needy. In a video message to the participants of the event Pope Francis said, "Let us learn to develop a lifestyle in which there are no "others" but only "we."

One of the attendees was Valentina Brandi, a thirty two year old woman with two children who has a PhD in Economics. In an interview with the Vatican

Radio, she emphasizes that the informal moments of the Gubbio Conference, during which experiences and points of view can be exchanged, are just as important as the lectures. "The diversity of the participants' countries of origin is one of the most important aspects. The richness of this experience also comes from the fact that the discussion is not just about theoretical topics, but very practical issues. The form of the meeting is not limited only to lectures. There is also time for work in groups. For example, we are talking about the fact that contemporary behavioral research shows that we are more inclined to perceive the world as "we" than as "me". We realize how important a sense of belonging is, because without it one cannot make some common choices. This then needs to be transferred into everyday life, into the relationships we establish as economists and entrepreneurs. This is the case, for example, when a country moves from a welfare state to the idea of a community involving all citizens", said Valentina.

Have a restful weekend and a blessed week!

+ *Wes*

Bishop Wes

**SUMMER SCHOOL**  
*Economics in the Age of the Commons*



# SUNDAY READINGS – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

## COLLECT

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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 – Isaiah 50:5-9a

The Lord God opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. He is near who upholds my right; if anyone wishes to oppose me, let us appear together. Who disputes my right? Let that man confront me. See, the Lord God is my help; who will prove me wrong?

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 116

*R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.*

I love the Lord because he has heard my voice in supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me the day I called. (R)

The cords of death encompassed me; the snares of the netherworld seized upon me; I fell into distress and sorrow, and I called upon the name of the LORD, “O Lord, save my life!” (R)

Gracious is the Lord and just; yes, our God is merciful. The Lord keeps the little ones; I was brought low, and he saved me. (R)

For he has freed my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living. (R)

## SECOND READING – James 2:14-18

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Indeed someone might say, “You have faith and I have works.” Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. Gal 6:14

*Alleluia, alleluia.*

## GOSPEL – Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” They said in reply, “John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter said to him in reply, “You are the Christ.” Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him

aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it.”

**SAVE  
the  
DATE**

**Saturday, September 25th for our annual St. Michael's Feast Day celebration will take place at the 5pm Mass. An informal reception will follow.**

**SignupGenius.com will be required.**

**MORE DETAILS TO COME.**

## Dear Padre,

**I'm having trouble finding a good place to pray. I can't get to church every day. I have a noisy household, and I can't pray at work. Any ideas?**

**T**he best place to pray is in solitude. But solitude in this case doesn't mean an isolated place; it is, rather, a state of the heart. Many Christians can enter into a state of solitude on a crowded train. I've talked with others who find solitude while sitting on a bench in a crowded shopping mall.

However, to cultivate this interior state that opens a Christian to heartfelt conversation with God, many of us need to physically shut out distractions. As Jesus advised, go into your room—your secret place—close the door, and pray there. For some people, this “secret place” is a church or chapel. Many people pray before or after Mass. Some churches have a special oratory or chapel for the Blessed Sacrament.

But like you, many people find it difficult to go to a church or chapel every day, so some of them devote a special corner of their home to prayer. This prayer corner usually has a Bible, a crucifix, a statue, a sacred picture, a candle, or a plant.

We can find solitude in the car, in a favorite nature spot, in the garden, or on a morning jog. Once you start looking for it, solitude isn't as difficult to find as you'd expect because God is present in every place and in every moment—so wherever we can find solitude, he will be there.

*Fr. Michael Brehl, CSsR Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*



## LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH

The monthly Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14th in the Church Hall at 6pm.

- **BIBLE STUDIES - AGAPE** is an in-depth study on a particular book or topic using the Scriptures and the Catechism of the Catholic Church with group discussion
- **EMMAUS** focuses upon the upcoming Sunday readings using the Scriptures and answering reflective questions.

Phone Fr. Joe at 705-0236 for more details regarding the above which will restart on Tues. Sept 7, at 3:00 & 7:30 pm respectively since we are on summer break.

Both are free, interactive and all the material will be provided.

*All are welcome.*

### PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US AT MASS IN CHURCH!

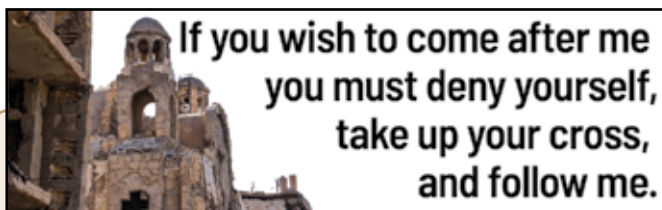
COVID regulations have changed again, we are only permitted to have 50 attendees at each Mass as of July 1st, due to the Delta and Beta variants

**MASSSES are held Saturday, at 5PM and Sunday, at 10AM.**

Masks **MUST** be worn at all times. Sign up sheets for tracking and tracing at the verandah entrance.

Temperatures will be taken and hand sanitizing must be done.  
Please continue to physically distance, at all times

Communion is under one species, and please approach the Altar in single file, maintaining one pew between you and the person in front of you.



### SUFFERING, HOPE, AND LOVE

Our readings from Isaiah and from the Gospel of Mark confront us with the fact that the invitation to faith leads us into suffering. In Isaiah, the prophet accepts pain and shaming from others, as he trusts in God. In Mark, Jesus is blunt about this: "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." When we embrace faith, we are confronted with our own fears about suffering and about losing comfort, status, and control over our lives. Life has plenty of suffering already, so why choose to add to it? Jesus points to a response: avoiding our fears and clinging to illusion and superficial comforts will not give us what we really want from life. Jesus offers a better, deeper life, a life grounded in God's love. It is lived in hope of resurrection and the final triumph of this love.

### A DIFFERENT LIFE

The Gospel of Mark reaches a turning point in today's passage. About halfway through Mark, Jesus' disciples begin to understand Jesus as the Messiah (or Christ). And Jesus begins to spell out just what is expected of those who follow him. The story then shifts to learning

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

**ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP:** Tuesday and Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm

**THE 12:10PM MASS** at the Cathedral. These noon masses will be celebrated by Bishop Wes on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays every week.

**LECTIO DIVINA** Every Monday at 7pm via Zoom. If you want to join, contact Franz Wohlmuth at Fgwohlmuth@logic.bm. Franz will send you the link to join zoom.



### A Message from the St. Vincent de Paul Society ...

SVDP recently registered as a recipient charity with **The Bermuda Championship**, which will be held this year at the **Port Royal Golf Course** from October 25th to 31st.

#### You can support us in the following ways:

Sign up to be a volunteer at the event: For each volunteer that chooses SVDP as their charity, we will receive \$200. If you have already signed up and would like to add your name as an SVDP volunteer, please contact Karen Leseur at svdp@northrock.bm.

*Make a donation through The Bermuda Championship Birdies for Charity program: For every donation made, SVDP will receive 100% of your donation, plus an additional 10%.*

#### To volunteer, please visit:

[www.bermudachampionship.com/bfm-volunteer/](http://www.bermudachampionship.com/bfm-volunteer/)

#### To donate, please visit:

[www.bermudachampionship.com/birdies-for-charity/](http://www.bermudachampionship.com/birdies-for-charity/)

*For more information, please contact Karen Leseur at svdp@northrock.bm or 232-4175.*

*Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.  
- Karen Leseur President - SVDP*

#### CLICK THIS LINK FOR SIGN UP INSTRUCTIONS

<https://www.romancatholicbermuda.bm/uploads/NE8MF7p0/21BCCharityLetterSt.VincentdePaulSociety.pdf>

just what being Christ, and following Christ, actually means. Jesus shatters the expectation of a political or military power defeating Israel's oppressors, and reveals a different kind of Messiah. The disciples later come to see that this different Messiah offers a different understanding of power, and of life itself.

We inhabit a world that honors power over others, through wealth or achievement or violence. Jesus invites us into a community and a way of life that honors the power of love and service to others. Lived fully, it is truly a different way of life. It is marked by great suffering and great joy, because it embraces the fundamental pattern of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

### A "LARGE" FAITH

The letter of James is designed to enlarge your faith. James knew that his community faced trials that could lead them to abandon the faith, or perhaps to reduce faith to a comfortable, manageable size. In today's passage, James calls the reader to resist reducing faith to safe, intellectual assent to teachings, and instead to expand one's faith to actively engage in good works, especially in service to the poor.