

Theme of the Week - Listening

In last week's Gospel we are challenged to think about how we serve God and how we should put to one side our desires for material goods and wealth. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches about a rich man who was so self-absorbed in himself, he did nothing to help Lazarus, the man in need. The rich man asks for his five brothers to be told from the dead the consequences of their actions so they would be saved, however the message put to him is 'why should they be helped when the messages are already being told to them and are clear?'

Moses and the prophets taught the need for justice and mercy which particularly calls the wealthy to meet the needs of the poor. By ignoring and being indifferent to this responsibility; being blind to Lazarus' obvious need, the rich man in his complacency was inattentive to this responsibility. This was despite the fact that by naming Lazarus when he asked Abraham to send him refreshing water, he was not totally unaware of him! The Gospel reading from Sunday can always provoke challenging questions especially if we look at the wealth of the Church. Today we can see so much need in the world. So many are poor, in poverty, in Gaza we can see starvation, a lack of medicines and not even basic clean water. And we may ask why isn't the Church doing more? But we must remember that we are the Church, not just the Vatican. And we do wonders when we raise awareness and money to care for the sick and to provide for others. Look at what Mrs Ura has achieved through our support with the Access to Shine charity.

Take this time to sit silently in prayer. Be **Attentive and Discerning** when listening to God?

Listening

Weekly Reflections
28th September 2025
26th Week in Ordinary Time



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 16: 19-31

At that time: Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not do so, and none may cross from there to us." And he said, "Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house — for I have five brothers — so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment." But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them." And he said, "No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead." '

Prayer for the Week

Almighty God,

Let us take this time to be in silence and to listen to you.

(please take time to be in silent prayer)

Continue to come to us in prayer so we can serve you as you wish.

Amen.

Day 1

What did the rich man see (be literal here) when he died?

What then did he fail to see when he was alive?

Day 2

What do you think is the significance of the Rich man naming Lazarus?

How does this parable explain how some are unwilling to listen and follow Christ?

Day 3

Please take some time in silent prayer.

Be more **Attentive** and **Discerning** when listening to God through prayer. How can we support others?