

THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF THE  
PROPHET ZECHARIAH

Thus says the Lord: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS

*I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.*

I will extol you, my God and king,  
and bless your name for ever and ever.

I will bless you day after day,  
and praise your name for ever and ever.

*I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.*

The LORD is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.

How good is the LORD to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures.

*I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.*

All your works shall thank you, O LORD,  
and all your faithful ones bless you.

They shall speak of the glory of your reign,  
and declare your mighty deeds.

*I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.*

The LORD is faithful in all his words,  
and holy in all his deeds.

The LORD supports all who fall,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

*I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.*

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE LETTER OF ST  
PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Brothers and Sisters: You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION.

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

## A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

At that time Jesus declared, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

## REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Apparently, I used to look at people the weeks after first communion as if I was thinking you could look smarter than that having seen everyone look their best at first Communion mass. If you look at me you might notice my left foot seems bigger than the other. It is because it has a knee/ankle support so bigger shoes are needed, so mine are size 11 wide left and size 7 right. The styles probably don't match.

It dates back to the time when I learnt the difference between curing and healing. I had prayed long and intensely, as had many for me, to be cured after a stroke and back to normal. It didn't happen and I had to rethink, praying that God would do something to help. Gradually as I learnt to walk with a helpful support, I became grateful for what I could do and more aware of myself and how others were. Trying not to reflect a bitterness I felt I was careful to see what effect we had on each other. Eventually released I was changed and could forward confidently to a different life.

Our Christian faith is a trust in God, Jesus revealed God's plan for us to transform the way we look at each other, AI offers great potential but should never replace our respect for the value of each and every one of us. Bishop John talking to us at the Council of priests said he could get a sermon by asking AI for 200 words on a biblical text he said it wasn't bad but asked us never to lose the opportunity to reflect on the joy the written Gospel can bring us.

Concerning our future the Social Justice tradition recognises the right to private property as well as the solidarity of the whole world community and that worldly goods are to benefit us all and so must be directed to the common good. In Pope Leo's words with transparency, accountability and meaningful forms of participation.

Our personal and collective responsibility is to use the new technology for genuine good of ourselves and if we have the responsibility for others, for their genuine good too.