



Liturgy Cycle A

Thirty-First Sunday Of The Year

Onslaught Of Hypocrisy

Introduction

Jesus had some harsh criticism to make of the scribes and Pharisees. He called them hypocrites, who preached one thing and did another. Which of us can truthfully say that our deeds match our words? Therefore to some extent, we are all hypocrites. But each time we come for Mass we are called by God to a life of truth and sincerity.

First Reading (Malachi 1: 14-2:2.8-10)

The prophet gives the priests of his day a right good telling off because they have shown favouritism, thus causing distinctions and divisions among God's people.

Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13)

Paul reminds the Thessalonians of his love and care for them, and how hard he worked to bring the Good News to them.

Gospel (Matthew 23:1-12)

Jesus launches a very strong attack on the religious leaders, but what he says is important for us too.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to God our Father that we may not repeat the mistakes of the Pharisees.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For Christians: that they may not be content with the appearance of goodness rather than goodness itself. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For parents, teachers, priests and leaders in any sphere: that they may practice the things they preach to others. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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That we may realize that we do not have to pretend; all we have to be is to try to live up to what we already are- God's beloved sons and daughters. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

Those who knew the great Mahatma Gandhi all admired his inner calm and peace. How did he achieve this?

By doing at all times what he thought was right; not what he thought expedient, or popular, or safe.

Thus he was a happy and integrated person, and was able to engage in peaceful dialogue with others, even with his enemies.

He took words and ideas very seriously. If he thought a moral precept was right, he first of all he lived it, and only then preached it.

At the root of innumerable wrongs in our world is the discrepancy between word and deed. It is the weakness of the Churches, parties, and persons. It gives people and institutions spilt personalities. This was the chief fault of Christ found with the Pharisees: 'They do not practice what they preach'.

There can be no happiness for us, as long as the things we believe in are different from the things we do.