



# Twenty First Sunday Of The Year Freedom Of Choice

## Introduction

Before his death Joshua said to the people: "Choose today whether you want to follow the Lord or false gods". And Jesus said to his apostles: "Will you also leave me?" in other words the people were given a choice. God, it has been said, is the greatest democrat of all. He forces no one to obey him. He leaves us free. We often abuse freedom. We choose evil instead of good.

## First Reading (Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18)

Joshua tells the people that now that they have arrived in the Promised Land they have a vital decision to make to serve the one true God or to serve idols.

## Second Reading (Ephesians 5: 21-32)

St Paul uses the image of a marriage relationship to express the bond of love that exists between Christ the Church.

## Gospel (John 6: 60-69)

Many of Jesus' disciples leave him because they cannot accept his teaching. Jesus then confronts his apostles with same choice: "Will you also leave me?"

## Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to god for the grace to be able to live as free sons and daughters, and not as slaves of error or evil.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the followers of Jesus: that they may realize that they are truly free only when they do the will of God in their lives. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



## Liturgy Cycle B

For all God's children: that they may value the gift of freedom: that they may not abuse it or throw it away. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have become slaves of wrongdoing, or who are caught up in a web of lies and deceit: that God may set them free. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may have the courage to accept responsibility for our own lives, especially for our mistakes and sins. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

### Communion Reflection

"Lord, you alone have the words of eternal life".

So answered Peter.

The words of Jesus truly brought life to the people.

"Go in peace your sins are forgiven".

With these words he set sinners free.

"Fear not it is I".

With these words he calmed the fears

of his apostles when they thought they were lost.

"Launch out into deep and let down the net for a catch".

With these words he challenged Peter

to try again after a long night of failure.

"This day you will be with me in Paradise".

With these words he brought light

into the dark world of a condemned man.

Jesus truly had the words of life.

Yet many of his followers

refused to believe in him and left him.

We live in a world that is full

of contradictory voices and false prophets.

May we not be led astray.

Jesus alone can give us eternal life,

if like Peter we stay with him

even many forsake him.