

1 October 6, 2019 27th Sunday Ordinary Time

“Sunday Best,” Surfaces

The gospel this Sunday asks us “What is faith?” Like a good song, faith can move us and connect us to the world and people around us. Faith in ourselves, our friends, teachers, and parents gives us strength to overcome difficult moments and climb mountains. Faith sets our hearts on who gives us life and why. Faith in God says yes to life and to all its diversity evolving in creation. “Sunday Best” is a song about embracing life and having faith that no matter what happens, we can get through anything.

Key lines: *Feeling good, like I should / Went and took a walk around the neighbourhood / Feeling blessed, never stressed / Got that sunshine on my Sunday best / Everyday can be a better day despite the challenge / All you gotta do is leave it better than you found it*

Questions: What does faith mean to you? Who do you believe in? When or how have you experienced God? On who is your heart set ultimately? How is your faith changing as you get older?

2 October 13, 2019 28th Sunday Ordinary Time

“Beautiful People,” Ed Sheeran ft. Khalid

Jesus’ encounters ten lepers in Sunday’s gospel. Lepers experienced people shunning them. The lepers in the gospel call to Jesus, ask him for compassion, and Jesus grants it. The voices in “Beautiful People” feel second class to those with more money and things. The need for superficial things can blind some people to the beauty and potential that exist in every person. Showing compassion is one way to get to know and understand people, and rise above our own misjudgments. Ed Sheeran’s song “Beautiful People” is about seeing things and people for who and what they really are.

Key lines: *We don’t fit in well / ‘Cause we are just ourselves / I could use some help / Getting’ out of this conversation, yeah / You look stunning, dear / So don’t ask that question here / This is my only fear, that we become / Beautiful people*

Questions: What were your initial thoughts when you first meet someone who looks or acts different from you? How did you approach him or her? What did you learn? What makes people fit in or not fit in your school?

3 October 20, 2019 29th Sunday Ordinary Time

“Girl,” Maren Morris

According to the United Nations, 1 in 5 children between the ages 6 through 17 are unable to attend school. The number of girls who attend school falls short in matching the number of boys. In South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa cultures expect girls to get married and start families at very young ages. Schools like the Kenya Girls Soccer Academy aim to help girls to finish their education, which will then allow them to get jobs that will hopefully raise them out of poverty. These schools also create a support system for the girls and encourage them to be more confident in themselves and their capabilities.

Maren Morris’ song “Girl” is a powerful anthem for self-empowerment. It reflects the strength it takes to break through barriers and help each other take on social injustices so that we can make the world a more equal and better place for all people.

Key lines: *What you feel is natural / But I don’t wanna feel this anymore / Pick yourself up off the kitchen floor / What you waitin’ for? / Girl, won’t you stop your cryin’? / I know that you’re tryin’ / Everything’s gonna be okay / Baby girl, don’t you hang your head low / Don’t you lose your halo / Everyone’s gonna be okay / Baby girl*

Questions: Who is a female role model in your life? In what ways is she strong? What has she had to overcome? Why is education important? How can you empower those around you?

4 October 27, 2019 30th Sunday Ordinary Time

“Got It In You,” Banners

“All who make little of themselves will be lifted up, but all who make much of themselves will be brought down.” (Luke 18.14) It is difficult to work hard on achieving a goal or building a team only to find out we’ve been “benched.” “Got It In You” is about losing what we think is our rightful place but remembering that we still have it within ourselves to be part of a team and be supportive of those around us. Humility can open our eyes to who we really are and help us better serve our teams, communities, and people.

Key lines: *Holding back the flood / In this skyscraper town / You give all that sweat and blood / Now you think you’re gonna drown / You can’t tell that you’re bigger / Than the sea that you’re sinking in / And you don’t know what you got / But you got it at your fingertips*

Questions: When were you forced to sit on the sidelines? How did you feel about this? What did you learn from this experience? What does humility mean to you?