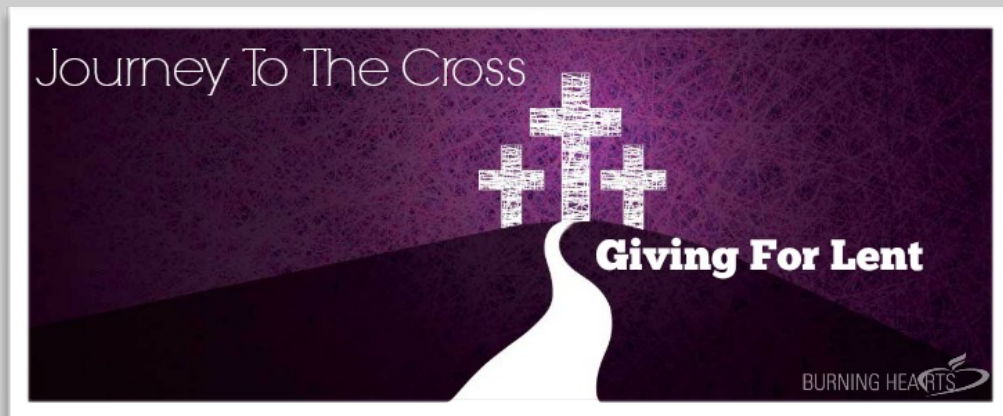




WORD OF THE WEEK Matthew 6:1-4

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don’t make a performance out of it. It might be good theatre, but the God who made you won’t be applauding. When you do something for someone else, don’t call attention to yourself. You’ve seen them in action, I’m sure—‘playactors’ I call them—treating prayer meeting and street corner alike as a stage, acting compassionate as long as someone is watching, playing to the crowds. They get applause, true, but that’s all they get. When you help someone out, don’t think about how it looks. Just do it—quietly and unobtrusively. That is the way your God, who conceived you in love, working behind the scenes, helps you out.”



SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Pope Francis said in an interview that we should always give to people on the streets who ask us for spare change, and not worry where the money will be spent!

- Why do we so often walk past and ignore people who beg on our streets?
 - Do you agree with Pope Francis? Why do you think he said this?
- What other needs affect people in our communities? Bearing in mind this week’s Gospel passage, how are we to respond? What are we called to give?



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

William Shakespeare once famously said, “All the world’s a stage!” In recent times this has become more and more the case as social media platforms have become a ‘stage’ on which we can show off our lives to the world...what we are having for our tea...a new pair of shoes we have just bought...a night out with friends... We are immersed in a “look-at-me” culture, where we will do anything “for the likes”!

In this week’s Gospel, Jesus warns us against this kind of culture, encouraging us to think about what the motives behind our actions really are. Often on social media we only show what we like about ourselves, or share stories of success, or something that will attract sympathy or admiration. The danger with this is that when the reality of life doesn’t look like an Instagram feed, we become disappointed, disheartened, and we strive to make ourselves into something that is not real...just “for the likes!”

It can be very difficult to overcome this need for recognition and approval, but Jesus suggests that if we carry out our good deeds in secret, and not allow others to “pat us on the back”, we can be more focussed on doing what is right, rather than what is popular. That is the way in which real goodness can be shared, hope can trend, and love can go viral!



SOMETHING TO DO

In Google, search for the 10 most liked Instagram posts. Why do you think these pictures are so popular? Do they show a realistic image of life?



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Join us in the SENIOR DINING ROOM on FRIDAY at 8:30am for BREAKFAST WITH GOD! Come along for free tea, toast, and a moment of reflection. All very welcome!



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

This year we are going siLENT for Million Minutes! Use your prayer time to be still and silent, using the daily form time reflection.



