

# Roman Missal, 3rd edition

## Homily Notes 3



### 17th/18th September - 25th Sunday of the Year

Lectionary	Liturgy Notes
<p>Isa 55:6-9 <i>My thoughts are not your thoughts.</i>            Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18 r.18 <i>The Lord is close to all who call him.</i>            Phil 1:20-24, 27 <i>Life to me is Christ.</i>            Matt 20:1-16a <i>Why be envious because I am generous?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be used with the handout 'Let us pray'</li> <li>• From this Mass onwards perhaps there could be greater emphasis on pauses for silent prayer and thought.</li> </ul>

Stop and think. Sometimes taking the opportunity to pause and ponder is the only way for us to have a sense of proportion and realize what really matters. In today's first reading God says to us 'my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts'. This finds an echo in the parable that Jesus tells of a landowner whose pay policy is very different to our methods of employing people.

We are asked to stop and think; to think not in a selfish human way but in the generous broadminded way of God. There is a wideness to his mercy, a depth in his vision and a breadth to his love that should stretch us. Great minds think alike while small ones only think of themselves.

Every time we come to Church we are invited to stop and reflect. At the beginning of Mass we are given time to recall and acknowledge our failings and then before we begin the Liturgy of the Word we are given a second chance to pause as the priest says 'let us pray'. These are special moments. They are moments when calm can descend into our hearts and make it possible for us to share our thoughts with God. We give the name 'the Collect' to the prayer that is said by the priest. It draws together all our thoughts, sums them up and offers them all through Christ our Lord.

Often because of concerns of time or getting on with things these chances can be missed and the moments pass too quickly and without much thought. As we listen to new words being used in our translation of the Mass we also have the chance to think again about something that cannot be translated — something that is the same in every language — silence.

We have a real opportunity to make our Mass more prayerful, more thoughtful. The Church asks that each of us takes part in Mass in a full and conscious way. This involves some individuals having a particular ministry such as reader, cantor or minister of Communion. But as a whole group we share a special kind of ministry; the ministry of the people of God gathered at Mass. This ministry is to listen, to pray and



to praise. Our involvement in this begins in our hearts and in our minds. It starts in the silence of our thoughts

To help us we can have silence at other moments at Mass. After the readings or the homily we can pause and think. The Lord has promised to make a priority of our prayers and in listening and in thinking we undertake to make his thoughts ours. It is a moment to ponder whether our thoughts need to change and be shaped more like God's.

As the Bidding Prayer is read out the reader invites us to pray and then stops to give us a chance to speak to God in our hearts. The intercessions are really moments of silent prayer during which we speak to God about the needs of others.

At Holy Communion we speak to the Lord deep within us. It is important that we have a time of silence at Communion. This is so that we can speak to him and to listen. As we draw closer to Jesus Christ, we become more like him.

When people spend a great deal of time together they start to think in the same way. At Mass, especially in our moments of silent prayer, we can share time with the Lord. It is then that our thoughts can become more like his thoughts. This is not about being learned or clever. To think like God is really very simple. It is to be filled with love, generosity, compassion and commitment.

God's ways are high above our ways as the heavens are high above earth. We lift up our hearts as we ask him to make our thoughts more like his.