

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING** Genesis 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis. The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate." So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed: "This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man." This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 127

Response: **May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.**

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
- Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)
- Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children. On Israel, peace! (R.)

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 2:9-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews. We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Mark 10:2-16

[Shorter form read between >> (Mk 10:2-12)] A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. >Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" "Moses allowed us" they said, "to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce." Then Jesus said to them, "It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide." Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, "The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she is guilty of adultery too." < People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter

it." Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (all bow during the next three lines) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifices instituted by your commands and, through the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate with dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

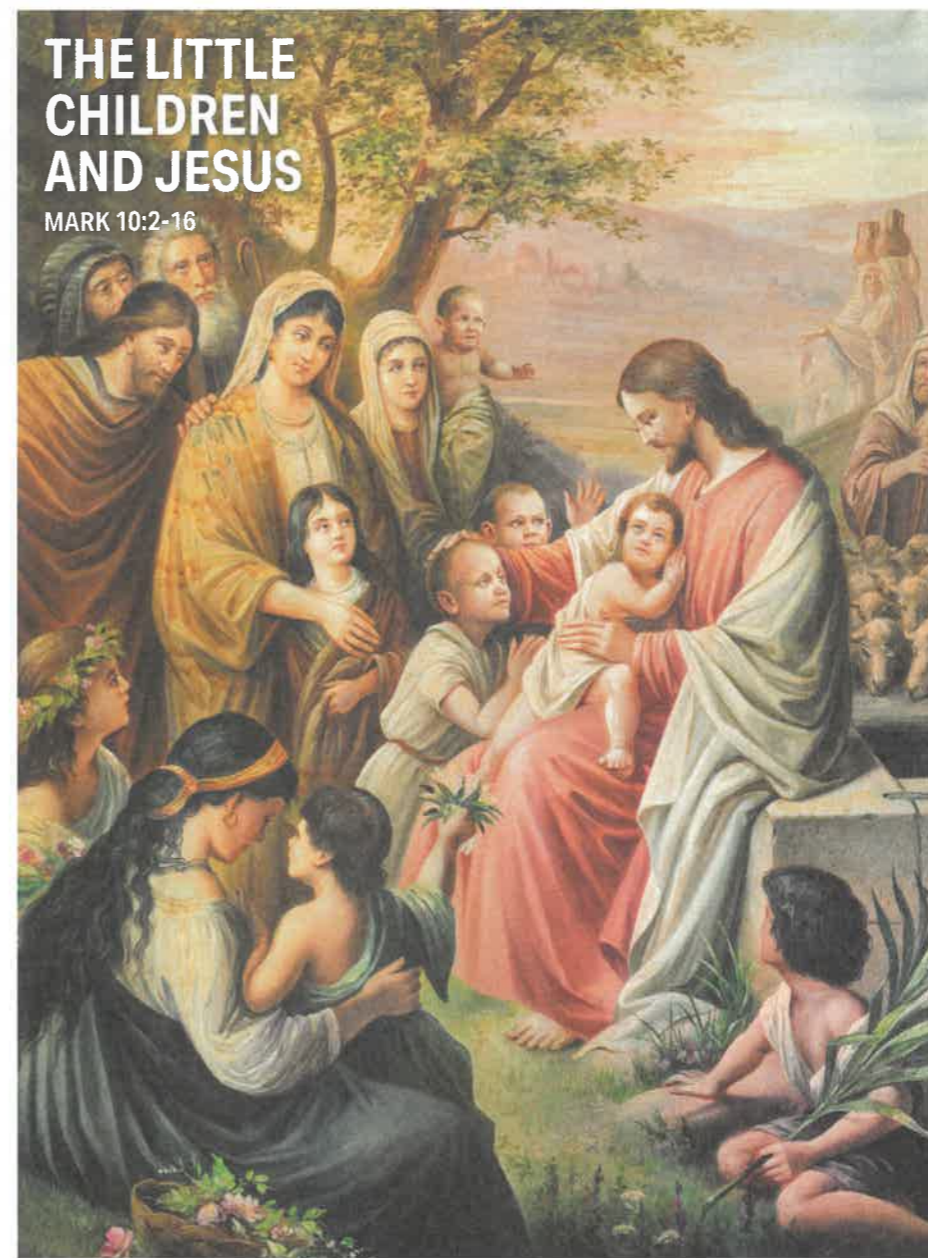
**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Grant us, almighty God, that we may be refreshed and nourished by the Sacrament which we have received, so as to be transformed into what we consume. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE WORD**



The painting Jesus among the children in the church Santa Margherita by Börrther (1922)

This is not the first time Mark's Gospel introduces little children into a scene involving Jesus and his disciples. We cast our minds back to a couple of week's ago and the argument that took place amongst the followers of Jesus as to who is the greatest amongst them and who should hold the greatest power or authority.

Jesus in turn places the child before them and says, when they welcome the most vulnerable and weakest of our world, they welcome Jesus. Their minds should not be focused on such trivial things as power. You would think they have learnt their lesson and yet when the little children come forward today to be close to Jesus, or as the Gospel says, "for Jesus to place his hands on them," look at what happens. The disciples rebuke them! If ever there was a clear example of tensions that arose between Jesus and his disciples, then this is it. Have they not learnt anything? The kindness they are to show to these little ones is the gateway into the kingdom of God. "Do not hinder these children, for the Kingdom belongs to such as these." ■

**REFLECT**

Within the Jewish tradition, a high rate of divorce existed despite the place marriage held in society. Marriage was the ideal, and therefore, during many discussions between rabbis, the hot topic of divorce usually came to the fore. It's indeed a topic of discussion for our own times, with various statistics from the United States and UK and Ireland indicating that the rate of divorce remains high. And the reasons for divorce are varied and it's impossible to pinpoint one single reason why so many marriages end, sometimes after a short time, sometimes after a couple have spent nearly a lifetime together. It's interesting to note in today's Gospel, that very little has changed. It is often said that all divorce from other people, particularly in marriage, is sad. But constancy is difficult, and not all interpersonal relationships are able to fully reflect the ideal. Jesus is quick to point to the Jewish law on divorce and remarriage. And most of us are familiar with the Church rules on such matters. We continue to place the ideal of marriage at the heart of our Church and our society. From a faith perspective, Jesus' vision of marriage is made in heaven where marriage is a sign of his union with the Church. We give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage in our Church, and we pray for all couples preparing for their wedding day at this time. ■

**DO**

Make an attempt in the coming week to articulate what the Eucharist means to you. What happens during your short time at Mass that brings you back again?

**SAY**

Lord Jesus Christ, nourish me with your body and blood so that I may become what I receive in showing your loving presence to the world.

**LEARN**

Spread love wherever you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier. St. Teresa of Calcutta