

the Gospels? Surely it is not fanciful to answer: “A great deal better than it is at the moment”.

We have now come full circle. I hope it will not be considered irreverent to recall Richie Benaud’s comment that what distinguishes cricket from other sports is that it reflects life and to end (with apologies to Dan, my cricket loving neighbour) by saying that a society which fails to follow the Gospels doesn’t know what it is missing. I also conclude that Canon Burgon did not violate the third commandment that Test match Sunday!

A. Martyn Dyer

Entrance antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

First Reading: Exodus 17: 8-13

Psalm 120: Response: Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.



Communion Antiphon: Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

‘None of us can think we are exempt from concerns for the poor and for social justice.’ [Pope Francis](#)



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Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C, 2022 Weekly Reflection

When I first arrived in these parts, some years ago now, the Parish Priest was Canon Burgon (RIP). One Sunday before commencing to say Mass he announced

that he would not be giving a sermon as he was going to the Test Match and did not want to miss the opening overs. This latent but reassuring memory was awakened by the recent triumphs of Ben Stokes and England’s cricketers in the Test matches with New Zealand and India, plus the comment of a cricket-loving neighbour – “Those who don’t follow cricket don’t know what they are missing”.

For some reason all this started a train of thought leading me to ponder various aspects of the Gospels and especially the Ten Commandments, the third in particular: “Remember thou keep holy the Sabbath day”. Do we? The fact that supermarkets are much fuller than churches on Sundays suggests that the answer is a simple ‘No’. But the Gospels don’t pose questions with ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ answers. The overall message of the Gospels is to tell us what we should do together with pointers as to how we should do it. And that is not always easy.

This in turn led me to ask whether when our rulers sit down to make the rules, is their first move to consider the teaching of the Gospels in order to fashion the laws of the land? To say the least, it seems unlikely. I would go even further and say that this is a case in which, though complex, there is enough circumstantial evidence to suggest that there is a simple ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ answer; and that is ‘No’.

This conclusion leads to a further question, namely what would the world be like if the majority, including our rulers, did strive to live their lives in obedience to the ten commandments and followed the various pointers in