

Reading for Weekday in Ordinary Time

26th September 2026

First reading

Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8

**‘Remember your Creator in the days of your youth;
the dust returns to the earth, and the spirit returns to God.’**

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgement. Remove vexation from your heart, and put away evil from your body, for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened, and the clouds return after the rain, in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, and the doors on the street are shut — when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low — they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets — before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90(89):3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14, 17. R1

O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

You turn man back to dust, and say, ‘Return, O children of Adam.’

To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away like a dream, like grass which is fresh in the morning.

In the morning it sprouts and is fresh; by evening it withers and fades.

Then teach us to number our days, that we may gain wisdom of heart.

Turn back, O Lord! How long? Show pity to your servants.

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days.

Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us; give success to the work of our hands.

O give success to the work of our hands.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. 2 Timothy 1:10

Alleluia, alleluia.

Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life to light through the gospel.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 9:43b-45

‘The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.

They were afraid to ask him about this saying.’

At that time: While they were all marvelling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men.’ But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

Short reflection on the reading for today

Admiration can be fickle, here one day and gone the next. The gospel refers to a time when all were full of admiration for everything Jesus did. He had just healed an epileptic boy and all were amazed at what God had done through him. But their support would soon fade, and Jesus knew he would suffer the same fate of many prophets before him. So at the very height of his fame he tells his disciples, “the Son of Man is going to be handed over into the power of men.”

Popular admiration meant little to Jesus. He was driven by the desire to do God’s will, to complete his selfless work. He felt compelled to go to Jerusalem, dangerous as it was, because that city must hear his message, even if it led to his death.

What really motivates us? We are called to make the priorities of Jesus our own, to be about God the Father’s business, to do God’s will with whatever gifts and opportunities we have. This will bring not just the momentary pleasure of applause but the deeper joy that comes from living the real purpose of our lives.