

Reading for the Memorial of St Cornelius and Cyprian

16th September 2026

First reading

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13

‘Faith, hope, and love abide; but the greatest is love.’

Brothers and Sisters: Earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33(32):2-3. 4-5. 12, 22. R12b

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp; with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

O sing him a song that is new; play skilfully, with shouts of joy.

For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right, and his merciful love fills the earth.

Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen as his heritage.

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Cf. John 6:63c, 68c

Alleluia, alleluia.

Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life;

you have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 7:31-35

‘We played the flute, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

At that time: Jesus said, “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the market-place and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.”

‘For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, “He has a demon.” The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, “Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.’

Short reflection on the reading for today

One day Jesus noticed how some children refused to join in other children’s games, and compared it the refusal of many adults to believe. If the children’s funeral games were a reminder of the death of John the Baptist, their dancing games reflected the joy of his own message. Jesus was like the children who played the pipes and invited others to dance to their tune. He is piper who leads us in the dance of life. The music of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus is not a doleful dirge. It is joyful music about the favour of God towards all who are open to receive it. He invites us to dance to the rhythm of the Spirit. As his followers, we carry a song of hope in our hearts. Can we let the music of God echo in our lives and maybe in the lives of others too.