



**AMDG**  
**26TH SUNDAY IN**  
**ORDINARY TIME**  
**30TH SEPTEMBER 2018**



**“Anyone who is not against us is for us.”**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**O God, who manifest your almighty power above all  
by pardoning and showing mercy,  
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us  
and make those hastening to attain your promises  
heirs to the treasure of heaven.**

God's Spirit is offered to all. The power of God's transforming love has no boundaries and is at work in all things.

In the First Reading Moses instructs Joshua not to set limits on how God's love is shared with the community. Joshua thinks that God's Spirit is only for the chosen few. Moses expresses a more inclusive vision for the community, imagining what it would be like if all people were filled with the Spirit of God.

In a similar way, Jesus teaches John that his healing power is not only for his close followers (Gospel). He has to remind them that God's power is not limited by the rules and authority that the disciples may want to set upon it. The Spirit will blow wherever it likes. Jesus reminds his disciples of their need to care for the least powerful in society and not let their actions cause harm to anyone. This message speaks powerfully to our times.

The Psalm meditates on the heart of God's law. The truth and wisdom of God's law of love will be our guide.

The Second Reading warns of the dangers of material wealth and is a call to act justly and with fairness. It reminds us that we are in relationship with those less fortunate than us. Our wealth impacts on the needs of the poor.

May we have the grace to recognise God's Spirit moving in our life and throughout the world. Let us pray for each other that we will remain open and faithful to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

## FIRST READING NUMBERS 11: 25–29

**T**he Lord came down in the cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again.

Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, “Look”, he said “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” Then said Joshua son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth. “My lord Moses, stop them!” Moses answered him, “Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his spirit to them all!”

I bring myself before God and spend a few moments allowing my mind to slow down. I ask for the grace to recognise God’s Spirit at work within me and around me.

I reflect back on my week, replaying scenes and moments in my mind.

Where have I noticed the presence of God?

When have I found it hard to recognise God at work in my life or in the events unfolding in the world?

I share my reflections with God.

I stay in silence, and then turn to the passage and read it slowly and prayerfully.

As best I can, I try to imagine the scene, the gathering of the elders of Israel in the desert. I picture the encampment and the elders set apart from the rest of the people.

How do I imagine the outpouring of the Spirit?

I place myself in the scene and imagine God’s Spirit coming upon me. How does the Spirit move me?

What do I notice about Moses’s response when Joshua objects?

Do I relate more to Joshua, or Moses, or both?

Reflecting on my own spiritual life, are there times when I have set limits on God’s Spirit?

I speak to the Spirit now and share my deepest desires and concerns.

I close my prayer *In the name of the Father ...*

## GOSPEL MARK 9: 38–43,45,47–48

John said to Jesus, “Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.” But Jesus said, “You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us.

“If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.”

“But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the Kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.”

I allow my mind and body to slow and settle into silence in the way that I feel drawn today.

I turn to the Gospel with reverence.

Reading the passage again, I use my imagination to picture Jesus with the disciples amongst the people he loves so much.

This section from Mark’s Gospel follows on from the scene where the disciples had not been able to cure a boy.

I listen to John’s words and ponder. It may be that I, too, occasionally find it hard to accept God’s Spirit at work outside my worshipping or faith community? I ask the Lord to help me see why this is.

Turning to the second part of the Gospel, Jesus uses typically Aramaic powerful imagery to caution the disciples about causing scandal. I try to go beyond the actual words and focus on their deeper meaning.

How is this relevant to me and to the broader Church of today?

With an open and accepting heart, I share my thoughts and feelings with Jesus, and ask for his guidance in my life.

When I feel ready, I conclude my prayer: *Our Father ...*

## Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets,  
and the Lord gave his spirit to them all!

*First Reading*

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you  
have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

*Communion Antiphon*

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.  
So in them your servant finds instruction;  
great reward is in their keeping.

*Psalm*

*This week's texts if you want to reflect further:*

*Numbers 11: 25–29; Psalm 18 (19); James 5: 1–6; Mark 9: 38–43, 45, 47–48*



**Where do I see  
God's Spirit  
at work in the  
world today?**



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**JESUIT**  
Ministries



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