

## SEVENTH SUNDAY



*First Reading † Leviticus 19:1-2.17-18*

### **A reading from the book of Leviticus**

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said:

‘Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel  
and say to them:

“Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.”

“You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart.  
You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence;  
this way you will not take a sin upon yourself.

You must not exact vengeance,  
nor must you bear a grudge  
against the children of your people.

You must love your neighbour as yourself.  
I am the Lord.’

The word of the Lord.

*Responsorial † Psalm 102:1-4.8.10.12-13*

### ***The Lord is kind and merciful.***

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

### ***The Lord is kind and merciful.***

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

### ***The Lord is kind and merciful.***

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

### ***The Lord is kind and merciful.***

As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

***The Lord is kind and merciful.***

***Second Reading # 1 Corinthians 3:16-23***

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

*All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.*

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it; if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise.

So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The word of the Lord.

***Gospel Acclamation # 1 John 2:5***

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Whoever keeps the word of Christ,  
grows perfect in the love of God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***Gospel # Matthew 5:38-48***

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

*Love your enemies.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

'You have learnt how it was said:  
Eye for eye and tooth for tooth.

But I say this to you:  
offer the wicked man no resistance.

On the contrary,  
if anyone hits you on the right cheek,  
offer him the other as well;  
if a man takes you to law  
and would have your tunic,  
let him have your cloak as well.

And if anyone orders you to go one mile,  
go two miles with him.

Give to anyone who asks,  
and if anyone wants to borrow,  
do not turn away.'

'You have learnt how it was said:  
You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy.

But I say this to you:  
love your enemies  
and pray for those who persecute you;  
in this way you will be sons  
of your Father in heaven,  
for he causes his sun to rise  
on bad men as well as good,  
and his rain to fall on honest  
and dishonest men alike.

For if you love those who love you,  
what right have you to claim any credit?  
Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not?

And if you save your greetings for your brothers,  
are you doing anything exceptional?  
Even the pagans do as much, do they not?

You must therefore be perfect  
just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.