

**Sunday between 18 and 24 February  
(if before Ash Wednesday)**

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)*

**First Reading - Leviticus 19.2b-4,9-12,17-18**

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

You shall be holy,  
for I am holy,  
says the Lord your God.  
You shall honour  
your mother  
and your father,  
and you shall keep my sabbath,  
says the Lord.  
You shall not  
turn to idols,  
or make gods out of metal  
for yourselves,  
says the Lord.  
When you gather in the harvest,  
you shall not  
cut to the very edge of your field,  
or return  
for the little  
that remains.  
And you shall not  
strip your vineyard bare,  
or gather  
the fallen grapes.  
These you shall leave  
for the poor,  
and for the foreigner  
living amongst you,  
says the Lord your God.  
You shall not steal,  
or be dishonest in your dealings,  
or lie to one another.  
You shall not swear  
a false oath  
in my name,  
for this would be dishonouring  
the name  
of the Lord your God.  
You shall not hold hatred  
in your heart  
against your neighbour.  
You shall challenge  
your neighbour's wrong-doing,  
for if you fail to do so,  
you bear the guilt  
of that wrong-doing  
yourself, says the Lord.  
You shall not  
take revenge,  
or bear a grudge  
against any  
of your people.  
And you shall love your neighbour  
as yourself,  
says the Lord your God.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 3.18-22**

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The best wisdom of this world  
is mere foolishness to God.  
So do not long for this world  
to call you wise.  
Indeed, when you find  
true, godly wisdom,  
this world  
will call you a fool.  
The scripture says: 'the Lord catches the wise  
in their own craftiness', and,  
'their arguments come to nothing'.  
So let no one boast about mere human leaders.  
For so much more  
is yours in Christ - indeed everything!  
Not just Paul, and Apollos, and Peter,  
but the whole world; even life, and death;  
the whole of the present,  
and the whole of the future.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - Matthew 5.38-48**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'You have heard it said,  
"An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."  
But I say to you,  
do not take revenge  
against the one who has wronged you.  
If they strike you on one cheek,  
offer the other.  
If they demand your shirt,  
give your coat as well.  
If they force you to walk one mile,  
walk two.  
Give to those who ask,  
and welcome  
those who come to borrow.  
You have heard it said,  
"You shall love your neighbour -  
and hate your enemy."  
But I say to you,  
love your enemies,  
and pray for those who persecute you.  
This will make you true children  
of your Father in heaven.  
For you see how your Father  
makes the sun come up each day  
on the good, and the wicked, alike.  
And you see how your Father makes the rain to fall  
on both the righteous  
and the unrighteous.  
If you love only those who love you,  
that deserves no reward.  
If you greet only your brothers and sisters,  
you are doing no more  
than all people everywhere.  
So in all these things, aim for perfection -  
the perfection of your Father in heaven.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.