

## Sunday between 21 and 27 August

*Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)*

### First Reading - *Isaiah 58.9-14*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

If you remove the heavy burdens  
from the weary amongst you,  
if you offer food to the hungry,  
and address the needs  
of those who are suffering,  
and if you refrain from pointing the finger  
and speaking wickedness,  
then  
your light  
will rise in the darkness,  
your gloom  
will become  
like the brightness  
of the midday sun,  
and when you cry for help,  
the Lord will answer.  
Then the Lord will guide you,  
provide for you, and strengthen you.  
Then you will flourish  
like a garden, by a stream that never runs dry.  
Then you will rebuild the city from its ruins,  
restoring its walls  
and its homes.  
If you honour the sabbath,  
and call the Lord's day  
a delight,  
not trampling its dignity  
by serving your own interests,  
or pursuing your own affairs,  
then  
you will find your joy in the Lord,  
and in all the gifts  
that the Lord has given.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Second Reading - *Hebrews 12.22-24, 28-29*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

We come now  
to Mount Zion,  
the city of the living God,  
the heavenly Jerusalem.  
We come to the place  
where angels, beyond number, gather to rejoice;  
the place where those who have gone before us  
are welcomed into heaven,  
and the spirits of the righteous  
are made perfect.  
We come to God, the judge of all;  
and to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant;  
and to redemption by his blood.  
As we enter now  
into a kingdom  
that cannot be shaken,  
let us offer our worship  
with thanksgiving, reverence, and even holy fear,  
for our God is still 'a consuming fire'.  
This is the word of the Lord.

### Gospel - *Luke 13.10-17*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.

Jesus was teaching  
in one of the synagogues  
on the sabbath.  
A woman was there, who had suffered  
a disabling weakness  
for eighteen years.  
She was bent over, unable  
to stand upright.  
Jesus saw her, and spoke to her,  
saying, 'You are set free  
from your illness.'  
As he spoke,  
he laid a hand upon her;  
and immediately,  
she stood fully upright;  
and she began  
praising and glorifying God.  
But the leader of the synagogue  
was indignant  
because Jesus had healed her  
on the sabbath.  
The leader of the synagogue  
said to the crowd,  
'There are six days  
on which work should be done.  
Let healing be done  
on those days,  
not on the sabbath.'  
But the Lord answered him,  
saying, 'You hypocrite!  
Every one of you, on the sabbath,  
would untie your donkey,  
and lead it to water.  
This woman  
is a daughter of Abraham,  
kept bound  
by Satan  
for eighteen years.  
And you would refuse to release her,  
just because  
it is the sabbath!'  
All his opponents  
were put to shame  
by these words.  
And the entire crowd  
was rejoicing  
at the wonderful things  
that he was doing.  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.