

**Sunday between 4 and 10 September**  
*Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)*

**First Reading - Deuteronomy 30.15-20**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.  
Today I set before you  
life and prosperity,  
or death and adversity.  
If you love the Lord your God,  
and keep the commandments of the Lord your God,  
you will live, and become numerous,  
and the Lord your God will bless you,  
in the land that you are entering to possess.  
But if your heart turns away,  
and you do not  
hear and receive these words,  
but instead  
allow yourselves  
to be led astray,  
to bow down to other gods, and serve them,  
I declare today  
that you will perish;  
that you will not  
live long  
in the land that you are crossing the Jordan  
to enter and possess.  
I call on heaven and earth  
to serve as witnesses today,  
as I set before you the choice of  
life or death, of  
blessing or adversity.  
Now choose life,  
for yourselves, and your descendants,  
by loving, trusting, and holding fast  
to the Lord your God.  
For the Lord is your life.  
And so may you  
live long  
in the land  
that the Lord promised to your ancestors -  
to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - Philemon 10,12-17**

A reading from the letter of Paul to Philemon.  
I am writing to appeal to you  
regarding Onesimus, who has  
become like a son to me  
during my imprisonment.  
In sending him back to you,  
I am sending my own heart.  
I wanted to keep him with me,  
so that he could be of service to me,  
while I remain in chains for the gospel;  
but I preferred  
not to make  
any such decision  
without your consent,  
so that your goodness  
could be voluntary,  
and not imposed upon you.

Perhaps Onesimus was even  
separated from you  
for a while  
so that you could receive him back  
for ever;  
and receive him back  
no longer as a servant,  
but as a dear brother,  
both as a fellow human being,  
and as a brother in the Lord.  
As he has been very dear  
to me,  
may he now be  
even more dear  
to you.  
I ask you to welcome him  
as you would welcome me.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - Luke 14.25-33**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.  
Large crowds  
were now following Jesus.  
He turned  
and said to them,  
'If you come to me,  
to be my disciple,  
you must be ready  
to give up  
all that you have;  
ready  
to forsake  
your father and mother,  
your husband or wife, your children,  
your brothers and sisters,  
even life itself;  
ready  
to carry your cross,  
and follow me.'  
And he told them  
two parables.  
'Before you start to build a tower,  
you must work out  
whether you can afford to complete it;  
for if you abandon it, incomplete,  
all who see it  
will mock.  
And a king  
will not go to war  
if his army is unprepared  
for the forces of the enemy;  
instead, he will send  
a delegation  
to ask the terms for peace.  
In the same way, you cannot  
become my disciple  
unless you are ready  
to give up  
all that you have.'  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.