

Year A - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 5:23-24

Be reconciled before you offer your gift.



Jesus said to his disciples:

If you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God.



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Make Peace with others



Introduction • Today's gospel is a very short one, but it's an important one where Jesus reminds us to make peace with others when we hurt them.

Message

- In Jesus' days, when people went to the synagogue they would take a special 'offering' (another word is 'gift') as a way of showing God their love and worship.
- In a similar way, we make a gift to God every time we go to Mass or pray.
- How do we do this?
 - By singing, praying and responding
 - By taking forward the gifts of bread and wine
- These are good things to do.
- But there are some things that can stop our gifts for God being as good and they should be.
- Especially, when we have done something to hurt another person.
- We can't give God a good gift if we have something we need to say sorry for - it just doesn't work!
- That's why Jesus is reminding us today to say 'sorry' when we need to so that our gifts to God can be truly beautiful.
- Thankfully, there is a special time in Mass when we can say 'sorry'. It's called the Penitential Rite. It's a time when we can make peace.
- It's the time when we say 'Lord have mercy', 'Christ have mercy', 'Lord have mercy'.
- The Penitential Rite helps us to say 'sorry' so that we can give a good gift to God with pure hearts as well.



Discussion

- Sometimes, we don't want to say 'sorry' for things we've done that make others angry. Why do you think that is?
- When we say 'sorry' we are making an apology. What do you think makes a good apology?
- What do you think is the best way to apologise? Why?
 - Say: 'I'm sorry'
 - Say: 'Please forgive me for _____'