

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 12:49–53

‘I have not come to give peace but division.’

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptised with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided: three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.’

Reflection

In this Gospel, Jesus tells us that following Him isn’t always easy. He didn’t come just to bring peace, but to challenge us to stand up for what’s right. Sometimes, doing the right thing – like standing against inequality or speaking up for those who don’t have a voice – can cause disagreements, even with the people we love.

As followers of St. Vincent de Paul, we are called to be the voice for the voiceless, to stand out against injustice, and to help those in need, even when it’s hard. St. Vincent showed us that following Jesus means doing the difficult work of caring for the poor and fighting for what’s right, even if it causes division.

Let’s remember that Jesus is with us through all the tough moments, guiding us to choose love and justice, even when it’s difficult. By standing up for others, we truly follow Him, just like St. Vincent did.



Activity

The SVP is deeply committed to social justice, standing up for those who often go unheard. Take some time as a group to explore the work the SVP has done to be a voice for the voiceless by visiting this webpage: The SVP does a lot of work in social justice. Spend some time exploring the work that the SVP has done to be a voice for the voiceless. Explore [this webpage](#).

As a group, pick one of the focus areas and come up with an action plan of how you could help. This could be through supporting a particular group of people, or perhaps raising awareness of a certain topic, writing to your MP, or supporting a campaign.

After exploring, choose one focus area that speaks to you. Then, work together to create an action plan outlining how your group could make a difference. This might involve supporting a specific community, raising awareness about an important issue, writing to your MP, or backing a campaign.

Call to Action

This week, choose to step out of your comfort zone. Reach out to someone you might usually overlook or find difficult to understand. Whether it’s a conversation, a kind gesture, or an act of service – show love without conditions. True Vincentian service means seeing Christ in everyone, especially those we may struggle to connect with. Let your actions speak louder than words, and be a living sign of tolerance, respect, and compassion.

