

**LECTIO DIVINA (Holy Reading)**  
**PRAYING WITH THE SACRED SCRIPTURES.**  
**Sunday 6 October 2024**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**  
**For those who pray the Liturgy of the Hours, the Psalter takes Week Four**

**Note from Sr Hildegard:**

For a while now, I've been thinking of changing the format for the weekly Lectio Divina. Many have said there is too much to take in, and my disabilities are more manifest at this stage of life, especially my sight. So, I will give you the whole of the Liturgy of the Word, the Social Justice events of each week, and the Gospel.

Before beginning prayer with the Sacred Texts, let us take a look at the week ahead in the Australian Church and the Social Justice Calendar.

**In the Social Justice Calendar:**

04: was World habitat Day

11: International day of the Girl Child

**LET US NOW MOVE INTO PRAYER WITH THE SACRED TEXTS**

**The readings are:**

Gen2:18-24

Psalm 127

Hebrews 2:9-11

Gospel Verse: 1 John 4:12

Mark 10:2-16

**Alleluia, alleluia! If we love one another, God will live in us in perfect love. Alleluia.**

**The Gospel of the Day**

**Lectio:** Read the Gospel text from Mark 10:2-16

In today's Gospel, it is stated that marriage is the work of God. It is not to be reduced to a contract. Pause and ponder.

**Meditatio:** Some background to help us understand the text and respond to it.

The Pharisees approached Jesus over marriage and divorce. Jesus then asks them what Moses taught on the subject. They are quick to quote the law of Moses on the subject. Jesus finishes the matter by quoting from Genesis.

Then a new section of the Gospel story: people were bringing little children to him and he embarks upon a new teaching: on the Kingdom of God. Little children come to him, and he turns it into a lesson on the kingdom: ". . . it is too such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you

solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. Then he put his arms around them and laid his hands on them and gave them his blessings.”

The Patristic commentary comes from Jacob of Serugh (circa 451-521). He was a Syrian Orthodox poet theologian who did much to encourage his people when they were suffering at the hands of the Persians. This fact alone wins him a place in my heart. We all need encouragement at different times in our lives. In 519 he was made Bishop of Batnae near Edessa. His metrical homilies won him the title “Flute of the Holy Spirit”. Since that is what we call the most beautiful melody of our response to God in the scriptures, this is a poet we can pray to.

**EVANGELIZATIO: My lived response to the texts with which the Church exhorts me to pray. St. James says, “Be doers of the Word.” And the Book of Deuteronomy tells us that the Word of God is in our hands to do it.**

My response is to the description of Jacob Serugh as being “flute of the Holy Spirit.” That is how all of us aim to be through Lectio Divina. You can play a flute and it sounds as if it is a whole lot of air. Or you can play a flute purely and musical notes come out – beautiful! You can become the “flute of the Holy Spirit”, and your heart will sing in harmony with the flute - a melody of praise to the Lord. This melody is a melody of love.

*Lectio Divina is prayer with the Sacred Scriptures.  
We read, we seek to understand with the help of a commentary,  
we ponder, we take time for stillness and we respond.  
It is a way of life, not a method of prayer.*

