
26 Friday

FRIDAY, 29th WEEK OF YEAR

Rom 7:18-25
Psalm 118: 66,68,76,77,93,94
Luke 12:54-59

“Reading the signs of the times” was a catch-phrase that became popular in the Church during and immediately after the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. It was a call for Christians to be in touch with the world around them, to become sensitive to the needs of people, to learn how to be responsive to those needs, and to know how to act and behave in a fast-changing society. When Jesus used the phrase (Lk 12:56), He was referring to the coming of a new era, the age of the Messiah. And He indicated there was an urgency about waking up to this fact. He was critical of people clever enough to be able to “read” the face of the land and sky but who couldn’t (or didn’t want to) “read” the evidence around them that the power of God was at work among them. To “read the signs of the times” today should surely make us more conscious of how so much of the ‘accepted wisdom’ of modern society and culture is incompatible with Gospel values and attitudes. This is a challenge for Christians to be advocates for justice and truth in all areas of society. It’s also a challenge to see and appreciate God’s power at work in people and events around us, and wherever there is healing and reconciliation, unselfish service, the sharing of love which is of God.

Lord Jesus, in the ‘new era’ of the 21st century since You walked our earth, make us more aware of Your continuing presence among us, more responsive to the signs of Your Kingdom, and more urgent in action for the redemption of our time.