

Living the Word: I Timothy 6.6-19

It seems that the world has not changed much in 2,000 years. The pull of materialism was just as strong then as it is now. Our fallen human nature remains the same. Yet what the Apostle warns us about ought to make us sit up: it seems that money can have so strong a pull on us that we can even abandon our faith. This is because faith is not a feeling or a set of ideas, or some vague belonging to an institution. These may be part of it, but above all, faith is a gift from God that shapes our hearts and minds, as well as our actions.

Faith is shown in what we spend our energy on. That is why the Apostle instructs 'the man of God' to make his life's aim the pursuit of 'righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, [and] gentleness', because, unlike the relentless pursuit of money which brings worry, these will bring us joy, a foretaste of God's glory, and, ultimately, eternal life.

Saints Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels: 29th September

The Archangel Michael first appears in the Prophecy of Daniel as 'one of the chief princes' of the heavenly host and makes a second showing in Revelation as the principal fighter against the Devil. He is often depicted as a soldier.

Michaelmas is the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, a truly angelic host, including Gabriel, of the Annunciation story, and Raphael, who accompanied Tobias in the Book of Tobit.

Mercifully grant that as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven; so by thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth.



Sunday 28th Sept. 2025
15th Sunday after Trinity
or 26th in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Luke 16: 19 – 31



After death, there is a terrifying chasm between Dives and Lazarus. Dives is fearful that his five brothers will end up on the wrong side of the divide between life and torment. Another chasm appears after Dives is told by Lazarus 'if they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead'. It is the chasm between believing and not believing in the Scriptures and all that they reveal about the purposes of God.

The world of the believer is a very different world to the non-believer, even though it is the same world. The person of faith, open to the guidance of the Lord through Scripture and the teaching and practice of the Church, is enriched spiritually and is given a new vision of the purpose of life.

In his faith Lazarus was a richer man than Dives could ever be without it.