

XIX Sunday Year C (Feast of St. Laurence) Homily by Fr. Robin CRM

Wisdom 18:6-9; Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19; Luke 12:32-48

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today we celebrate the feast of our beloved patron, St. Laurence, one of the most venerated martyrs of the Church. Laurence was not just a deacon of the Church of Rome—he was a deacon of the Gospel, a deacon of love. His life and death proclaimed that *“where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (Lk 12:34).

The readings today open up three great spiritual themes that Laurence lived to the full:

1. Faith in God’s promises (Wisdom & Hebrews)
2. Stewardship with courage (Luke)
3. Finding true treasure in Christ (the heart of Laurence’s witness)

1. Faith in God’s Promises – Wisdom & Hebrews

In the first reading from Wisdom, we hear about the night of the Passover, when God’s people were saved because they *trusted* His promise. Even before the deliverance happened, they already celebrated it in faith.

The Letter to the Hebrews expands this: *“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* Abraham left his homeland without knowing where he was going. Sarah believed she could bear a child despite her age. They lived with a vision beyond the visible.

St. Laurence had that same faith. When Emperor Valerian ordered him to hand over the treasures of the Church, Laurence asked for three days. In those three days, he distributed the Church’s wealth to the poor. Then, he presented the poor, the sick, the widows, and the orphans to the emperor saying: *“These are the treasures of the Church.”*

This wasn’t just clever irony—it was faith. Faith that God’s treasure is not gold or silver, but His beloved children. Faith that even if earthly power threatens, eternal life is secure in Christ.

2. Stewardship with Courage – Luke 12

Jesus says in the Gospel: *“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.”* He calls us to be ready, like servants waiting

for their master's return—faithful and wise stewards, using what we have for God's glory and others' good.

Laurence was exactly that kind of steward. A deacon is entrusted with service at the altar and care for the poor. Laurence knew the Church's resources were not for self-preservation but for mission.

When we hear *"to whom much is given, much will be required"*, we should think not only of money but of time, talent, and the Gospel itself. The greatest treasure entrusted to us is the love of Christ—and we will be judged on whether we shared it or buried it.

3. Finding True Treasure – The Witness of Laurence

Laurence's martyrdom was brutal—he was roasted alive on a gridiron. And yet, the accounts say he kept his peace, even making a remark to his executioners to *"turn me over, I am done on this side."*

That holy humour in the face of death was not arrogance—it was the joy of a man who had already given everything to Christ. His treasure was in heaven, so nothing on earth could take it away.

Pope Benedict XVI once said: *"Only the love of Christ can transform the suffering of martyrdom into a source of joy."* Laurence had that love. And we, too, are called to live so that when trials come, we can still say with joy, *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."*

Practical Takeaways for Us at St. Laurence Parish

On this feast day, the readings and the life of our patron invite us to:

1. Live by faith, not fear – Trust God's promises even when you don't see the outcome.
2. Be faithful stewards – Use your gifts, resources, and opportunities for the Kingdom.
3. Value the true treasures – The poor, the vulnerable, and above all, Christ Himself.

Our parish, like Laurence, is entrusted with the treasures of God—the people He sends here from every nation and background. We are called to recognise Christ in one another and to serve Him with joy.

Conclusion

As we honour St. Laurence today, let us pray for his courage, his humour in suffering, and his unshakable faith. May we, like him, treasure what God treasures, live as wise stewards, and be ready for the Master's return.

"Do not be afraid, little flock... for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."

St. Laurence, deacon and martyr, pray for us! Wish you all happy and Blessed Feast Day!!!