

**Gospel reading for Sunday 29th August 2021 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time.**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

Some Pharisees and several teachers of the Law of Moses from Jerusalem came and gathered around Jesus.

They noticed that some of his disciples ate without first washing their hands.

The Pharisees and all other Jewish people always obeyed the strict teachings of their ancestors about washing in a certain way before eating.

None of them will eat anything they buy in the market until it is washed.

They also follow a lot of other teachings about washing things in a certain way such as cups, pitchers, and bowls.

The Pharisees and teachers asked Jesus,

“Why don’t your disciples obey what our ancestors taught us to do?

Why do they eat without washing their hands?”

Jesus called the crowd together again and said,

“Pay attention and try to understand what I mean.

The food that you put into your mouth does not make you unclean and unfit to worship God.

It’s the bad words that come out of your mouth are what make you unclean.

“Its from your heart that evil thoughts and bad actions come like stealing, murder, unfaithfulness in marriage, greed, meanness, deceit, indecency, envy, insults, pride, and foolishness.

All of these come from your heart,

and they are what make you unfit to worship God, not what you eat”.

The Gospel of the Lord

**For us to think about: Washing our hands (as we know from living through this pandemic) and other rules are important but much more important is how we behave towards God and other people.**

