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#### Welcome to Father Vlad's Newsletter!

*Let's stay in touch for updates on events and special seasonal messages!*

*I will be glad to stay in touch, but if you prefer not to receive these messages, please unsubscribe below.  
Thank you.*

Please visit [www.fathervlad.com](http://www.fathervlad.com) for more!

#### ***NEW BLOG!!!***

Father Vlad's Blog: we are pleased to announce the launch of a new Blog on Father Vlad's website, please visit:

[Father Vlad Blog](#)

#### **The Universe Catholic**

Father Vlad latest column on The Universe Catholic Weekly:

[3rd November 2023 - A little bit squash, a little bit tennis](#)

#### **Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time - 5th November 2023**

For me, today's gospel points to three facts.

1. Jesus reminds us that the scribes and Pharisees carry legitimate authority. They sit, metaphorically speaking, on "the seat of Moses." Jesus does not tell the people to rebel against these leaders. Rather, He warns Israel not to imitate their hypocrisy.

Great writers, composers and artists - and even The Vatican - have shown that beauty and truth can come from morally degenerate sources.

Listen to what they say. Ignore – even detest – the way they act.

2. We are reminded that everything, all authority, comes from God.

"you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven." Says Father Vlad.

3. We should use all the gifts we have for the benefit of our community. Our dignity comes from being a servant. Remember the foot washing at The Last Supper in John's Gospel?

The Pope claims to be the servus servorum Dei: the servant of the servants of God.

Little children tend to be self-centred. Adults – decent adults – are there for others.

I like to think I am – aged 84 - an adult. Discuss this after mass when you are home?

#### **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 29th October 2023**

"Love your neighbour as yourself" implies you must love yourself first. Clearly, an absence of self-love is bad for your neighbour.

I love myself because, thanks to Jesus Christ and my friends - which include my family - I know I am loveable.

Bear in mind, to love is not the same as to like. Within me, there is a number of things I do not like. C'est la vie. Have to do the best with what I have got.

As England encapsulates and transcends its 55 cities – and Wales does the same with its seven - so the Two Great Commandments - Deut 6,5 and Lev 19,18, - do the same with what we call The Old or Original Testament with its 613 commandments: 365 negative commands, corresponding to the number of solar days (in a year), and 248 positive commands, corresponding to the number of members in a man's body (joints, or bones, excluding teeth).

Thanks to Mt 25,40 - "What you do to the least of mine, you do unto me" - these two Great Commandments become superimposed. Our Love of God is realised – becoming genuine - in the way we treat our neighbours.

For me, underpinning love, are two virtues. There is appreciation, because what we love is life enhancing AND respect through which we allow the beloved to be themselves.

Good to stir up love by pondering the beloved: the design genius of God the Father, the immense generosity of The Son and the beauty of the Holy Spirit guiding me – as well as the life enhancing friends and allies-in-life with which I am blessed.

#### **Father Vlad on Radio Maria**

Father Vlad podcasts on Radio Maria England are available! Please follow this link to access all podcasts [Father Vlad's Radio Maria podcasts](#)

#### **Don't forget to buy Father Vlad's book Life Squared!**

As I approached my 80th birthday, I wanted to find out what I really thought about life. Writing this book has crystallised my experiences. I now know better what I have learned and what I think.

Now, that I'm coming to the end of my life, I have finally learned how to live. Time's slippage nudged me to act on my dream of passing what I have learned on to others.

*Father Vlad*

[download the introduction to Life Squared](#)

To buy your copy of the book (£12.95+pp) please contact Father Vlad at: [msgr.vladimir.felzmann@gmail.com](mailto:msgr.vladimir.felzmann@gmail.com) or +44 (7810) 116 508



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