Reading

1 Corinthians 12:31–13:8

If I am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

31 Be ambitious for the higher gifts.
And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

13:1 If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love,
I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

2 If I have the gift of prophecy,
understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything,
and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains,
but without love, then I am nothing at all.

3 If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece,
and if I even let them take my body to burn it,
but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

4 Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous;
love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish;
it does not take offence, and is not resentful.

5 Love takes no pleasure in other people’s sins but delights in the truth;
it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope,
and to endure whatever comes.

8 Love does not come to an end.

The word of the Lord.