

**OUR LADY, STAR OF THE SEA, WEYMOUTH**  
**HOMILY FOR THE 25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013**

Jesus says, “You cannot serve God and money,” which provokes the automatic response, “You cannot live without it.”

Jesus knows that. In this Gospel he is asking us to think about something even more important – our values. What do we value most?

Our values motivate us; they determine how we use our time and our energy. We will make the greatest effort to get what we value most.

God said to Moses and his chosen people: “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

People who value God above everything else will do this, but if people value something else more than God they will divert their heart, soul and strength away from God towards whatever it is.

Jesus uses money as his example in the Gospel because desire for money is probably the most common distraction from God.

For the increasing number of people who do not have enough to live on the desire for money is natural and necessary. The challenge is to keep faith in God and not to allow money worries to come between us and God.

Money worries will distract our prayer but we must keep trying to pray.

Money worries may make it hard for us to come to Mass but we must not give up.

Only when we give up are we serving money and not God.

For those who have enough to live on the danger is different.

Some people just love making money; some want to be richer than their neighbours. That’s serving money.

**Rev Geoffrey Carey**