

"Every day, as long as this 'today' lasts,
keep encouraging one another" (Heb 3:13)

January 15th 2023
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings p. 125

Isaiah 49:3. 5-6

The prophet Isaiah speaks here of the servant of God who will bring knowledge and salvation to the whole world.

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

St Paul writes that people of all nations and races are called to become holy by following Jesus, their Lord.

St. John 1:29-34

John the Baptist calls Christ the Lamb of God, the one who will take away the world's sins.

"Look,
there is the
lamb of
God that
takes away
the sin of
the world."



Today's Psalm
Psalm 39

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist is inviting us to look at Jesus, look closely. He calls Jesus the 'lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world'. We say these words often at Mass and today we are invited to meditate on them more closely. What does it mean? The lamb is one who is sacrificed... the sins of the world are many, broken relationships with one another at every turn. Today we are asked to think especially of Refugees and Migrants and the sins committed against them. The treatment of these groups who are marginalised, exiled from their homes due to war, famine, drought, unemployment is often unjust and is part of what Pope Francis refers to as a culture of 'slave labour'. These outcast groups are frequently treated with disrespect, racism, condemnation and resentment. How can we reconcile these situations?

Pope Francis' message for today may guide us closer to understanding the message of John the Baptist in the Gospel: 'Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity... A change of attitude towards migrants and refugees is needed on the part of everyone, moving away from attitudes of defensiveness and fear, indifference and marginalisation - all typical of a throwaway culture - towards attitudes based on a culture of encounter, the only culture capable of building a better, more just and fraternal world'. In the marginalised can we see Jesus coming towards us and say: 'Look, there is the lamb of God'? Jane Mellett

Like the psalmist who waited and waited for the Lord, the people had long awaited the coming of the Messiah. In Jesus, the Lord *stooped down* to the human level. In his total obedience to the Father he laid down his life in sacrifice. *You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will.*

In today's gospel Jesus is identified by John the Baptist as the lamb of God. He is the lamb of sacrifice who not only atoned for sin, but he took away the sins of the world. Sacrifice and obedience are perfectly united in Jesus. All previous sorts of animal substitutes have been rendered redundant.

The image of the lamb also recalled the picture of the meek and obedient lamb being led to the slaughter. The perfect yes of Jesus to the Father in all things is an inspiration to us to seek the will of the Father in all that we do.

*Here I am Lord!
I come to do your will.*

Fr. Silvester O'Flynn OFM-

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton - Tel: (01257) 262665

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday January 19 2020

Sun: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Peter and Patricia Byrn

Mon: Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.30.am. CI

Tues: St. Anthony, Abbot

9.30.am.

Wed: Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.30.am. Private Intnetion

Thurs: Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.30.am.

Fri: Weekday in Ordinary time

7.00.pm. Holy Souls

Sun: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Bernard Longton

10.30.am. Private Intnetion

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

Email: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

Confessions

At your request

On Admittance to Hospital or Nursing Home

Staff need to be made aware by you: that you, or the member of your family, or the person you accompany, are Catholic, and require the services of the Catholic Chaplaincy

Mass Intentions received upto 13/01/2023

Bernard Longton; syd and Nellie +Cerrard;
Margaret Carney Id Stephen Roberts Id

We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish Ryan Troop; JC; Catherine Thompson; Maureen Beardsworth; Thomas Halligan.

Wednesday – We ask your prayers for Our children in Year 4 who will be celebrating the Sacrament of reconciliation.

Peace Sunday January 15th Pope Francis urges reflection on what lessons can be learned three years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. “What new paths should we follow to cast off the shackles of our old habits, to be better prepared, to dare new things?”

What signs of life and hope can we see to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?” He feels, “the

greatest lesson we learned from COVID-19 is the realisation that we all need one another.”

Taken from Message for World Peace Day 2023

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Week 18th-25th January 2023

As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which

racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone. A Service will take place at St Mary's Sunday January 22, 3.00pm. we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone. All are welcome.

“We look forward to the time when the ‘Power of Love’ will replace the ‘Love of Power’. Then will our world know the blessings of peace.” William E. Gladstone