

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

Sunday 22nd January 2023

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Readings & Prayers p. 127

Isaiah:8: 23-9:

Those with humility and integrity will become the people of God, kept safe from all harm.

1 Corinthians 1 10-13

Of ourselves we are nothing, but in Christ we have everything.

St. Matthew 4:23

Jesus teaches the crowds the ways of God and the way to holiness.



"Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak.. This is

In the Sermon on the mount what Jesus promises is not a gimmick to give you goose bumps nor a mental attitude that has to be pumped up at pep rallies. No, Matthew 5 describes God's radical reconstruction of the heart.

Observe the sequence. First, we recognize we are in need (we're poor in spirit). Next, we repent of our self-sufficiency (we mourn). We quit calling the shots and surrender control to God (we're meek). So grateful are we for his presence that we yearn for more of him (we hunger and thirst). As we grow closer to him, we become more like him. We forgive others (we're merciful). We change our outlook (we're pure in heart). We love others (we're peacemakers). We endure injustice (we're persecuted).

It's no casual shift of attitude. It is a demolition of the old structure and a creation of the new. The more radical the change, the greater the joy. And it's worth every effort, for this is the joy of God.

A joy that can't be quenched? Peace that can't be broken? Happiness that can't be threatened? There is such a joy. It is a sacred delight, a holy gladness. It comes from God and it is within your reach.

Today's Psalm Psalm 145

It is he who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. What is sometimes called the Prosperity Gospel, advocated by many TV-evangelists, is built on the simplistic idea of God's blessing. They say that health, success and prosperity are signs of God's blessing on a good life. But the opposite is that misfortune is said to be a sure sign of sin being punished by God.

Jesus rejected this simplistic notion. He proclaimed the blessedness of the poor and the powerless, of those who strive for justice and of those who are victims of injustice.

The psalm of the day proclaims that God's love is faithful for ever. Anticipating the beatitudes of Jesus, the psalmist is confident of God's blessing upon those who are suffering bad fortune at the moment, listing the oppressed, the hungry, prisoners, the blind, those bowed down under heavy burdens, the stranger, the widow and orphan.

God's faithful love operates on a long timescale. In the beatitudes, all the promised consolations are in the future tense. But even now, those suffering misfortune belong to God's kingdom.
Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Silvester O'Flynn

Sun: 3rd Sunday Of Ordinary Time

8.30.am. **Bernard Longton**

10.330am. **Parisioners**

Mon: Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.30.am. CI

Tues: St. St Francis de Sale

9.30.am. **Peace**

Wed: Weekday in Ordinary Time

9.30.am. Conversion of St Paul

Thurs: Weekday in Ordinary Time

1,30.pm. Requiem:David Andrew nightingale

Fri: Weekday in Ordinary time

7.00.pm. Holy Souls

Sun: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8.30.am. Syd and Nellie Gerard

1030 Private Intention

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

We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish Ryan Troop; JC;

Catherine Thompson; Maureen Beardsworth;Thomas Halligan. Our prayers and sympathies go to

the family and friends of the family of David Andrew nightingale who ha recently died and will be buried

Following a Requiem on Thursday at 1.30pm. Also to the Family and friends of Desmond Corman who will be buried following a Requiem on Tuesday January 31. At 1030.am. May their souls rest in peace.

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 st St Mary's Sunday January 22, 300pm. 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.

Next Sunday we welcome the a White Father who will be making an appeal.for yhe Missons

A recent poll has revealed that in the last month, one in ten people have used a food bank. We are all struggling at the moment, and lots of us who never considered ourselves vulnerable, might be

feeling that we are vulnerable now. In these days of high bills and low income we are asked to look after each other, and keep an eye on those who are perhaps too proud or unused to asking for help.

Help those in danger of becoming homeless by donating to charities such as Housing Justice or Shelter, and getting involved in the campaigns they run throughout the year. Help keep the foodbanks well stocked. Think about donating one item every time you visit your supermarket. Keep an eye on elderly or vulnerable relatives.

25th January The Conversion of Saint Paul. When we are struggling to find change in our lives, we could hardly do better than look to the story of Saul, the great persecutor of Christians, who saw the light on the road to Damascus. The story of the conversion of Saul, from the persecutor of Christians to the zealous and holy instrument of evangelisation, Paul, shows the strength of God's power in our lives, and how he can change anything. For each of us there is a job to do. For God, nothing is impossible.

27th January Holocaust Memorial Day Ordinary People is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023.

There are also extraordinary people in every genocide, remarkable and unusual people, who went to extreme lengths to help, to rescue, to save, and in every genocide there were extraordinary people, who went to extreme depths to cause harm, to persecute, to murder.

categories (perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers) The HMD theme will also prompt us to consider how ordinary people, such as ourselves, can perhaps play a bigger part than we might imagine in challenging prejudice today. In order to explore the theme of Ordinary People, we are invited to look at some specific users).