

Monday-Saturday, 7th-12th Mar 2022

Eighth Week in Ordinary Time - Year C

MONDAY

Mass of the Day

Lent offers a beautiful opportunity to discover the *mystery of Christ* within us.

-- Henri Nouwen

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords, so our eyes are on the Lord our God, till he show us his mercy. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

READING: *Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18*

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not steal nor deal deceitfully or fraudulently with your neighbour. You must not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God. I am the Lord. You must not exploit or rob your neighbour. You must not keep back the labourer's wage until next morning. You must not curse the dumb, nor put an obstacle in the blind man's way, but you must fear your God. I am the Lord.

"You must not be guilty of unjust verdicts. You must neither be partial to the little man nor overawed by the great; you must pass judgement on your neighbour according to justice. You must not slander your own people, and you must not jeopardise your neighbour's life. I am the Lord. You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence;

this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

PSALM: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! This is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: *Matthew 25:31-46*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand,

"Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink;

I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me,

in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?"

And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me". Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me."

And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Amen, I say to you: Whatever you did for one of the least of my brethren, you did it for me, says the Lord.

TUESDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation; from age to age, you are.

READING: *Isaiah 55:10-11*

Thus says the Lord:

As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

PSALM: From all their afflictions God will deliver the just.

ACCLAMATION:

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL: *Matthew 6:7-15*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In your prayers do not babble as the pagans do, for they think that by using many words they will make themselves heard. Do not be like them; your Father knows what you need before you ask him. So you should pray like this:

'Our Father in heaven,
may your name be held holy,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,
as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us.

And do not put us to the test,
but save us from the evil one.

'Yes, if you forgive others their failings, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours; but if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive your failings either.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: When I called, the God of justice gave me answer; from anguish you released me; have mercy, O Lord, and hear my prayer!

WEDNESDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

READING: *Jonah 3:1-10*

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said, 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. The news reached the king of Nineveh, who rose from his throne, took off his robe, put on sackcloth and sat down in ashes.

A proclamation was then promulgated throughout Nineveh, by decree of the king and his ministers,

as follows: 'Men and beasts, herds and flocks, are to taste nothing; they must not eat, they must not drink water. All are to put on sackcloth and call on God with all their might; and let everyone renounce his evil behaviour and the wicked things he has done. Who knows if God will not change his mind and relent, if he will not renounce his burning wrath, so that we do not perish?' God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented:

he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

PSALM: A broken, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.

ACCLAMATION: **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

GOSPEL: *Luke 11:29-32*:

The crowds got even bigger and Jesus addressed them. 'This is a wicked generation; it is asking for a sign. The only sign it will be given is the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites,

so will the Son of Man be to this generation.

On Judgement day the Queen of the South will rise up with the men of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and there is something greater than Solomon here.

On Judgement day the men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation and condemn it, because when Jonah preached they repented; and there is something greater than Jonah here.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **All who take refuge in you shall be glad, O Lord, and ever cry out their joy, and you shall dwell among them.**

THURSDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **To my words give ear, O Lord; give heed to my sighs. Attend to the sound of my cry, my King and my God.**

READING: *Esther 14:1, 3-5. 12-14*

Queen Esther took refuge with the Lord in the mortal peril which had overtaken her. She besought the Lord God of Israel in these words:

'My Lord, our King, the only one, come to my help, for I am alone and have no helper but you and am about to take my life in my hands. I have been taught from my earliest years, in the bosom of my family, that you, Lord, chose Israel out of all the nations and our ancestors out of all the people of old times

to be your heritage for ever; and that you have treated them as you promised. Remember, Lord; reveal yourself in the time of our distress.

'As for me, give me courage, King of gods and master of all power. Put persuasive words into my mouth when I face the lion; change his feeling into hatred for our enemy, that the latter and all like him may be brought to their end.

'As for ourselves, save us by your hand, and come to my help, for I am alone and have no one but you, Lord.

PSALM: **Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.'**

ACCLAMATION: **Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Create a clean heart in me, O God;**

give back to me the joy of your salvation. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: *Matthew 7:7-12*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. Is there a man among you who would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or would hand him a snake when he asked for a fish? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

'So always treat others as you would like them to treat you; that is the meaning of the Law and the Prophets.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **Everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.**

FRIDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: **Set me free from my distress, O Lord. See my lowliness and suffering, and take away all my sins.**

READING: *Ezekiel 18:21-28*

If the wicked man renounces all the sins he has committed, respects my laws and is law-abiding and honest, he will certainly live; he will not die. All the sins he committed will be forgotten from then on;

he shall live because of the integrity he has practised. What! Am I likely to take pleasure in the death of a wicked man – it is the Lord who speaks – and not prefer to see him renounce his wickedness and live?

'But if the upright man renounces his integrity, commits sin, copies the wicked man and practises every kind of filth, is he to live? All the integrity he has practised shall be forgotten from then on;

but this is because he himself has broken faith and committed sin, and for this he shall die. But you object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen,

you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner

renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins, he shall certainly live; he shall not die.

PSALM: If you, O Lord, laid bare our guilt, who would endure it?

ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Rid yourselves of all your sins and make a new heart and a new spirit. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:20-26

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill, and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin, and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: As I live, says the Lord, I do not desire the death of the sinner, but rather that he turn back and live.

SATURDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The law of the Lord is perfect; it revives the soul. The decrees of the Lord are steadfast; they give wisdom to the simple.

READING: Deuteronomy 26:16-19

Moses said to the people: 'The Lord your God today commands you to observe these laws and customs; you must keep and observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.

'You have today made this declaration about the Lord; that he will be your God, but only if you follow his ways, keep his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and listen to his

voice. And the Lord has today made this declaration about you: that you will be his very own people as he promised you, but only if you keep all his commandments; then for praise and renown and honour he will set you high above all the nations he has made, and you will be a people consecrated to the Lord, as he promised.

PSALM: Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

ACCLAMATION: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! This is the favourable time, this is the day of salvation. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:43-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect, says the Lord.

