

WEEKLY NEWS

✠ The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost ✠

On Sundays

Low Mass is offered at 8 a.m. at Lady Altar after which silence is kept in S John's Chapel for **Centering Prayer**. At 10 o'clock we pray the **Rosary. Terce** is recited at 10.30 followed by **Solemn or Sung Mass** at 11 and **Coffee Hour** just after Mass in the Parish Hall. The **Sunday Forum** is then held in the adjacent Yarnall Room. **Vespers** is chanted in Latin at 3 p.m. in the church followed by the **Novena** to Our Lady of Clemency and **Benediction** of the Blessed Sacrament.

Weekdays

Daily Mass is offered Monday through Friday at 12.10 p.m. (10 a.m. on Saturdays and holidays). **Vespers** is recited in the Church at 5.30 p.m. Monday through Friday and at 3 p.m. on Saturdays followed by **Shrine Prayers** to Our Lady of Clemency.

Service booklets for all services are published and available on the Usher's tables and at www.s-clements.org.

DA PACEM

Bishop Daniel Gutiérrez is calling for a solemn day of Prayer and Fasting this Tuesday October 17, urging everyone in this diocese to pray fervently for peace in our companion diocese of Jerusalem, the Holy Land, and around the world. I will offer votive masses for peace, *Da pacem* this Monday and next at 12.10 and encourage your in-person or online attendance.

Once again we are faced with the shocking horrors of war—slaughtered innocents, unspeakable carnage already, with so much more on the way. The holy mass *Da pacem* begins with a verse from Ecclesiasticus (*Liber Iesu Filii Sirach*):

GIVE peace, O Lord, to them that wait for thee, and let thy prophets be found faithful: hear the prayers of thy servant and of thy people Israel.

This mass's collect has a familiar ring to Anglicans, given its close resemblance to the Collect for Purity offered at the outset of the Communion Service in the Book of Common Prayer:

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all right counsels, and all just actions proceed: grant unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also, that by thee, being defended from the fear of our enemies we may pass our time in quietness under thy protection.

The point of all this is simple enough to grasp but plenty challenging to live out, namely that God and only God can help; God and only God can right wrongs; God and only God can bring real peace to those for whom we pray.

Da pacem's Gospel places us in the presence of Christ the Risen Lord as he passed through closed doors to stand in the midst of his frightened disciples. Jesus greets them: *Peace be unto you*. Then he showed them his wounded hands and side, saying again *Peace be unto you. As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you*.

About today's Mass

Man's position in God's sight is that of the sinner who is aware of his responsibilities; there can be no question of his possessing any rights, he can only confess himself guilty and appeal to God's mercy.

But we have some claim on this mercy; to begin with our very condition of sinners gives us reason for confidence. Far from being an obstacle to redemption, our sins are its cause: "I came not for the just", said our Saviour one day when He was blamed for conversing with sinners in His usual merciful fashion. The great revelation that has been made to us is the gratuitous nature of the salvation that God has sent us compared with man's universal and complete powerlessness to save himself.

It only remains for us to plead the glory of God, engaged in His work of mercy; to ask with confidence His pardon and peace, and, surer of Him than of ourselves, to give expression to our joy as the redeemed of God within the context of a life which is directed towards Him among all our trials and struggles.

-- Dom Gaspar Lefebvre, O. S. B.

He breathed on them. *Receive the Holy Spirit*, calling them to costly vocations of reconciliation and forgiveness. They are to forgive sins as are we. These first disciples are Christ's peacemakers, his ambassadors, servants, stewards, siblings. We are too as Jesus delivers us from our fears, and supplies us with those graces we must have in order to carry out God's will in our daily lives -- far more than we could ever desire or even pray for!

Serving the Prince of Peace with all our heart and mind and strength exposes us to hate and hostility. And yet, surrendering our wills to Christ is how we got strong to begin with in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and how we remain strong thereafter.

There is a hauntingly beautiful melody that courses through Josquin de Prez's *Missa Da pacem*, the tune of an antiphon found in a votive office for peace and also in the preces at Matins and Evensong in the Book of Common Prayer:

✠ Give peace in our time O Lord.

✠ Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou O God.

God fights for us by insisting that we put our whole trust in him. God wins our fiercest battles by curbing our desires, all our desires, really, and most certainly those for retaliation and revenge. God alone gives us that peace which surpasses all understanding. In faith we pleading for it now. *Da pacem*.

Yours faithfully,
Fr. Alton

