
WEEKLY NEWS

✠ The Fourth Sunday in Lent ✠

On Sundays

Low Mass at 8 a.m. at The Lady Altar after which silence is kept in S John's Chapel for

Centering Prayer. At 10 o'clock we pray the **Rosary.**

Confessions are heard in Church from 10.30-10.50. **Terce** is recited at 10.30 followed by **Solemn or Sung Mass** at 11 and **Coffee Hour** just after Mass in the Parish Hall. When scheduled, 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.**

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. Throughout Lent, **Stations of the Cross** and **Benediction** are offered each Friday at 6.30 p.m. followed by a light, meatless meal in the Parish Hall.

CONJUBILANT WITH SONG

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

At this mid-point in Lent we rejoice as we consider the heavenly Jerusalem, our destination and our mother! The Introit of today's Mass combines a passage from the Prophet Isaiah with the opening verse of Psalm 121:

Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and come together, all ye that love her; rejoice for joy, all ye that have mourned: that ye may be glad, and be satisfied with the breasts of your consolation. ✠ I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.

Today especially, the Choir's chants, their anthem by Herbert Howells at Communion, and the beautiful retiring hymn *Ewing*, a brilliant translation by John Mason Neale of an inspired text by S Bernard of Cluny, all express a mystical joy that is both contemplative and confident.

In each one of us there is a profound longing for God, a desire for Him whom we both love and yet see not. The Holy Scriptures help by setting before us so many compelling visions of that heavenly homecoming we await in hope and in joyful expectation of a *radiancy of glory - a bliss beyond compare.*

Examples from John Mason Neale's own life are instructive and inspiring. Despite manifest brilliance, Neale's ill-health and his Anglo-Catholicism brought him to an especially obscure post, Warden of Sackville College in East Grinstead, a retirement home for poor men. For twenty years Neale diligently served the poor of his charge that soon included women and poor children in his care and concern. In 1855 he founded the Society (Sisters) of St Margaret, first at Rotherfield and soon after at East Grinstead where they flourished in holiness and service to the church and the world. I was happy to meet several Sisters of St Margaret last Sunday when I was at Saint Thomas Church in New York City. My mentor priest Fr. Timothy Campbell-Smith enjoyed a long association with the

About today's Mass

Lætare! This is the joy of one stage of Lent completed and an anticipation of the joy of Easter which is to come to us from the cross. At Rome the station is at the church of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, chosen expressly in order to celebrate the joys and grandeurs of the new Jerusalem, the Church on earth and the heavenly city.

In the Breviary the Church has appointed the story of Moses to be read. Two principal events form the theme. On the one hand, the exodus from Egypt – Moses saves his people from the dire captivity of the Egyptians and brings them across the Red Sea; this is their liberation and the end of slavery. On the other, he feeds them with manna in the desert, gives them the Law of Sinai and leads them towards the Promised Land where one day is to rise Jerusalem, the holy city, to which the tribes of Israel will go up every year to sing of their joy in being a privileged people, chosen by God.

Today's Mass shows the fulfillment of these figures. For the true Moses is Christ who, having delivered us from the bondage of Satan and sin, made us pass through the waters of baptism and having nourished us with His Eucharist, causes us to enter His Church, the true Jerusalem, a foretaste of heaven where the elect will sing for ever the canticle of the redeemed.

Great is the joy of the Church at possession of these great riches, at seeing them unceasingly renewed in her and at her power of communicating them to men. In this

Sisters in Haiti, often traveling to Port-au-Prince to work at St Vincent's School for the Handicapped, home to The Holy Trinity Orchestra.

Neale's scholarly and poetic output was enormous. His *Commentary on the Psalms* (London, 1874) synthesizes a vast array of biblical, patristic and liturgical material from Eastern and Western sources that makes praying the psalms adventurous and fulfilling. Long out of fashion, it's among my most cherished and consulted books.

On this 4th Sunday in Lent the church seeks to bring us considerable joy right in the midst of a penitential season. Several weeks ago on Ash Wednesday we were reminded of our mortal nature, mere dust. Today that same dust sings with exaltation.

O sweet and blessèd country,
Shall I ever see thy face?
O sweet and blessèd country,
Shall I every win thy grace?
Exult, O dust and ashes,
The Lord shall be thy part:
His only, His forever
Thou shalt be, and thou art.



spirit, halfway through Lent on our way to Easter, she calls on us to pause and take breath, to breathe, as it were, the beneficent air of grace. The rose-coloured vestments, the sound of the organ, flowers on altars, are signs of her joy which the gladness of the plainchant melodies expresses felicitously.

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