

Reflections of the day (27 March 2020)

The Lord is close to the broken- hearted.

As we cannot please everyone, we are bound to come across people who are rude or inimical to us. When you have enemies, it means that either you are trying to be or do something good. So, all we can do as good and virtuous people is to always forgive them and pray for them.

In the first reading (*Wisdom 2:1,12-22*), the wicked in their misguided reasoning, wait for the virtuous man to be trapped for a shameful death. Because their malice makes them blind. However, the gift of Holiness will be rewarded to the just by God.

The Jews were angry with Jesus not because of his teaching or by the wonderful miracles he was doing. They could not tolerate his two blasphemous claims (*John 7:1-2,10,25-30*).

- 1) He was the Messiah, God's Anointed One.
- 2) He knew God as He is because Jesus had come from God.

According to Jewish belief, the Messiah would emerge quite unexpectedly from Mount Olivet, cross the Kedron Valley, enter the city of Jerusalem, be anointed by Elijah the prophet, take possession of the City and the Temple and establish His Messianic kingdom.

Life messages:

- 1) We too, like the Jews, can be prejudiced with the teaching and practices of the Church. We may try to refuse to follow the teachings of the Church as they seem to not be updated. We need to get involved into the deep mystery of the church by prayerful study of our faith.
- 2) God's revelation through Jesus Christ is manifested in the Church. Today that is being continued in the Church through the Holy Spirit. So we need to have the humility to accept the realities of Faith which is revealed to us in the church even if they are beyond our comprehension.

Faith and love abide and grow in the heart than in the head.

Father Joseph

“As humanity trembles from pandemic, let us unite in prayer”

Pope Francis

When : Roman Time at Friday 6pm (27/3). That means in Australia it is at **4am on Saturday Morning**

A special Urbi et Orbi blessing

Church grants special indulgence to coronavirus patients and caregivers

The Apostolic Penitentiary issues a Decree granting special plenary indulgences for those suffering from the coronavirus pandemic, as well as to healthcare workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.”

Conditions for the plenary indulgence

The Decree grants a plenary indulgence to coronavirus patients quarantined by health authorities in hospitals and in their homes if, “with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite themselves spiritually through the media to the celebration of the Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion.”

The plenary indulgence can also be obtained by the faithful if they at least “recite the creed, the Lord’s Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfill the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy father’s intentions), as soon as possible.”

A plenary indulgence is also granted to healthcare workers, family members and all those who, “exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick” under the same conditions stated above.

Also, the faithful who offer a “visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic adoration, or read the Holy Scriptures for half an hour, or recite the Holy Rosary, or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy” while praying for an end to the pandemic will be granted a plenary indulgence.

What is this Plenary Indulgences: We read in 1471 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church as follows: "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."

"An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin." Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead

Miraculous Crucifix at St Peter’s Square for Urbi et Orbi

The miraculous crucifix [at which Pope Francis prayed Sunday](#) for an end to the coronavirus has been taken down from its altar and transported to St. Peter's Square, so it can be present on Friday during the pontiff's benediction "Urbi et Orbi."

The crucifix was removed from the Church of San Marcello al Corso by Vatican personnel Wednesday evening, and is expected to be installed temporarily at St. Peter’s Square.

Let us try to get up a little early and pray with Pope Francis at this critical time in history. Let us be humble before the Lord and ask his forgiveness for the sins of us and whole world.

Let us Be **CORONA ANGELS**

And

BREAK THE CHAIN

No Medicine, no Vaccine...

And prevention and Prayers are the only ways.

So let us keep safe by **SOCIAL ISOLATION.**

Everyone's immunity is not as equal or as strong.

Let's protect the most vulnerable
especially the elderly and infant children.

Let us not be the carriers

but be **Corona Angels**

by respecting and protecting others.

Prevention is better than cure..

Stay safe..... and let us break the chain ..

N.B

We, at St Paul's and St Clare, remember you and keep you all in our prayers. Though we are not physically near, however our hearts reach out to you especially who need our support and care. Please don't hesitate to call the parish office if you need any support within the prescribed rules and guidelines given by the Government and the Church authorities. We are keeping everyone in our daily Mass offered every morning. Please let us know your intentions and spiritual needs.