

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's
Warrington*



Celebrating Sunday at Home

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

5th July 2020

Preparation

It can be helpful to prepare a little space as a focus for your prayer. Perhaps light a candle or tea light and place it next to a crucifix or icon. You might like to include the Scriptures and some flowers as well.

Song

You may like to choose a song or piece of music from YouTube or a CD to begin your time of prayer. Some suggestions for today:

**All you who seek a comfort sure
Come to me all who labour
I heard the voice of Jesus say
O let all who thirst
Dona Nobis Pacem
O the love of my Lord is the essence**

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Greeting

Blessed be the God of all consolation,
who has shown us his great mercy.
Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

R. Blessed be God for ever.

Penitential Act

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**

You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy. **R. Christ, have mercy.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father
to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy. **R. Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

First Reading

(Romans 8: 9, 11-13)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Hymn

- Oh, the love of my Lord is the essence
of all that I love here on earth.
All the beauty I see he has given to me,
and his giving is gentle as silence.**
- Every day, every hour, every moment
have been blessed by the strength of his love.
At the turn of each tide he is there at my side,
and his touch is as gentle as silence.**
- There've been times
when I've turned from his presence,
and I've walked other paths, other ways.
but I've called on his name
in the dark of my shame,
and his mercy was gentle as silence.**

*Estelle White © McCrimmon Publishing Co Ltd.
Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.
One License #A-632722.*

Gospel Acclamation

Sing the 'Alleluia' together using a version you all know well.

Gospel

(Matthew 11: 25-30)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

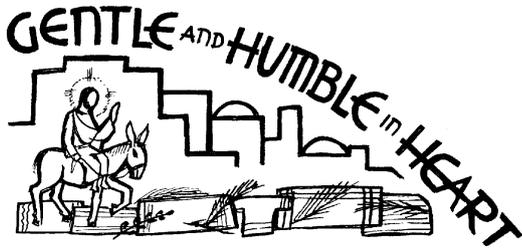
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Reflection by Sr Kathleen McGhee SND

Recent events have left many of us in two minds about life; life that is, as we have experienced it before, during and even after coronavirus. What was life like before? What has it been like during these months? And most importantly of all what will it be like afterwards? With the restrictions of lockdown, a surprising thing happened for many of us. We began to notice and even talk to our neighbours more; we were touched by the numerous acts of loving kindness expressed for the vulnerable; the whole nation applauded the NHS every week; we saw clear skies and heard the birds sing!

This change in attitude has led to questions about how we had been living before it all happened. Had we become too self-absorbed, too unaware of people and indeed of the world around us? Could this experience give us all a desire to change? Could things really be different? What would that mean?

As we meet Jesus in today's Gospel we find him dealing with similar questions in Capernaum where the people were stubbornly refusing to listen to him. They would not change their ways. He turns to his Father in gratitude for the utter simplicity of his message while lamenting the obstinacy of many of his listeners. His message is simply one of love, easily understood in its clarity by infants, yet totally rejected by many powerful people.

"Love God and your neighbour as yourself." It is a consistent message and Jesus assures us it is where rest, kindness and happiness are to be found. "Come to me" is more than an invitation to lay down burdens; it calls us into an ever closer friendship with the loving Lord. There we will find rest, there we will find happiness, there we will be far from the trappings of sophistication and power.

So as we reflect on this Gospel and remember the pandemic which has beset the world and watch what has been happening in the streets of our cities, do we go back to how things were, or would we like to live in a world where there is more kindness, more justice, more awareness of one another and of our world – in our words, more love? If so, there is only one place to find it. Jesus makes it plain: "Come to me ... learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart".

Desire for revolution and change is proclaimed all around us. Could the revolution so often articulated by Pope Francis, "the revolution of tenderness and love", be the genuine one of which we are graced to be part and for which we all long. It is simply a revolution of the heart: "Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, make our hearts like yours."

Silent Reflection

Poem

The Peace of Wild Things

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down
where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water,
and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.
I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me
the day-blind stars waiting with their light.
For a time
I rest in the grace of the world
and am free.

Wendell Berry

Bidding Prayers

There are some Bidding Prayers on the Parish Website for today, or you may like to make your own prayers as an individual or group.

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

To the childlike, O God, you reveal yourself,
and on those who are meek and humble of heart
you promise the inheritance of your kingdom.
Refresh our weary spirits
with the teaching of Christ,
that with him
we may shoulder the gentle yoke of the cross,
and proclaim to everyone
the joy that comes from you alone.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us, keep us from all evil,
and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.



Acknowledgements

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Scripture Readings from *The Jerusalem Bible* © 1966 by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.