Our Faith on Sunday

Liturgy
3rd Sunday of Lent (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 24: 15-16
My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

FIRST READING: Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15
I Am has sent me to you.

PSALM: Ps. 102:1-4.6-8.11.R.v8
R) The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R)**

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **(R)**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. **(R)**

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 10:1-6. 10-12
The life of the people under Moses in the desert was written down to be a lesson for us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Mt 4:17
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9
Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 83: 4-5
The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



The Gospel passage today refers both to an act of racial/religious violence (Romans v Jews) and to a natural disaster, people killed by a falling tower. Today, the world suffers from a frightening number of these two kinds of violence. Our Lord tells us we have to see them, not in the context of personal guilt, but in the context of a world without grace, a world of sin. A modern mystic quotes God the Father as saying to her, *"Consider the world today… A great malevolent wind is destroying almost everything in its path as it wished to destroy my Son...Many people wonder, Who can withstand such forces?... Christ, my Son, your Redeemer, is a ROCK, a symbol, an example for all. …. My Son remains UPRIGHT. One who clings to Him, mankind's Saviour, can hope to remain spiritually upright and faithful."* Jesus UPRIGHT on the cross, the *'tree of life'* the fruitful *'fig tree'*, bearing, as the Book of Revelation describes, *"twelve crops of fruit in the year"*. The tree that is the one constant security against *"the winds of evil"*.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



The Social Dimension Of Evangelization

The Church's teaching on social questions

182. … The Church's pastors, taking into account the contributions of the different sciences, have the right to offer opinions on all that affects people's lives, since the task of evangelization implies and demands the integral promotion of each human being. It is no longer possible to claim that religion should be restricted to the private sphere and that it exists only to prepare souls for heaven. We know that God wants his children to be happy in this world too, even though they are called to fulfilment in eternity, for he has created all things "for our enjoyment" (1 Tim 6:17), the enjoyment of everyone. It follows that Christian conversion demands reviewing especially those areas and aspects of life "related to the social order and the pursuit of the common good".[149]

149 John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Ecclesia in America (22 January 1999), 27: AAS 91 (1999), 762.

Day by Day with St Francis*

WE CAN BOAST IN OUR WEAKNESS

Consider, O human being, in what great excellence the Lord God has placed you, for He created and formed you to the image of His beloved Son according to the body and to His likeness according to the Spirit.

And all creatures under heaven serve, know, and obey their Creator, each according to its own nature, better than you. And even the demons did not crucify Him, but you, together with them, have crucified Him and are still crucifying Him by delighting in vices and sins.

In what, then, can you boast? Even if you were so skilful and wise that you possessed all knowledge, knew how to interpret every kind of language, and to scrutinize heavenly matters with skill: you could not boast in these things. For, even though someone may have received from the Lord a special knowledge of the highest wisdom, one demon knew about heavenly matters and now knows more about those of earth than all human beings.

In the same way, even if you were more handsome and richer than everyone else, and even if you worked miracles so that you put demons to flight: all these things are contrary to you; nothing belongs to you; you can boast in none of these things.

But we can boast in our weaknesses and in carrying each day the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Admonitions

***Excerpts from Day by Day with St Francis: a Franciscan Breviary Published by New City** ISBN: 9781905039166
These writings by or about Francis of Assisi are from the time of Francis which means that the language is sometimes rather archaic but it reflects the true spirit of Francis.

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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT – 24th MARCH 2019

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	Patrick & Theresa Kelly (RIP Anniv.)
Sunday	9.00am	Myles, Eileen, Mary & Jim Cash Family
Monday 25th March	11.45am	The Annunciation of the Lord
Friday 29th March	11.45am	lent feria
Sunday 30th March	**Fourth Sunday in Lent**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	Mary Watson (RIP Anniv.)
Sunday	9.00am	Breda Iommi (RIP)

We offer our condolences and prayers to the family of Breda Iommi who has recently died. Details of her funeral will be advised in due course.

Please remember in your prayers: Sick: Nigel Clark, Ivor Hopla, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, Baby David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Lucy Swift

Please remember in your prayers this week in The Churches Together List the Residents of:
Vaughan Mead, The Park, Harpenden Lane, Woollams, Ver Meadow, Luton Lane, Aubrey Lane, Cheverells Close, Fullerton Close, Long Meadow. Pickford Road, The Dell, Delmer End Lane, Old Watling Street and Trowley Bottom.

The Churches Together in Redbourn Lent Programme.
Wednesdays 10.00am at New Forge Place.
Thursdays 8.00pm at St. Mary's Transept.
Fridays 12.15pm Lent Charity Lunches in the Garden Room of the Methodist Church.
This week the lunch is prepared by the ladies of Redbourn Methodist Church.
See Redbourn Common Round for more details.

Parish Breakfast Morning was a great success. The amount raised was £187.78 which is going to a complete building of a well in a Ugandan village. Special thanks to Karl and Marion and others who helped. We now find we are in the joyful situation of having a substantial amount of money to use towards a second well. It was a lovely occasion and enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to all who contributed in any way.

Children's Liturgy. The Children's liturgy classes on Sunday are currently running with just three volunteers. We would love at least three more volunteers to explore the Word of God. Its not at all difficult, no previous experience is required, and with more people, we can ensure that all our children benefit. Please let Fr. Michael know if you can help. We are also looking for people to have CRB clearance. We should always have two CRB clearance volunteers in the classes. Therefore one CRB cleared person could be present but not necessarily active with the children. This would greatly help the volunteers. This CRB clearance is the very basic one. Please speak to Vicky Carr if you can help.

Planned Giving Envelopes: Please collect these from the table at the back of the Church, they are arranged alphabetically. If your box is not there, or there is a box with your name on it which you no longer use, or if you would like to begin using envelopes, please let Fr. Michael know. **NB. It is essential, for our record keeping, that if you take envelopes you use them.** If you pay **U.K.Income Tax** and do not as yet Gift Aid your contributions, please consider doing so, as in addition to the benefits for the Parish there may be tax benefits for you too. Please take one of the envelopes labelled **Planned Giving** from the table and fill out the Gift Aid Declaration Form and return to Fr. Michael. **Existing Gift Aid Parishioners;** if you have signed a **Gift Aid Declaration** in the past in favour of the **Westminster Roman Catholic Trustee (WRCDT),** but no longer pay **U.K. Income Tax**, you should formally **cancel** your Gift Aid Declaration. You should also notify any change of address and death. Please remember that under Gift Aid you only need to pay sufficient tax to cover any refunds that the Parish would claim on your donations. In the light of this if you need to cancel your Gift Aid Declaration please take and fill out one of the forms available and hand to Fr. Michael.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds donated go to projects in all parishes for the support of Marriage & Family life, Youth & Evangelisation and Social Outreach within Civil Society. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church.

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers, new rotas are available at the back of the Church.