Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

2nd Sunday of OT (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Ps 65:4
**All the earth shall bow down before you, O God,
and shall sing to you,
shall sing to your name, O Most High!**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:3. 5-6
*I will make you the light of the nations so that my
salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.*

PSALM: Ps 39:2.4.7-10. R.vv8.9
**R) Here I am, Lord!
I come to do your will.**

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. **(R)**

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. **(R)**

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. **(R)**

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. **(R)**

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:1-3
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
**Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens!
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: John 1:29-34
Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 22:5
You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



In typical mystical fashion, John the Evangelist reveals who Jesus really is, through the words of John the Baptist. Although, by his own admission, the latter says he does not know Jesus, he says that by his baptizing Jesus in the Jordan, Jesus was revealed as 'the Chosen One of God'. He also says that while he baptized only with water, Jesus came to baptize with the Holy Spirit. In fact, all of us, if we want to be followers of Jesus, must be in some way 'baptized in the Spirit'. This baptism in the Spirit can take place in many different ways. For some it is a feeling of being 'overwhelmed' by the Spirit, accompanied by certain physical manifestations. For others it is a clear moment of conversion, often through a moment of deep suffering, but sometimes it happens completely out of the blue. After such a moment we feel a strong call to follow Jesus in a radical way. It's a bit like someone falling in love. It is an overpowering feeling that brings us into close communion with Christ.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



III. THE COMMON GOOD AND PEACE IN SOCIETY

219. Nor is peace "simply the absence of warfare, based on a precarious balance of power; it is fashioned by efforts directed day after day towards the establishment of the ordered universe willed by God, with a more perfect justice among men".[179] In the end, a peace which is not the result of integral development will be doomed; it will always spawn new conflicts and various forms of violence.

220. People in every nation enhance the social dimension of their lives by acting as committed and responsible citizens, not as a mob swayed by the powers that be. Let us not forget that "responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation".[180] Yet becoming a people demands something more. It is an ongoing process in which every new generation must take part: a slow and arduous effort calling for a desire for integration and a willingness to achieve this through the growth of a peaceful and multifaceted culture of encounter.

179 Paul VI, Encyclical Letter Populorum Progressio (26 March 1967), 76: AAS 59 (1967), 294-295.
180 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Letter Forming Conscience for Faithful Citizenship (November 2007), 13.

GOSPEL CHILDHOOD
The 'Little Way' of St Therese of Lisieux for everyone*

ACCEPT YOURSELF AS YOU ARE

If you can accept yourself as you are you will come to accept others as different from you without trying to change them.

Part of accepting myself is realising deep down that I am important to God, who cares for me with all the tenderness that a parent lavishes on a loved child.

But in other ways I am unimportant. Nobody takes much notice of a little one. I have really to take on board that I am not the centre of the universe, that all things do not revolve around me and my needs. Others too have needs.

I try to accept peacefully the place others make for me in their lives, without trying to force on them my views and desires.

I am, and always will be, no more than a child who has to accept what is given rather than trying to control others and organise the world to fit into my own limited viewpoint.

Yes, I'll always have faults. I'll always have struggles with my particular temperament. But that doesn't matter. God loves me as I am, and so must I.

Living on Love is keeping within oneself
A great treasure in a clay vessel.
My Beloved, I am extremely weak.
I'm far from being an angel from heaven!
But if I fall at every moment
You are there with your grace, lifting me up.
You give me your help so that I can live on Love.

* Simplified and illustrated by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. First published in 2005 in Great Britain by: New City Unit 1 Polaris Centre 41 Brownfields Welwyn Garden City AL7 1AN https://www.newcity.co.uk/book-tag/focolare/ ISBN: 13:978-0904287-94-3

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SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 19TH JANUARY 2020

Saturday 18th January is the start of the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	John & Anne O'Donovan (RIP)
Sunday	9.00am	Tilak & Anna Khurwal (RIP)
	7.00pm	Churches Together in Redbourn – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Monday 20th January	11.45am	**NO MASS**
	2.00pm	Funeral Mass for Keith Harris of Peppard Close.
Friday 24th January	11.45 am	St. Frances de Sales, Bishop & Doctor – Deacon Pat Duffy (Ints)
Sunday 26th January	**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	The Coyle Family (Ints.)
		Abbie O'Rourke (RIP)
Sunday	9.00am	Christian Unity

Feast Days This Week: 21st January – St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
25th January – The Conversion of St. Paul, The Apostle.

Confessions are available after Saturday evening Mass and on request.

We offer our prayers and condolences to Emily and the family of Keith Harris who recently died.
The funeral will take place on the 20th January at 2.00pm at St John Fisher.

Please remember in your prayers: Sick; Nigel Clark, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Diane Boba.

Please remember in you prayers this week in The Churches Together List the residents of:
Church End, Heybrigge Close, Long Cutt, Hemel Hempstead Road, South Common, Gertrude Peake Place, Becks Close, Cleveland Road, Grange Close, Manse Court, Roe End Lane, William Street, Gill Hill, Pie Corner and Vicarage Gardens.

The Churches Together in Redbourn.
Sunday evening services in winter 2020 will be at the following venues:
19th January **St. John Fisher Church** Prayer for Christian Unity
26th January **St. Mary's Church** Evening worship
All services begin at 6.30pm *except for that on 19th January which will begin at* ***7.00pm.***

St. Albans Abbey Gateway Orchestra will be performing a charity concert at St. John Fisher Church, Redbourn, on Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm. Tickets, adults £10 and children under 16 £5, will be available after all Masses.

First Holy Communion Preparation Sessions; Fr. Michael will be getting in touch with families this week.