



*Prisoners' Sunday*

Our Mass today looks to the future. Because of the resurrection of Jesus the christian always has hope. This hope is the bright sun of cloudy days, it is light in the darkness of loneliness and of suffering, and the added joy of God's companionship and promise in happy times.



In today's Gospel Jesus seems to encourage us to think more of the living people around us than the dead: 'God is the God of the living not the dead.'

The Living and the dead are linked, and November is the month in which we express these links. We pray with and for our dead, hoping that they may pray for us. We have time to remember, in gratitude, what those gone before us were to us and did for us. In the words of Pope Francis: "Praying for the dead is, above all, a sign of gratitude for the witness they have left us, and the good they have done. It is a thanksgiving to the Lord for them and for their love and their friendship."

This faith is rooted in our faith in the communion of saints, a faith we express at every mass. Again Pope Francis: "The communion of saints indicates that we are all immersed in the life of God and live in His love. Everyone, living and dead, we are in communion, that is, we are all united! In union, united in the community of those who have been baptised, and those who have been nourished by the body of Christ and are part of the great family of God."

Today is Prisoner's Sunday so we remember prisoners everywhere and those who minister to them. Pope Francis speaking in 2016 linked today's Gospel message with a call for prisoners not to lose hope. "Whenever someone makes a mistake, the Father's mercy is all the more present, awakening repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace" God is even now the God of the living: lifting our hearts in hope of his care for us now and in eternity.

*Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.*

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy on us... Amen.

**THE GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING 2 Maccabees 7:1-2.9-14**

**A reading from the 2nd book of Maccabees.** There were seven brothers who were arrested with their mother. The king tried to force them to taste pig's flesh, which the Law forbids, by torturing them with whips and scourges. One of them, acting as spokesman for the others, said, 'What are you trying to find out from us? We are prepared to die rather than break the Law of our ancestors.'

With his last breath the second brother exclaimed, 'Inhuman fiend, you may discharge us from this present life, but the King of the world will raise us up, since it is for his laws that we die, to live again for ever.'

After him, they amused themselves with the third, who on being asked for his tongue promptly thrust it out and boldly held out his hands, with these honourable words, 'It was heaven that gave me these limbs, for the sake of his laws I disdain them; from him I hope to receive them again.' The king and his attendants were astounded at the young man's courage and his utter indifference to suffering.

When this one was dead they subjected the fourth to the same savage torture. When he neared his end he cried, 'Ours is the better choice, to meet death at men's hands, yet relying on God's promise that we

shall be raised up by him; whereas for you there can be no resurrection, no new life.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 16:1.5 - 6.8.15**

**R. I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.**

1. Lord, hear a cause that is just, pay heed to my cry. Turn your ear to my prayer: no deceit is on my lips. [R]
2. I kept my feet firmly in your paths; there was no faltering in my steps. I am here and I call, you will hear me, O God. Turn your ear to me; hear my words. [R]
3. Guard me as the apple of your eye. Hide me in the shadow of your wings. As for me, in my justice I shall see your face and be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory. [R]

**SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3.5**

**A reading from the 2nd letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians** May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father who has given us his love and, through his grace, such inexhaustible comfort and such sure hope, comfort you and strengthen you in everything good that you do or say.

Finally, brothers, pray for us; pray that the Lord's message may spread quickly, and be received with honour as it was among you; and pray that we may be preserved from the interference of bigoted and evil people, for faith is not given to everyone. But the Lord is faithful, and he will give you strength and guard you from the evil one, and we, in the Lord, have every confidence that you are doing and will go on doing all that we tell you. May the Lord turn your hearts towards the love of God and the fortitude of Christ.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to stand with confidence before the Son of Man. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL Luke 20:27-38 (\*shorter form in italics 20:27,34-38)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

*\*Some Sadducees - those who say that there is no resurrection - approached Jesus and they put this question to him,\* 'Master, we have it from Moses in writing, that if a man's married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well, then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally the woman herself died. Now, at the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife since she had been married to all seven?' **\*Jesus replied, 'The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they***

*are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive.\**

**The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, All bow for following three lines: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving devotion. Through Christ our Lord.

**AFTER THE CONSECRATION**

*The mystery of faith.* **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord.

Liturgical texts: concordat cum originali: \*Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin Other texts: cum permissu: †Dermot Farrell, Archbishop of Dublin. Excerpts from the English translation of the Roman Missal. © 2010, International Committee on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Used with permission. The Jerusalem version of the Scripture is copyright Darton, Longman & Todd & Doubleday & Co. Inc. Responsorial psalms are copyright The Grail & Geoffrey Chapman Ltd. Published by Logos Publications, 26 Tolk Valley Business Park, Ballygrogan Rd, Glasnevin, D11 WK38 Phone (01 830 6751).