

Saints Days this Week... 5th - 10th August

TUESDAY – THE TRANSFIGURATION Jesus goes up the mountain accompanied by Peter, John and James. Whilst at prayer, Jesus is transfigured - his glory as the Son of God is revealed. Moses, the Law Giver and Elijah, the great Prophet bear witness to Jesus and the Father speaks from heaven: "This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him." (Luke 9: 28-36)

FRIDAY – St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross Born in 1891, Edith Stein grew up in a German Jewish household, became an atheist at the age of fourteen, and converted to Catholicism during her philosophic studies. At the age of forty-two, she entered the Carmelites as Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. At her profession in 1938, in the face of growing German anti-Semitism, she told her prioress: "Human action cannot help us, but only the sufferings of Christ. My aspiration is to share them." In 1942, the Gestapo apprehended Teresa at the Carmel in Echt, Holland. Seven days later she perished in the gas chamber at Auschwitz. Pope John Paul II canonised her in 1998 as a "martyr for love" and co-patroness of Europe.

PARISH PRAYER GROUPS AND PRAYER TIMES

Monday Exposition & Rosary ~ St Wilfrid's, 7.30–8.30pm

St Bede's Prayer Group ~ Meets in church, Tuesday 7.30–9.00pm

Mother's Prayers ~ Coming together in each other's homes to pray for families. Further details from the Parish 01606 42440

Divine Mercy Prayer Group ~ Praying for the sick & dying. Further details from the Parish 01606 42440

Morning Prayer ~ Is prayed each weekday 9.05am, prior to 9.30am Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration ~ Sunday at St Wilfrid's 4.15 – 5.15pm

Exposition & Reconciliation ~ Saturday at St Wilfrid's 11.00-11.50am & on request

Web Sites ~ Parish: www.stjohnvianney.co.uk

Catholic Church in England & Wales: www.catholicnews.org.uk

Prayer Site: www.pray-as-you-go.org

Scripture Reflection: www.wednesdayword.org

Preparing to hear God's word...

**Next Sunday's Readings:
Nineteenth Sunday Year C
11th August 2019**

You Must Stand Ready, Strong in Faith



Today we begin a series of four passages from the Letter to the Hebrews **2nd Reading**. We commence our reading from ch.11, (**Hebrews 11:1-2,8-9**) with a hymn to faith. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, are praised for their faith, through which they already share in the rewards of God.

Similarly, in the **1st Reading** (**Wisdom 18:6-9**), it is faith that enables the Israelites, God's Chosen People, to keep vigil – on the night of the Passover – confident of God's saving love.

Psalms 32 *Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own*

Faith is also paramount in the **Gospel**, as Jesus addresses those who follow him. Make yourselves rich in the sight of God, he tells us; be prudent with your possessions, be vigilant, ready to greet the Lord when he returns.

“Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen”

Hebrews 11: 1-2

Wisdom 18: 6-9

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage. This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you. The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

As I settle to pray, I ask the Lord to be open to his word today.

“The latter part of the Book of Wisdom, from which this passage comes, is a poetic and allusive account of events leading up to the Exodus. Here is expressed the truth that the side of the coin which is more important still is God's call to Israel at the Exodus to become his people in a special way. Their enemies were destroyed, but much more permanent was the special relationship forged between God and themselves, the 'divine pact' struck on this occasion.”

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

***“Consider, children, a Christian's treasure is not on earth,
it is in heaven. Well then, our thoughts should turn
to where our treasure is...***

***We have a noble task: that of prayer and love.
To pray and to love, that is our happiness on earth.”***

St John Vianney

Luke 12: 32-48 (shorter form)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

I come to my place of prayer. I gently become aware of God's presence. When I am ready, I slowly read and re-read the Gospel.

As Christians, there must be a healthy tension in our lives. On one hand, we are called to rejoice in faith, confident that God's reign has begun and yet, on the other hand, we must not become complacent, as we still await the Lord's return in glory. Our lives must reflect Christ's victory over sin and death, but we must remain vigilant and ready to greet the Master when he comes again. How can we do this?

Notice the Eucharistic overtones in our Gospel: the themes of the “wedding” and the “table”, where the master himself serves the guests as at the Last Supper. “*See that you are dressed for action*” is a clear reference to the Passover. Jesus directly associates the Paschal meal with the waiting for his return. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we always do so, in readiness to greet him when he comes again: Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again!

How do I grow in my understanding of the Eucharist?

How do I prepare for, and celebrate the Sunday Eucharist?

How do I share the Risen Lord with others?