

Saints Days this Week... 10th - 17th August

WEDNESDAY – St. Maximilian Kolbe Born near Lodz (Poland), Maximilian died at Auschwitz on this day. As a conventual Franciscan priest, he used the printing press in Poland and in Japan to promote devotion to Mary. Interned in Auschwitz in 1941, he endured hard labour and offered his life in place of a fellow prisoner who had a family. He was condemned to death by starvation and was finally killed by lethal injection. He is remembered for his energy and poverty, his compassionate ministry and his self-sacrifice.

THURSDAY – THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY “Thus, the Blessed Mother's birth into heaven generates in us an ever new capacity to await God's future. Just as grace does not destroy but perfects our nature, so the glory of heaven will include our whole humanity, body and soul. That transformation of our material bodies to which we look forward one day has been accomplished – we know it now for certain – in her.”
(Magnificat Vol.9, No.11)

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:
Twentieth Sunday Year C
18th August 2019



Today all three readings speak profoundly about the same thing: following the Lord means that we shall suffer. This is never a popular theme. Often we really prefer that our faith become simply a personal comfort to us in time of need. We are not really at ease with a faith that demands that we speak up in terms of truth and justice and right.

The **1st Reading (Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10)** tells us what happened to Jeremiah when he spoke out against a particular war or battle. He advocated that the people surrender to the enemy and this infuriated the army leaders.

Jeremiah was maltreated and suffered throughout his life for the sake of his belief and his faith in God.

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, come to my aid!*

In the **2nd Reading** we hear the second of the four passages from Hebrews (**Hebrews 12: 1-4**). The author says that our Lord endured the cross for the sake of the joy which lay before him. The message for us is to stay close to Jesus throughout the sufferings we endure in our life in order to experience the joy and peace that comes from a relationship with him.

“Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.” Hebrews 12:2

Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10

The King's leading men spoke to the King, 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered, 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank. Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king, 'My lord King,' he said 'these men have done a wicked thing, treating the prophet Jeremiah like this; they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men with you from here and pull the prophet Jeremiah out of the well before he dies.'

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

In this reading the parallels between Jeremiah and Jesus cannot be missed. Both preached moral change and religious renewal. Both laced their preaching with the threat of God's wrath. Both suffered for their message. We face that challenge Jeremiah and Jesus laid before their audience.

When can we put aside our own petty rage to see the greater good? When do we stop our selfish behaviour to work for the just treatment of others?

*Let us ask our Father this day to deepen us in faith, to help us know the truth that sets us free and to seek peace and pursue it.
May God have mercy on us and on our world. Amen.*

Luke 12: 49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must receive, and how great is my distress till it is over! 'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided : three against two and two against three; son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother -in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

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.

The Gospel, from Luke, picks up this theme of discord. So often we think of the Gospel of Christ as a Gospel of Peace—but today's readings make sure that we are not naïve! True peace can only come with the following of the Lord. There may seem to be a peace which is basically not bothering one another. This is generally what is termed peace in our world. Or when there is no war, we speak of peace. Christian peace comes only with the doing of God's will.

Jesus can speak strongly about not bringing peace because when we begin to follow the Lord, it often puts us at odds with others. Even within Christian communities we may find strong differences and sometimes outright conflicts. Sometimes such differences and conflicts are truly based on striving to do God's will but generally they come about because we want to do things our way and are not willing to compromise.
(Monastery of Christ in the Desert)

How can I bring peace where there is discord?

How can I stay close to Jesus each day?

Where do I need to compromise with others this week?

If following Jesus seems difficult, don't be afraid, trust him, be confident that he is close to you, he is with you and he will give you the peace you are looking for and the strength to live as he would have you do. Pope Francis