

LECTIO DIVINA (Holy Reading)
PRAYING WITH THE SACRED SCRIPTURES.
Sunday 3 July 2022

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
For those who pray the Liturgy of the Hours, the Psalter takes Week Two

Before moving into prayer with the Sacred Scriptures, let us look at the week ahead in the Liturgy, the Social Justice Calendar and the Australian & NZ Church.

In the Liturgy:

No Memorials, Feasts or Solemnities.

In the Australian and New Zealand Catholic Church

03: Wilcannia-Forbes, Australia - Episcopal ordination of the Most Rev. Columba Macbeth-Green, 2014.

05: Broome, Australia - Anniversary of the death of the Most Rev. John Jobst, 2014.

08: Cairns, Australia - Anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral, 1968.

In the Social Justice Calendar:

14: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday.

On this day in 1995, the Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag were proclaimed official flags of Australia.

15: Youth Skills Day

16: 1945 - Detonation of the first atomic bomb, New Mexico, USA

18: Nelson Mandela, International Day. 1918: the birth of Nelson Mandela.

20: First Moon Landing (1969).

LET US NOW MOVE INTO PRAYER WITH THE SACRED TEXTS

The readings are:

Isaiah 66:10-14

Galatians 6:14-18

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

Lectio: Read the first text from the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 66, verses 10-14.

Read it slowly and pause for a while. Then read it a second time. In your prayer journal, note what has spoken to you in this text – a word, a phrase, a sentence.

Meditatio: Understanding the text so that we can immerse ourselves in it and make our response to it.

There is a note in a couple of commentaries and this note is a surprise: verse 10, “all that mourned over her.” The Samaritans had religiously kept the fast which commemorated Judah’s exile. We can look at Zechariah 7:3 to support this.

For verse 12, there is background in 60:4, 5, and 61:6

Last Sunday, we looked at the word “Jerusalem” from the four aspects promoted by St. John Cassian and taken up in the Middle Ages as the best understanding of the

sacred Scriptures. We saw that the tropological understanding of the word “Jerusalem” is that the word means the human soul.

Read the text now with this understanding in mind and our lives will be challenged and changed for the better.

Take time to ponder on this text in the days ahead as you go about your work, rest, recreation. Allow the Holy Spirit to work on the fibres of your heart and bring forth the melody of your response to this text. I share mine in *Evangelizatio* 1.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 65

The response is: LET ALL THE EARTH CRY OUT TO GOD WITH JOY.

Psalm 65 is simply headed: “A People’s Thanksgiving”. Thank you, O Lord, for all you have done for your people. There is a marked emphasis on the crossing of the Sea of Reeds – the Exodus. “He turned the sea into dry land, they passed through the river dry-shod.

“Come and hear, all you who fear (revere) God. I will tell you what He did for my soul.”

Lectio: Read the second text from Galatians 6:14-18.

Meditatio: This part of *Lectio Divina* is about explaining the text and reflecting as we hear the explanation (like the monks of the early centuries). Be aware, that we can easily read too quickly, or be distracted.

About *LECTIO DIVINA*, Blessed Columba Marmion says: “We read under the eye of God until the heart is touched and leaps into flame.”

In the New Jerome Biblical Commentary, we are told that chapter 6:11-18, is Paul’s signature, resume and farewell blessing.

From one who would know, Paul of Tarsus says that the Judaizers insist on Circumcision, and other legal obligations but they do not observe the Law in its entirety (verse 13).

In verse 14, Paul takes on the vanity of the Judaizers. He opposes it with his own boast: not self-reliance but dependence on the grace and favour of God. Cf. 1 Cor. 3:31 and 2 Cor 11:16-12:10

The whole Christ-event, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world is understood as follows: The world in this context means everything that is at enmity with God: the sphere of pleasure and ambition related to the flesh in which the Judaizers find their pleasure. To all this, Paul has died, not by some interior psychological or mystical experience, but through the historic event of Calvary (Cf. New Jerome Bib. Comm. 47:32).

Once again, this week Paul is being firm with the Galatians.

Pause and read the second text from the 13th Sunday. Now, read the second text for the 14th Sunday. If you pray only with your bible and not your Sunday missal, the texts are Galatians 5:1, and 13-18, and Galatians 6:14-18. The peace and mercy Paul wishes for here easily echoes the peace of the text from Isaiah.

While we are reading, pondering, listening to the Holy Spirit praying within us, we need to note what phrases, sentences or just single words are leaping out at us because the Holy Spirit is causing us to respond. What, in this text, is life-changing for us? I share my response in *Evangelizatio 2*.

The Gospel Verse is from Colossians 3:15 & 16.

MAY THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEARTS,
AND THE FULLNESS OF HIS MESSAGE LIVE WITHIN YOU.

***Lectio*: Read the Gospel text from Luke 10:1-12, & 17-20.**

Read it slowly and reflectively, and maybe a second time. Try to read aloud rather than with the mind. Listen to the text as you read.

Meditatio: This Gospel is a Scriptural feast for each of us. Some interesting notes from the New Jerome Biblical Commentary may help: Jesus is teaching about mission. The Old Testament text behind the number 72 seems to be Genesis 10:2-31 – the table of the nations of the world. Jesus had three reasons for sending them out in pairs: (1) mutual support. (2) bearing of witness to the truth of their testimony (Deut. 19:15). (3) living embodiment of the gospel of peace.

“Lambs among wolves” is a powerful image and it may have two meanings: (1) The Christian mission inaugurates a new era, but the missionaries may be defenseless against hostile powers. (2) The Christian mission inaugurates a new era in which the lamb will lie down with the wolf (Is 11:6).

Verse 18: In the ministry of Jesus and that of his Church, the powers of evil are attacked and overcome.

Read the text a number of times and listen to the Holy Spirit playing like a harpist on the fibres of your heart, to bring forth the melody of your response. I share my response in *Evangelizatio 3*.

EVANGELIZATIO: My lived response to the texts with which the Church exhorts me to pray. St. James says, “Be doers of the Word.” And the Book of Deuteronomy tells us that the Word of God is in our hands to do it. The Word of God is life-changing for me when I respond to it in a practical way.

1. If my soul is “Jerusalem”, do I console others, send them “flowing peace, like a river”? Do I listen to my children and grandchildren, cherish them and comfort them when they are upset? Am I there when they have life’s challenges, especially in teenage and adolescent years? The words “by Jerusalem you will be comforted.” These are words to children and grandchildren and others who need me. For me, there was another “Jerusalem”, my great-grandmother, small in stature, larger than life when it came to love. Her daughter, my great aunt, was also my godmother, graduating from nurses’ training in Armidale during the First World War, she went on to nurse the returned soldiers who were deranged by mustard gas, or without limbs. I feel her compassionate presence a lot since I have been

working on my family history. A godmother or godfather. Very special people: dedicated and loving from time to time. They follow us through life.

2. I feel called to respond, like Paul, to the historic event of Calvary and reject everything that is at enmity with God. I have done this many times in my life and sometimes I have spoken out against injustice, foul language, and disrespect for other persons. I haven't been popular in doing so, but that hasn't stopped me. Some world leaders and their support people are risking their lives by speaking out against Putin. His war is about "ambition related to the flesh". This is the root of a war which has decimated towns and villages in the Ukraine, sent Ukrainians into exile as refugees, imprisoned women and girls, resorting to rape and murder, left the sick in hospital basements, left the elderly to fend for themselves and on and on. Power, ambition, greed and dirty politics - the historic event of Calvary was caused by all of this, by all of the opposition Jesus experienced in his ministry.
3. For many generations this Gospel has been used to draw vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. However, every Christian has a vocation to follow Christ, and therefore this Gospel is for all. As we look over the world, we Christians are like lambs among wolves. May we continue the mission of Jesus to bring peace, justice and truth to all the nations. Today marks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday and the beginning of NAIDOC Week. As we join with First Nations people to celebrate these events, let us have the courage of those first disciples to "Get up! Stand up! And Show Up!"

Lectio Divina is about reading the Sacred Scriptures and reflecting on them from an informed background.

It is allowing the Holy Spirit to play on the fibres of my heart like a harpist, and bring forth the beauty of my response.

In responding to the text, my life is changed more and more into Christ.

