

Diocesan Commission for Liturgy, Vasai

(Prayer service for those who cannot attend Eucharist due to Corona Virus threat)

Tuesday, 24th March 2020

The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary

And she conceived by the Holy Spirit

Hail Mary

Behold the handmaid of the Lord

Be it done unto me according to your word

Hail Mary

And the Word was made Flesh

And dwelt among us

Hail Mary

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: Come back to me (86)

Head of the family: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

All : Amen

Penitential Act

Head: My dear family members, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves for this prayer service:

Head: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart, Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy

Head: You came to call sinners, Christ have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy.

Head: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us, Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy.

Head: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Let us pray: May the venerable exercises of holy devotion shape the hearts of your faithful, O Lord, to welcome worthily the Paschal Mystery and proclaim the praises of your salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-9,12

Reader: A Reading from the book of Ezekiel

The angel brought me to the entrance of the Temple, where a stream came out from under the Temple threshold and flowed eastwards, since the Temple faced east. The water flowed from under the right side of the Temple, south of the altar. He took me out by the north gate and led me right round outside as far as the outer east gate where the water flowed out on the right-hand side. The man went to the east holding his measuring line and measured off a thousand cubits; he then made me wade across the stream; the water reached my ankles. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across the stream again; the water reached my knees. He measured off another thousand and made me wade across again; the water reached my waist. He measured off another thousand; it was now a river which I could not cross; the stream had swollen and was now deep water, a river impossible to cross. He then said, 'Do you see, son of man?' He took me further, then brought me back to the bank of the river. When I got back, there were many trees on each bank of the river. He said, 'This water flows east down to the Arabah and to the sea; and flowing into the sea it makes its waters wholesome. Wherever the river flows, all living creatures teeming in it will live. Fish will be very plentiful, for wherever the water goes it brings health, and life teems wherever the river flows. Along the river, on either bank, will grow every kind of fruit tree with leaves that never wither and fruit that never fails; they will bear new fruit every month, because this water comes from the sanctuary. And their fruit will be good to eat and the leaves medicinal.'

Reader; The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 45(46):2-3,5-6,8-9ab

Response: The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

1. God is for us a refuge and strength,
a helper close at hand, in time of distress,
so we shall not fear though the earth should rock,
though the mountains fall into the depths of the sea. **Response**
2. The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within, it cannot be shaken;
God will help it at the dawning of the day. **Response**
3. The Lord of hosts is with us:
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
Come, consider the works of the Lord,
the redoubtable deeds he has done on the earth. **Response**

Gospel Acclamation

Ps50:12,14

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!
A pure heart create for me, O God,
and give me again the joy of your help.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

Gospel: John 5:1-3,5-16

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now at the Sheep Pool in Jerusalem there is a building, called Bethesda in Hebrew, consisting of five porticos; and under these were crowds of sick people – blind, lame, paralysed – waiting for the water to move. One man there had an illness which had lasted thirty-eight years, and when Jesus saw him lying there and knew he had been in this condition for a long time, he said, ‘Do you want to be well again?’ ‘Sir,’ replied the sick man ‘I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is disturbed; and while I am still on the way, someone else gets there before me.’ Jesus said, ‘Get up, pick up your sleeping-mat and walk.’ The man was cured at once, and he picked up his mat and walked away.

Now that day happened to be the sabbath, so the Jews said to the man who had been cured, ‘It is the sabbath; you are not allowed to carry your sleeping-mat.’ He replied, ‘But the man who cured me told me, “Pick up your mat and walk.”’ They asked, ‘Who is the man who said to you, “Pick up your mat and walk”?’ The man had no idea who it was, since Jesus had disappeared into the crowd that filled the place. After a while

Jesus met him in the Temple and said, ‘Now you are well again, be sure not to sin any more, or something worse may happen to you.’ The man went back and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had cured him. It was because he did things like this on the sabbath that the Jews began to persecute Jesus.

Reader : The Gospel of the Lord

All : Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection: In the narrative of the healing of the sick man at Bethesda the attitude of the Jews was remarkable, but not unusual. People see what they want to see. The Jews did not see a striking sign; they only saw an infringement of their law. Whatever may have the man’s physical suffering, Jesus was also interested in the fullness of the man’s ultimate experience of life. He wanted him to savour his new experience of being made well. To lose the wholeness of eternal life by the choice to sin would be far worse than sickness. In concluding a homily on this passage Pope Francis says: “Only by a conversion to the mercy of Jesus will the law be fulfilled, because the law is to love God and neighbour as ourselves.” (source: God’s Word, St. Pauls India)

The Lord’s Prayer

Head: At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Head: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Head : Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles; peace I leave to you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will, who live and reign forever and ever.

All : Amen.

Head : The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

The concluding rites

Let us pray: Purify our minds, O Lord, we pray, and renew them with this prayer service, that we may find help for our bodies now and likewise in times to come. Through Christ our Lord.

All : Amen

Head : May almighty God bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All : Amen

Head : Let us go in the peace of the Lord,

All : Amen

Hymn: I have decided (188)

Prayer for those infected by the Corona Virus

(To be said before the recessional hymn)

Almighty and ever merciful God,
You show your love to the entire universe.

Hear our prayers as we lift up
all the people infected by Corona virus
in different parts of the world.

We beg you to touch the victims and
their families with your healing touch.

We thank you for the persistent efforts
put in by the doctors to research
an effective solution to this virus.
May you bring success to their
tireless efforts in this field

We pray for the people working
through the governmental and health
organizations that they may be guided by you to
take appropriate measures to overcome this difficult situation
and work towards the safety of the people.

We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

