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Newsletter for the week of 23rd June 2024 Sunday Readings Cycle B Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Job 3:1,8-11; Psalm 106; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Mark 4:35-41

Saturday 22nd June 5.30pm 1st Mass of the 12th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 23rd June 10.30am Mass of the 12th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Monday 24th June Solemnity: Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Tuesday 25th June

Wednesday 26th June 11.30am Mass

Thursday 27th June (Optional: St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor of the Church)

Friday 28th June 1.00pm Mass (in St. Luke's Chapel, Macclesfield Hospital) St. Irenaeus, bishop, martyr

Saturday 29th June 10.00am Mass

10.30-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 29th June 5.30pm 1st Mass of the Solemn Holyday of Saints Peter & Paul, Apostles

Sunday 30th June 10.30am Mass of the Solemn Holyday of Saints Peter & Paul,

Readings for SS Peter & Paul Solemnity Acts 12:1-11; Psalm 23; 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18; Matthew 16: 13-19

CRAFT CLUB

Next Wed 26th June 12.15-2.30pm Craft Club meeting, then on Wed 10th July

QUIZ THE 7 CANDIDATES! GENERAL ELECTION HUSTINGS in MACCLESFIELD

Mon 1st July 7.30- 9.00pm at St. Michael's in the Market Square. Doors open at 7.10pm. Get a FREE ticket to be sure of admission since it was full up at the last 2019 election from <https://buytickets.at/macchustingsge2024/1283759>

SVP'S & CAFOD'S GENERAL ELECTION BRIEFINGS

Tackling poverty and injustice are among the important issues politicians should act on. St Vincent de Paul Society & CAFOD have produced a guide for Catholics for the General Election, with suggested questions to ask candidates. See cafod.org.uk/encounter or svp.org.uk/encounter for more information.

PARISH COMMUNITY FOOD FESTIVAL

Sat 13th July 12noon- 2.00pm will be held in the Community Room & outside on the front with a free Barbeque & refreshments, shared table (with ethnic food encouraged) and a castle. Everyone is welcome- bring your family and friends! Please put your name down on the lists with the dish you wish to bring along to share if you are able .



lawn
bouncy
one of

CALLED TO THE PRIESTHOOD?

Have you considered a vocation to the Diocesan Priesthood in imitation of Jesus the Good Shepherd? See our new website at shrewsburyvocations.org. for more information. To further explore God's call for your life & learn about opportunities for discernment, email the diocesan vocations director at vocationsdirector@dioceseofshrewsbury.org For more resources, see the National Office for Vocation at www.ukvocation.org and www.ukpriest.org

CASTLERIGG RETREAT CENTRE in the LAKE DISTRICT

Castlerigg Manor is the retreat centre of the Diocese of Lancaster, based in Keswick in the Lake District It has 72 beds, 7 acres of grounds with a chapel, large & small group meeting rooms and is 10 mins walk from Keswick & Derwentwater. It is offering a special rate of £81per person including meals for some weekends from September until April 2025 Contact Business Manager, Adrienne – business@castleriggmanor.co.uk

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Last Sunday Collection £341.95

Day for Life £ 43.85

GET IN TOUCH QUICKLY –IF YOU ARE SICK If you or your relative enters Macclesfield Hospital let Fr. Peter know as soon as possible tel: 01625 423576 or by e-mail st.edmacc@gmail.com

DIARY of EVENTS

- Next Sun 30th June Solemnity of SS. Peter & Paul – Peter's Pence Collection

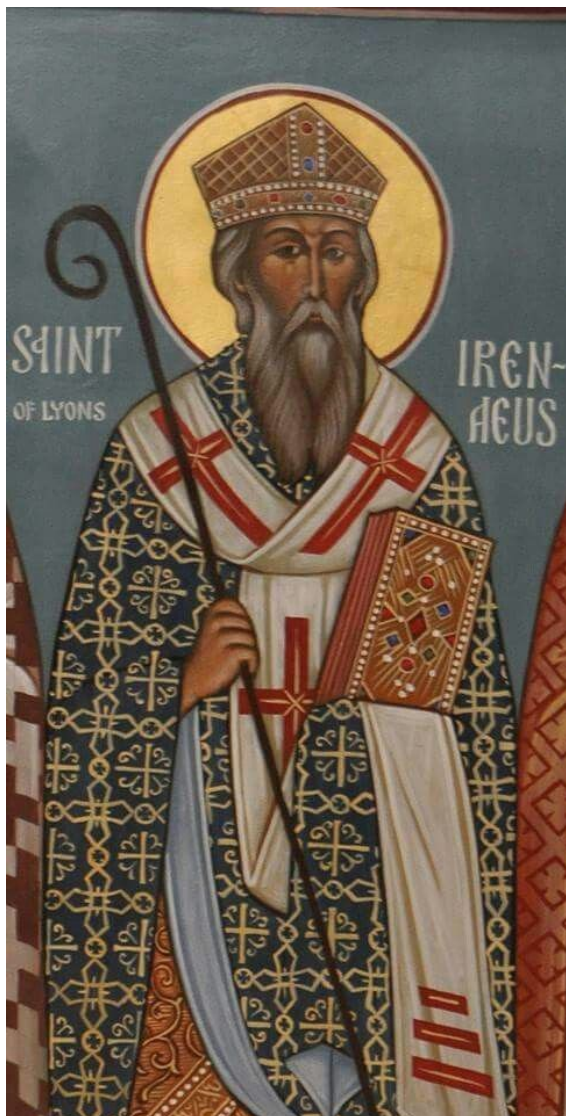
- Sun 30th June 12.30pm Catenian President's Mass

- Thurs 4th July General Election- Community Room whole day use as polling Station

- Tues 9th July P.P.C. meeting 6.30pm in the C. Room

- Sun 14th July Sea Sunday – Day of Prayer for Seafarers & collection for the Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris)

ST. IRENAEUS: Celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church on 28th June , and by Eastern Catholics of the Byzantine tradition on 23rd , Saint Irenaeus of Lyons was a second-century bishop, influential writer & martyr in the city of Lyon in valley of the River Rhone in France.



Irenaeus born about 135AD in modern day Turkey, was raised in a Christian family in Smyrna, fifty miles north of Ephesus, learned the faith from Saint Polycarp who learned from Saint John the Apostle. After Irenaeus' ordination as a priest, he ministered in modern-day Lyon, France. Around 177, Lyon's Christian community sent the well-respected Irenaeus to Rome to assist the pope with a theological dispute over a heretical teaching. The mission likely spared his life. While he was in Rome, a severe persecution of the Church in Lyon resulted in the martyrdom of roughly fifty Christians, including the bishop. Upon returning to Lyon, Irenaeus was chosen as the next bishop.

As Bishop of Lyon, Irenaeus was a faithful pastor with a profound understanding of the Gospel. Energetic in his evangelization efforts, he sent missionaries to convert those who adhered to pagan beliefs. As errors concerning the faith emerged, Irenaeus was influential in guiding the newly formed Christian communities. He is known for two writings, "Against Heresies" and "Demonstration of the Apostolic Teaching," that constitute what is considered the first catechism of the Catholic faith. It is generally held that Irenaeus was martyred in 202 AD during the persecution of Septimius Severus which was particularly severe in the area of Gaul around Lyon

The most prevalent heresy in the early Church was what is now known as Gnosticism. Gnosticism is a broad term with many smaller deviations that claimed that true knowledge was beyond the grasp of the ordinary person. Only true intellectuals were privileged to possess

a secret knowledge or insight related to human nature, God, and the universe that was necessary for eternal salvation.

Irenaeus explained heretical groups' errors by demonstrating that the Gnostics employed poor reasoning, borrowed their ideas from popular stories, and rejected the Rule of Faith handed down from the Apostles. He articulated that Christ's life, sufferings, death, and resurrection were central to human salvation and that we are all saved and made one through Christ's humanity, being reunited with the Father. Irenaeus carefully expounded on the Old and New Testaments, showing that all could easily understand and embrace the faith handed down from Jesus, to the Apostles, to the wider Church.

In a General Audience, Pope Benedict XVI said: "Irenaeus tells us, there is no secret doctrine concealed in the Church's common Creed. There is no superior Christianity for intellectuals. The faith publicly confessed by the Church is the common faith of all. This faith alone is apostolic, it is handed down from the Apostles, that is, from Jesus and from God" (March 28, 2007).

Irenaeus' teachings aided the early Church in navigating through confusion, and his writings were among the first comprehensive catechetical instructions of the early Church. At the Second Vatican Council, Irenaeus was one of the most quoted of the Church Fathers. In 2022, Saint Irenaeus was declared a Doctor of the Church under the title "Doctor of Unity." This unique title points Catholics of the East and West to the foundations of faith that we share with every other Apostolic Church and with whom reunification is continuously sought.



Encountering Christ

The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families



Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross and remain still for a minute of settling silence.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

1

Read The Gospel for Sunday 23rd June 2024 JESUS CALMS THE STORM

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'

Taken from Mark 4:35-41 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

2

Reflect After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

Jesus certainly seems to have chosen a pretty dim and unappreciative group of disciples. They do call him 'Master', but after all the wonders he has performed they still don't really trust him, and have no hesitation about addressing him rudely and brusquely. Did you think, 'Just like me'? Well, perhaps I am just as untrusting. We often behave as though Jesus were quietly snoozing, quite unconcerned about our troubles and worries, as we struggle hopelessly, up to our necks in the mud and sinking rapidly. However, once Jesus' attention has been roused, once the disciples have put their trust in him, he effortlessly remedies the situation. This incident is the climax of a series of wonders, when we see Jesus' authority gradually increasing. First he imperiously called the disciples and they followed. Then he taught authoritatively in the synagogue as no other had ever taught. Next he had the effrontery to forgive sins, as only God can do. Now he controls the elements. Only God controls the wind and the waves, as in the psalms God 'walks on the backs of the waves'. The disciples are awe-struck; they react with astonishment. But, just like me too, they soon forget again and are surprised when Jesus comes to their rescue.

What are the qualities required by a disciple of Christ? Why did Jesus choose such an unappreciative bunch?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

3

Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

4

Pray for Families

This Wednesday's word for our school families is CALM!

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as:

St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 23rd June 2024**



1st Reading: Job 38.1. 8-11

God Responds to Job's Agony

From the heart of the tempest the Lord gave Job his answer. He said: Who pent up the sea behind closed doors when it leapt tumultuous out of the womb, when I wrapped it in a robe of mist and made black clouds its swaddling bands; when I marked the bounds it was not to cross and made it fast with a bolted gate? Come thus far, I said, and no farther: here your proud waves shall break.



The Book of Job is a brilliant, evocative piece of writing, exposing in all its anguish the problem of the suffering of innocent people. It is a timeless plaint, expressing the incomprehension and frustration of all those who suffer undeservedly. It may well have been provoked by the second generation of exiles in Babylon, suffering for sins not their own. But Job articulates a problem which brings agony in every age. Why do I suffer? Why should I be subjected to long and humiliating illness? At the beginning of the saga, Job is so wound up that he curses the very day he was born. Throughout his struggle to understand, he has a love-hate relationship with God, wanting to be free of God's persecuting hand, but at the same time depending on and attached to that same protecting hand, confident that there is a solution. Despite what he sees as God's unacceptable bullying, he remains convinced that God's love will never forsake him. The two conflicting emotions boil together throughout the Book, until God gives his response, part of which we hear in today's reading. This final vision of God's incomparable wisdom and glory convinces Job that God's purposes are beyond human reasoning. Job is calmed and comforted by the experience of the awesome and incomprehensible glory of God.

How is the suffering of the innocent compatible with the idea of a loving God?



2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

The New Creation

The love of Christ overwhelms us when we reflect that if one man has died for all, then all men should be dead; and the reason he died for all was so that living men should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised to life for them.

From now onwards, therefore, we do not judge anyone by the standards of the flesh. Even if we did once know Christ in the flesh, that is not how we know him now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here.



The reading of Second Corinthians, begun before Lent, has been interrupted by the whole season of Lent and Eastertide with its accompanying festivals. At this point in the letter, Paul is explaining that the Resurrection of Christ has radically changed everything. In this new creation all our standards, hopes and expectations have undergone a transformation. He is perhaps already tilting at people who prided themselves on having known Jesus during his earthly life, and pitted their authority against Paul's own. Certainly later in the letter, he sets out to dispute the claims of some people of Jewish background who considered themselves 'super-apostles'. Salvation is not achieved by this knowledge of the earthly Jesus. The message of the gospel makes sense only in the light of the Resurrection. The Risen Christ is the firstborn from the dead, and his Resurrection is the model for ours. This is the ultimate answer to Job's question: whatever sorrows earthly life may bring, if we are baptised into Christ's death, we will also share his Resurrection. We already share Christ's life and are being transformed into him. The life we are experiencing now is only a preparation for its fulfilment in Christ's Resurrection.

Is Paul exaggerating when he says that with the Resurrection everything old has passed away?

...we will also share his Resurrection...

The Wednesday Word Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**