

DEANERY OF ST EDMUND CAMPION

ENGLISH MARTYRS—

VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE PASTORAL AREA

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

East Hendred Catholic Parish

Week 13B *Per Annum*

27th June – 4th July 2021



SS Peter & Paul (29th June)

Reflection

SS Peter & Paul (29th June)

THE SOLEMNITY of Saints Peter and Paul is a liturgical feast in honour of the martyrdom in Rome of the apostles Saint Peter and Saint Paul which is observed on 29 June. The celebration is of ancient origin, the date selected being the anniversary either of their death or of the translation of their relics.

The celebration is a solemnity and a holy day of obligation in Britain. On this feast, newly created metropolitan archbishops receive the primary symbol of their office, the pallium, from the pope. The feast is particularly observed in Rome because St Paul and St Peter are patron saints of the eternal city.

For Eastern Orthodox and some Eastern Catholics Christians this feast also marks the end of the Apostles' Fast (which began on the Monday following All Saints' Sunday, the second Monday after Pentecost). It is considered a day of recommended attendance, whereon one should attend the All-Night Vigil (or at least Vespers) on the eve, and the Divine Liturgy on the morning of the feast.

In recent decades, this feast, along with that of Saint Andrew, has been of importance to the ecumenical movements as an occasion on which the pope and the Patriarch of Constantinople have taken part in services designed to bring them closer to intercommunion. During the pontificate of Pope St John Paul II this was reflected in the encyclical *Ut unum sint*.

St Peter and St Paul did not always get on. There was a dispute in Antioch (see Galatians 2:11-14). One view is that it was not so much that St Peter thought that the Gospel ought to be preached to the Jews and to Jewish converts whereas St Paul thought that it should be preached to the Gentiles but that St Peter was a bridge between the opposing views of St James the Less, leader of the Church in Jerusalem, who believed that the Gospel was for the Jews and St Paul who focused mostly on the Gentile mission.

Fr Andrew

WEEK 13 YEAR 1

27th June – 4th July 2021

All masses live-streamed www.churchservices.tv/easthundred
please book for Sunday masses: hundred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St Mary's is usually open each day from 9am until late afternoon.

SUNDAY

External Solemnity of ST JOHN THE BAPTIST (Secondary Patron) [White]

27th June 9.30am Parish Mass RIP Sheila Shepherd

SUNDAY 13B Per Annum [Green]

27th June 6pm Holy Mass Pro populo

Monday 28th June 9.15am Votive Mass of the Holy Trinity [White]
In Thanksgiving (Julie Lazarus)

SS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES [Red]

Tuesday 29th June 9.15am Holy Mass

Wednesday 30th June *First Martyrs of the Church of Rome* [Red]

9.15am Holy Mass
RIP Paolo MURGIA (Ramona Frearson)

Thursday 1st July St Oliver Plunkett, Bishop & Martyr [Red]

9.15am Holy Mass FM Canon Raab 1945

Friday 2nd July *Feria* [Purple]

9.15am Requiem Mass Holy Souls

Saturday 3rd July **St Thomas, Apostle** [Red]

No Mass

SUNDAY 14B Per Annum [Green]

4th July 9.30am Parish Mass Pro populo

11am First Holy Communion Mass
(by invitation)

6pm Holy Mass

CONTACT DETAILS

Fr Andrew: 01235 835038 or 07976 437979

aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

hundred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

East Hendred Catholic Parish

NOTICEBOARD

SUNDAY 27TH JUNE

Today, because of its importance, we are celebrating the Nativity of St John the Baptist (24th June) as an External Solemnity at the 9.30am Mass. We shall celebrate Sunday 13B, as is asked of us, at the 6pm Mass. In this bulletin there is a Mass Sheet for both the Nativity of St John the Baptist and for the Sunday. We hope this is not confusing!

FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY

Next Sunday, 4th July, there will be a Mass at 11am for children receiving Holy Communion for the first time. This Mass is by invitation only. There will be Mass at 9.30am and 6pm as usual.

BOOKING FOR MASS

From Sunday 4th July, there will be no need to book for the 6pm Mass. As with the weekday morning masses, demand does not outstrip supply. Nonetheless we are required to carefully note who comes, in case of infection alerts, and so we ask you to sign in on Sunday night and sit as allocated by the steward. We hope to re-introduce a little spontaneity into the planning of your weekend.....

CHURCH SERVICES LIVESTREAM

On Sunday 20th June, there were 231 hits from 60 machines, with 107 remaining on-line long enough to take part in Mass. 52 machines were in the UK, 8 in the rest of the world.

BOOKING FOR MASS AT ST MARY'S

Please book for 9.30am, and 6pm Sunday Masses before 12 noon on Fridays hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk On Saturday contact Fr Andrew on aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Space limited. Book early. Masks and social distancing required.

WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Are you in the habit of looking up and using our website? This Bulletin appears each week on the website www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk Many people look at our East Hendred Catholic Parish page on Facebook.



CHARITY: DIDCOT

To help with supplying the Didcot Foodbank, contact Veronica Paget: veronicapaget@hotmail.com or leave suitable food outside her front door.

CHARITY: WANTAGE

Jackymattam@btinternet.com helps with the poor locally. Contact her about what practical help she needs. It is usually children's clothes &c.

GIVING TO THE PARISH BY REGULAR STANDING ORDER OR GIFT

BANK DETAILS: PRCDTR East Hendred, St Mary

Sort Code: 309304 Account Number: 00877183

To arrange Gift Aid, contact : hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

A donation to the parish may be made on www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

CHILDREN'S PAGES

Special stuff for Sunday 27th June, follows on the next couple of pages. Morning Prayer on Livestream is at 9am.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY DURING THE SUMMER

In place of the weekly pages we have been publishing, we are offering access to a website of the SDC Children's Liturgy Resource. All you need to do is click on this link: <http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/>

YOUNG CATHOLICS

The **Fanning the Flame Camp for Young Catholics, age 12 - 18**, will take place Monday 16th - Fri 20th August. If you are interested, details at www.fanningtheflame.co.uk Cost £130. It is usually held at the Dominican Priory in the New Forest but this year it will be at the Kintbury Retreat Centre, near Newbury. If you would like to support teenagers whose families struggle to pay for this camp, then please consider making a donation to sr.veronicabrennan@gmail.com

Thirteenth Sunday Year (B)

Sunday 27th June 2021

Jesus Gives New Life

Mark 5: 21-24, 35-43)

A large crowd had gathered round Jesus, when a man called Jairus came to him and pleaded.

“Master my little girl is dying! Please come and take her in your arms, so she will be well again.”

Jesus set off with him, but on the way a servant met them and told them the girl was dead. Jesus turned to Jairus and said, “Do not be afraid, just trust me.”

At the house everyone was crying and feeling sad, but Jesus told them, “Don’t cry, the little girl is not dead, only sleeping.”

Then they made fun of Jesus! They knew the difference between someone who is sleeping and someone who is dead. Sending everyone else away, Jesus took Jairus and his wife and the disciples James, John, and Peter, up to the room where the little girl lay. Gently taking her hand, Jesus said quietly, “Little girl, get up!”

The little girl got up and walked around the room. They were all so amazed they didn’t know what to say or do next, until Jesus said, “Give her something to eat, she must be hungry.”

Reflection

Jairus trusted and believed in Jesus, and yet he was still amazed and filled with wonder by the miracle before his eyes.

Jesus had brought his daughter back to life. Everyone in the room had seen the power of God at work changing death into life!

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, today we pray for people who are ill in mind or body.

In your compassion and love, reach out and touch them with your healing power. Amen

**The Complete Children’s Liturgy Book by Katie Thompson ©1995
Kevin Mayhew Ltd**



Speak, Lord



Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24
Psalm 29
2 Corinthians 8:7,9,13-15
Mark 5:21-43

SUNDAY LITURGY FOR CHILDREN

Year B — 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time



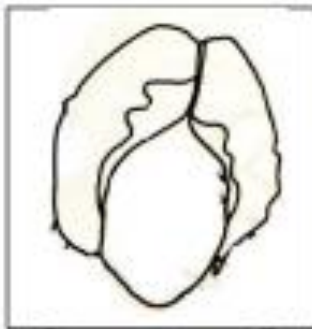
JESUS GIVES LIFE

Listen to today's gospel story then fill in the names of people mentioned in the story and complete the drawings.



J _____

A large crowd gathered round him.



A W _____

In the crowd was healed by Jesus. She had been ill for _____ years.

J _____ told Jesus about his sick daughter.



P _____, J _____ and J _____ who entered Jairus's house with Jesus.



JESUS said to the girl

_____.
At this, she got up and began to walk.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS



HOLY FATHER'S JUNE PRAYER INTENTION

Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

HOLY FATHER'S JULY PRAYER INTENTION

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

FIRST COMMUNION GROUPS

Pray for children are concluding First Communion Preparation through St Amand's School: Felicity, Keeleigh, Elijah, Anna, Eamonn, Luca, Mia, Isobel, Julia, Stephen, Thomas. Pray also for George and Toby from Hendreds' Primary School, undertaking preparation with Mary Harrison.

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Baby Martha, Sid Wallace, Dame Catherine, Diana France, John Castle, Petal Connell, Daniel Cuevas, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Karen Greig, Kitty Teasdale, Mary McNichol, Andrew Gunn, Elizabeth Gunn, Des McNichol, Christine Robinson, Rose

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Week 27th June - 3rd July: Sheila Shepherd, Myles Byrne, Francis Rivers.

CARMELITE CONFERENCES

Scripture and Spirituality Conferences are run from Carmelite Friary on Boar's Hill (which has been local to us and will be again once we get beyond the Zoom-only stage).

Key dates at present are 10th-11th July for a Conference on St John of the Cross and 7pm on 11th July for an event called 'Teresa's Four Waters in Word, Image, and Song'.

For further details, contact: ruth.preston@carmelite.org.uk

East Hendred Catholic Parish



Nativity of St John the Baptist

27th June 2021

9.30am Mass

**Antiphons,
Prayers and
Readings**

Entrance Antiphon

Fuit homo

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came to testify to the light, to prepare a people for the Lord.

Collect

O God, who raised up Saint John the Baptist to make ready a nation fit for Christ the Lord: give your people, we pray, the grace of spiritual joys and direct the hearts of all the faithful into the ways of salvation and peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-6(RSV)

Listen to me, O coastlands,
and hearken, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
³ And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
⁴ But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God.'

⁵ And now the LORD says,

who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the eyes of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

⁶ he says:

'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the preserved of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Psalm 139:1-3, 13-15 R/ 14

R/ I thank you who wonderfully made me.

O Lord, you search me and you know me.
You yourself know my resting and my rising;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down;
you know all my ways through and through. **R/**

For it was you who formed my inmost being,
knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you who wonderfully made me;
how wonderful are your works,
which my soul knows well! **R/**

My frame was not hidden from you,
When I was being fashioned in secret
and moulded in the depths of the earth. **R/**

Second Reading

Acts 13:22-26 (RSV)

Paul said: God raised up David to be the king of our ancestors; of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' ²³ Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴ Before his coming John had preached a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.' ²⁶ Brethren, sons of the family of

Abraham, and those among you that fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.

Alleluia

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

As for you little child you shall be called a prophet of God the Most High: You shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare his ways before him. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

Luke 1:57-66, 80 (RSV)

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ And her neighbours and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zechari'ah after his father, ⁶⁰ but his mother said, 'Not so; he shall be called John.' ⁶¹ And they said to her, 'None of your kindred is called by this name.' ⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, 'His name is John.' And they all marvelled. ⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. ⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbours. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; ⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, 'What then will this child be?' For the hand of the Lord was with him...⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Prayer over the Offerings

We place these offerings on your altar, O Lord, to celebrate with fitting honour the nativity of him who both foretold the coming of the world's Saviour and pointed him out when he came. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Preface

De missione Præcursoris

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord. In his Precursor, Saint John the Baptist, we praise your great glory, for you consecrated him for a singular honour among those born of women. His birth brought great rejoicing; even in the womb he leapt for joy at the coming of human salvation. He alone of all the prophets pointed out the Lamb of redemption. And to make holy the flowing waters, he baptised the very author of Baptism and was privileged to bear him supreme witness by the shedding of his blood. And so, with the Powers of heaven, we worship you constantly on earth, and before your majesty without end we acclaim: Holy, holy, holy &c.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *after St Alphonsus Liguori (18th cent.)*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Even if I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for you.

Communion Antiphon *Per viscera*

Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.

Prayer after Communion

Having feasted at the banquet of the heavenly Lamb, we pray, O Lord, that finding joy in the nativity of Saint John the Baptist, your Church may know as the author of her rebirth the Christ whose coming John foretold. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Salve Regina

Scripture Reading (Week 13 [Year 1] of Ordinary Time)

Sunday 13B (6pm)

	Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24	
	2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15	Mark 5:21-43
Monday	Genesis 18:16-23	Matthew 8:18-22
SS PETER & PAUL	Acts 12:1-11	
	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18	Matthew 16:13-19
Wednesday	Genesis 21:5, 8-20	Matthew 8:28-34
Thursday	Genesis 22:1-19	Matthew 9:1-8
Friday	Genesis 23:1-4; 24:1-8, 62-67	Matthew 9:9-13
Saturday	Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29	Matthew 9:14-17
Sunday 14 B	Ezekiel 2:1-5	
	2 Corinthians 12:2-10	Mark 6:1-13

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East Hendred Catholic Parish



Sunday 13 (B)

27th June 2021

6pm Mass

**Antiphons,
Prayers and
Readings**

Entrance Antiphon

All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy. *Omnes gentes Ps 47:1*

Collect

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light: grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 (RSV)

God did not make death,
and he does not delight in the death of the living.
For he created all things that they might exist,
and the generative forces of the world are wholesome,
and there is no destructive poison in them;
and the dominion of Hades is not on earth.
For righteousness is immortal.
For God created man for incorruption,
and made him in the image of his own eternity,
but through the devil's envy death entered the world,
and those who belong to his party experience it.

Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13 R/ 2

R/ I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.

I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up,
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have lifted up my soul from the grave,
restored me to life from those who sink into the pit. **R/**

Sing psalms to the Lord, you faithful ones,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts a moment; his favour all through life .
At night come tears, but dawn brings joy. **R/**

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on me;
be my helper, O Lord.
You have changed my mourning into dancing,
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. **R/**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15(RSV)

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in your love for us—see that you excel in this gracious work also... For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.... I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their want, so that their abundance may supply your want, that there may be equality. As it is written, 'He who gathered much had nothing over, and he who gathered little had no lack.'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, **alleluia!** Your words are Spirit Lord and they are life:
You have the message of eternal life. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

Mark 5:21-43 (RSV)

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him; and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Ja'irus by name; and seeing him, he fell at his feet, and besought him, saying, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, 'If I touch even his garments, I shall be made

well.' And immediately the haemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone forth from him, immediately turned about in the crowd, and said, 'Who touched my garments?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had been done to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?' But ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. When they came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, he saw a tumult, and people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a tumult and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, 'Tal'itha cu'mi'; which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.' And immediately the girl got up and walked; for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were overcome with amazement. And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who graciously accomplish the effects of your mysteries: grant, we pray, that the deeds by which we serve you may be worthy of these sacred gifts. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface

V De creatione

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For you laid the foundations of the world and have arranged the changing of times and seasons; and set humanity over the whole world in all its wonder, to rule in your name over all you have made and for ever praise you in your mighty works. And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim: Holy, holy, holy &c.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *after St Alphonsus Liguori (18th cent.)*

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Even if I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus. There is room in my heart for you.

Communion Antiphon *Benedic, anima mea*

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all within me, his holy name. *Cf Ps 103:1*

Prayer after Communion

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received fill us with life, O Lord, we pray, so that, bound to you in lasting charity, we may bear fruit that lasts for ever. Through Christ our Lord.

Salve Regina

Scripture Reading (Week 13 [Year 1] of Ordinary Time)

Monday Genesis 18:16-23 Matthew 8:18-22

Ss PETER & PAUL Acts 12:1-11

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 **Matthew 16:13-19**

Wednesday Genesis 21:5, 8-20 Matthew 8:28-34

Thursday Genesis 22:1-19 Matthew 9:1-8

Friday Genesis 23:1-4; 24:1-8, 62-67 Matthew 9:9-13

Saturday Genesis 27:1-5, 15-29 Matthew 9:14-17

Sunday 14 B Ezekiel 2:1-5

2 Corinthians 12:2-10 **Mark 6:1-13**

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FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

28th June – 2nd July 2021

Monday in Week 13 [Year 1]

28th June

Reading

Genesis 18:16-23 (RSV)

Judgment pronounced on Sodom

¹⁶ Then the men set out from [Mamre], and they looked toward Sodom; and Abraham went with them to set them on their way. ¹⁷ The LORD said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ seeing that Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by him?^[a] ¹⁹ No, for I have chosen^[b] him, that he may charge his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice; so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.' ²⁰ Then the LORD said, 'Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomor'rah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry which has come to me; and if not, I will know.'

²² So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom; but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham drew near, and said, 'Wilt thou indeed destroy the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?' ²⁶ And the LORD said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.' ²⁷ Abraham answered, 'Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you

destroy the whole city for lack of five?’ And he said, ‘I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.’ ²⁹ Again he spoke to him, and said, ‘Suppose forty are found there.’ He answered, ‘For the sake of forty I will not do it.’ ³⁰ Then he said, ‘Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.’ He answered, ‘I will not do it, if I find thirty there.’ ³¹ He said, ‘Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.’ He answered, ‘For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.’ ³² Then he said, ‘Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.’ He answered, ‘For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.’ ³³ And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Reflection

THE SIN of Sodom and Gomorrah was not that, in those cities, people were attracted sexually to people of the same sex. Homosexual persons, says the Church, must be ‘accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity (CDF Letter *On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons* (1986), 4, 7). The ‘very grave’ sin referred to in the Bible (Gen 18:20) certainly involved homosexual acts, but acts of depravity and lust with strangers, not intimacy between friends. Sodom and Gomorrah were proverbially licentious cities (2 Peter 1:6-7) and, though flourishing and wealthy, seemed to have been suddenly destroyed in the middle of the second millennium BC, and not to have recovered for well over half a millennium. Most biblical catastrophes attract an explanation and, like the story of Noah, there is probably some group memory of a terrible calamity which lies behind the story of the depraved cities. What is rather more interesting than the goings on in Sodom and Gomorrah is the account of Abraham bargaining with God to save the inhabitants of the city. The bargaining intensifies: we go from fifty righteous persons, to forty-five, to forty, to twenty, to ten. In the end God spares the inhabitants of the wicked city for the sake of ten righteous men who do not deserve to be destroyed. This bargaining with God is an established – or rather became an established – tradition in the Jewish Faith. It became a typical rabbinical way of going on and we are well on the way in this numerical wrangling to discovering the unique value of every individual in the eyes of God.

SS PETER & PAUL

Tuesday 29th June

Reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8, [9-16]. 17-18 (RSV)

Paul's Farewell

I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

[⁹ Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessaloní'ca; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you; for he is very useful in serving me. ¹² Tych'icus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Tro'as, also the books, and above all the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will requite him for his deeds. ¹⁵ Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defence no one took my part; all e

¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the word fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Reflection

THE STORY of Paul's arrest, and trials can be pieced together from the Acts of the Apostles. After being arrested and taken to Caesarea, Paul was brought before Felix the Governor who was not unsympathetic. He adjourned the hearing until the tribune, Lysias, was available (Acts 24) and Paul was kept in custody – a form of house arrest – for two years. The new Governor, Festus, was asked to return Paul to Jerusalem for trial but Paul then made an appeal to Caesar, as a Roman citizen, which got him out of a hostile climate. He sailed for Rome but was shipwrecked, famously, at Malta (Acts 28). For two years in Rome (AD 60-62) Paul awaited trial, and spent his time preaching. We learn from Irenaeus (second century) that Peter and Paul founded the Church in Rome and that Linus was appointed, after Peter, as bishop. As a Roman citizen, Paul

would have been beheaded rather than crucified and we hear of Paul's martyrdom from I Clement (AD 95-96) and Ignatius (AD110) and from several sources we infer that he died under Nero, sometime between 64 and 68 AD. His place of burial was marked by the Emperor Constantine with a church and the present day Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls, a nineteenth century building, still contains what is believed to be St Paul's final resting place.

Wednesday in Week 13 [*Year 1*]

30th June

Reading

Genesis 21:5, 8-20 (RSV)

Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

⁵ Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ... ⁸ And the child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac.' ¹¹ And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, 'Be not displeased because of the lad and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your descendants be named. ¹³ And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring.' ¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went, and sat down over against him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, 'Let me not look upon the death of the child.' And as she sat over against him, the child lifted up his voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not; for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. ¹⁸ Arise, lift up the lad, and hold him fast with your hand; for I will make him a great nation.' ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a

well of water; and she went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink. ²⁰ And God was with the lad, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow.

Reflection

SARAH is now pregnant, in old age, and has a son, Isaac, a name meaning 'laughter'. Once she is a mother, Sarah is intent on banishing Ishmael, the son of the slave woman, Hagar the Egyptian, and this causes distress to Abraham who, naturally enough, loves both his sons. Sarah gets her way and Hagar and Ishmael are sent away. They wander aimlessly in the desert and, just as Hagar is prepared for Ishmael to die – their supplies of food and drink having run out – God encourages her and indeed shows her a well from which they can draw water. They continue to live in the desert and Ishmael becomes a great bows-man, and presumably an expert hunter. Ishmael died aged 137 (Gen 25:17) and is venerated by Muslims as prophet. Traditionally he is the ancestor of those variously known as Ishmaelites, Hagarenes, Arabians, and Muslims, and, according to tradition, Ishmael and his mother Hagar are buried next to the Kaaba in Mecca. Given that the Quran does not specify which of Abraham's sons was nearly offered in sacrifice, many believe that it was Ishmael rather than Isaac whom Abraham was on the point of slaughtering. It is not hard to see some of the origins of the tensions between Jews and Christians and Muslims, all of whom look to the patriarch Abraham, but who have divergent views about the inheritance of Abraham, either through Isaac or through Ishmael. In Galatians 4 St Paul links the laws of the Torah on Mount Sinai to the slavery of the Israelites, inherited from the slave-woman Hagar and contrasts that with the freedom of the heavenly Jerusalem, signified by Sarah and her child, the free-born Isaac. Following this, St Augustine sees Hagar as a symbol of the sinfulness of the 'earthly city', in which we are born but which by grace we escape from as, by baptism, we become citizens of the 'heavenly city' ('The City of God' 15:2).

Thursday in Week 13 [Year 1]

1st July

St Oliver Plunkett, Bishop, Martyr

Reading

Genesis 22:1-19 (RSV)

The Command to sacrifice Isaac

22 After these things God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here am I.' **2** He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Mori'ah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.' **3** So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; and he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. **4** On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off. **5** Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the ass; I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.' **6** And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son;^[a] and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. **7** And Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here am I, my son.' He said, 'Behold, the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' **8** Abraham said, 'God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.' So they went both of them together.

9 When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. **10** Then Abraham put forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. **11** But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here am I.' **12** He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' **13** And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. **14** So Abraham called the name of that place The LORD will provide;^[b] as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'^[c]

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.' ¹⁹So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beer-sheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beer-sheba.

Reflection

THE third and final stage of the covenant with Abraham comes in what, in Jewish tradition, is known as 'the Binding of Isaac'. Christians talk about 'the Sacrifice of Isaac' but, in the event, Isaac was not slaughtered. Looking back, we had, as a first stage in the covenant, 'the great nation' with descendants as numerous as the stars in heaven. This stage is marked with the sacrifice of the animals (Gen 15). We then had, as a second stage, 'the great name' with the circumcision of Abraham (Gen 17), and the ritual marking subsequently of his descendants. Now, with the sacrifice of the only son, we have 'the universal blessing'. Abraham proves himself by not withholding his son and this brings about the blessing of Abraham's seed through all the nations of the earth. Anthropologists might see in the story the remains of a tradition of human sacrifice and its discontinuing. To be sure, it is not a pleasant story, given Abraham's willingness to destroy, if required to do so. If, at that level, the story is disquieting, then at the typological level it is fertile and rich. The sacrifice of the only son, who does not die but live, and the offering of a lamb, have obvious resonances with the Paschal mystery. We notice, in passing, that the site of the sacrifice of the lamb – what might have been the sacrifice of Isaac – is 'on one of the mountains of Moriah' (Gen 22:2-4). Later this site will be where Solomon builds the Jerusalem Temple and where the Passover lambs are slaughtered. As we reflect on 'covenant' here – an agreement in three stages – we notice that this is not a 'vassal' covenant (which places the inferior party under strict obligations) but a 'grant' covenant (where the superior party – God himself – swears to uphold its conditions. We are dealing with the God who will call his worshippers 'not servants but friends' (John 15:15).

Friday in Week 13 [Year 1]

2nd July

Reading

Genesis 23:1-4; 24:1-8, 62-67 (RSV)

Sarah's Death and Burial and the Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah

23 Sarah lived a hundred and twenty-seven years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. ²And Sarah died at Kir'iath-ar'ba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. ³And Abraham rose up from before his dead, and said to the Hittites, ⁴'I am a stranger and a sojourner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.' ...

24 Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in all things. ²And Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his house, who had charge of all that he had, 'Put your hand under my thigh, ³and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell, ⁴but will go to my country and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.' ⁵The servant said to him, 'Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land; must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?' ⁶Abraham said to him, 'See to it that you do not take my son back there. ⁷The LORD, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and swore to me, 'To your descendants I will give this land,' he will send his angel before you, and you shall take a wife for my son from there. ⁸But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.' ...

⁶²Now Isaac had come from Beer-la'hai-roi, and was dwelling in the Negeb. ⁶³And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, there were camels coming. ⁶⁴And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she alighted from the camel, ⁶⁵and said to the servant, 'Who is the man yonder, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷Then Isaac brought her into the

June is the Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Meditation by St Thérèse of Lisieux

I need a heart burning with tenderness,
Who will be my support for ever,
Who loves everything in me, even my weakness...
And who never leaves me day or night.
I could find no creature
Who could always love me day or night.
I could find no creature
Who could always love me and never die.
I must have a God who takes on my nature
And becomes my brother and is able to suffer!
You heard me, only Friend whom I love.
To ravish my heart, you became man.
You shed your blood, what a supreme mystery!
O heart of Jesus, treasure of tenderness,
You yourself are my happiness, my only hope.
You who knew how to charm my tender youth,
Stay near me till the last night...
Ah! I know well, all our righteousness
Is worthless in your sight.
To give value to my sacrifices,
I want to cast them into your Divine Heart.
You did not find your angels without blemish.
In the midst of lightning you gave your law!
I hide myself in your Sacred Heart, Jesus.
I do not fear, my virtue is you!