

**DEANERY OF ST EDMUND CAMPION  
ENGLISH MARTYRS—  
VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE PASTORAL AREA**

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

[www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](http://www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk)

# **East Hendred Catholic Parish**

**6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**(Week 5)**



**Isaiah's Vision of God**

# 30<sup>th</sup> January – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022

## WEEK 5 [YEAR 2]

All masses live-streamed [www.churchservices.tv/easthundred](http://www.churchservices.tv/easthundred)

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

<b>Sunday</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY Per Annum (Year C)</b> <b>The Accession of Her Majesty the Queen 1952</b>	<b>[GREEN]</b>
	<b>9.30am Parish Mass</b> Queen and Country	
	<b>11.15am Mass at St Patrick's</b> Pro populo	
	<b>6pm Holy Mass</b> FM Rachel Hunt 1884	
	<i>(Readings: Ordinary Time Year 5: Week 1)</i>	
<b>Monday</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Of Week 5</i>	<b>[Green]</b>
	9.15am Holy Mass RIP Pat Furlong (Annie Furlong)	
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>St Josephine Bakhita, Religious</i>	<b>[White]</b>
	9.15am Holy Mass for Diane Crabb and Sue Mathews (Stephen McDonagh)	
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Of Week 5</i>	<b>[Green]</b>
	9.15am Holy Mass	FM Cecilia Hunt 1884
<b>Thursday</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Of St Amand, Bishop</i>	<b>[White]</b>
	9.15am School Mass	St Amand's School
<b>Friday</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>	<b>[White]</b>
	9.15am Holy Mass Thanksgiving (the Steele family)	
<b>Saturday</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Our Lady St Mary on Saturday</i>	<b>[White]</b>
	No Mass	
<b>Sunday</b> <b>13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY Per Annum (Year C)</b>	<b>[GREEN]</b>
	<b>9.30am Parish Mass</b> Pro populo	
	<b>11.15am Mass at St Patrick's</b>	
	<b>6pm Holy Mass</b> FM Thomas Hunt 1884	

### CONTACT DETAILS

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**Note New Parish E-Mail Address**

# FOR YOUR PRAYERS



## **HOLY FATHER'S FEBRUARY PRAYER INTENTION**

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

## **DIOCESAN PRAYER INTENTIONS**

*Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February:* the Chapel of St Amand & St John the Baptist, East Hendred (Hendred House Chapel)

*Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February:* Victims of Human Trafficking

*Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February:* World Day of Prayer for the Sick

## **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, Mary McNichol, Elizabeth Gunn, Des McNichol

## **THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

*Week 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> February:* James Goodall, William Howard, Elizabeth Ellamery, James Stanley Hogan, James Herd, Tamsie Castle, Patrick Andrew Rush, Peter Mulford, Adrina Fortescue, Agnes Smith, Dermott Wisdom.

*31<sup>st</sup> January was the feast of the Don Bosco, Italian priest, educator, and writer, founder of the Salesians of Don Bosco, formally known as the Society of Saint Francis de Sales,*

## **Resolutions suggested by St John Bosco (1815-1888)**

1. Try to be early for Mass always. A few minutes spent in prayer before Mass can open your soul to wonderful graces.
2. When you enter or leave the church take Holy Water and sign yourself with the Sign of the Cross.
3. Always genuflect when you enter or leave your seat. This is an Act of Adoration to Almighty God, present in the tabernacle. So take time to genuflect reverently, facing the altar and saying 'My Lord and My God' as your right knee touches the floor.
4. Don't talk in church unless absolutely necessary. Talk only to Jesus – it is Him you have come to visit. Don't talk as you leave either. Some people may still be praying.
5. Listen to the sermon. It is a message from God which could bear much fruit for you.
6. Don't start to leave church until the priest has returned to the Sacristy. Stay to thank God for the Graces you received from Him in the Mass.
7. Finally St John Bosco reminded us that every day we take a step closer to Heaven, that every act should be for the greater glory of God, and that every morning we should renew our resolve to work for the salvation of souls.

# East Hendred Catholic Parish

## NOTICEBOARD

### COVID REGULATIONS

The Government has relaxed regulations but we know that the virus is still very much around. We ask people therefore to continue to wear masks in church, unless they are exempt, and be vigilant about hygiene and distance. It is helpful to prepare for meeting others at Sunday Mass by taking a lateral flow test. There is no more recording of names at St Mary's but it will help St Patrick's if those attending indicate in advance their intention to come. For those who remain anxious about distancing, the pews at the back are a designated area at the 6pm Mass.

### CHURCH SERVICES

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 214 people viewed, 61 machines looking only at St Mary's. 44 of these were in the UK and 16 elsewhere. 133 probably stayed on-line long enough to take part in Mass.

### SYCAMORE

The **SYCAMORE** course for adults interested in finding out more about the Faith or preparing for baptism and/or confirmation is now well underway and meets on Zoom this Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February.

### E-MAILS, WEBSITE, AND FACEBOOK

Last minute changes are sometimes unavoidable and these are communicated by e-mail to the Bulletin list. Anyone may join the Bulletin list - contact [office@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](mailto:office@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk)  
See also our website [www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk](http://www.hendredcatholicparish.org.uk)  
See also our East Hendred Catholic Parish page on Facebook.

### CHARITY: DIDCOT

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

**TO GIVE TO OUR 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](mailto:hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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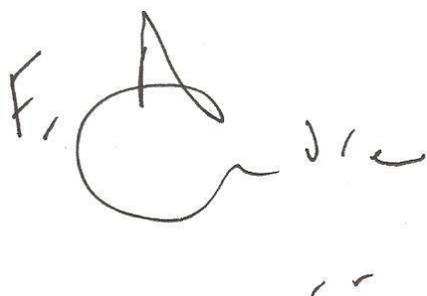
# SYNOD 2023 – WHAT NEXT?

## RESPONSE TO THE DIOCESE AND BEYOND

As asked by the diocese, we submitted our report, based on a Zoom meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The deadline was 31<sup>st</sup> January. It went to Fr John Chandler who is collating the diocesan response, based on the parish responses. He will be sending that to the Catholic Bishops Conference and his deadline is the end of February. Thereafter the national response will be co-ordinated with responses from other Bishops' Conferences throughout the world and these will feed into a Synod of Bishops in Rome in 2023. These Synod meetings usually bear fruit in a papal document, a digest and reflection on the work of the Synod.

## WHAT HAPPENS LOCALLY?

The process of collecting responses internationally is one in which the contribution of any one parish becomes diluted beyond recognition. Only when there are resounding similarities of observation will our local concerns be reflected and acted upon. However, our very thorough and well-documented discussion does give us an agenda for change and development in our parish life. Particularly important, in my view, is the emphasis on us being open and welcoming, providing proper help and information, opening up our social life together following the plague, relaunching our children's work, re-opening and putting to proper use the St Mary's Parish Room, which is imminently about to be refurbished, thanks to the generosity of the East Hendred Consolidated Catholic Charities. The Standing Committee – which got us through the period of closure during the plague – is morphing into a newly-set-up Pastoral Council, and I hope that those who took part in the Synodal Zoom Meeting, and others drawn to help our re-boot, will serve on this Council.



Fr. Andrew

# East Hendred Catholic Parish



**Fifth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time (C)  
6<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
Antiphons,  
Prayers and Readings**

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## **Entrance Antiphon**

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

*Venite, adoremus Deum*

*Cf Ps 95:6-7*

## **Collect**

Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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**

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory. And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts! Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth, and said: Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven. And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, Here am I! Send me.

*Isaiah 6:1-8 (RSV)*

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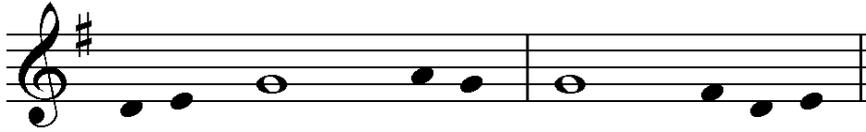
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**Psalm 138:1-5, 7b-8 R/cf 1**

**Tone II.1**



**R/** In the presence of the an-gels| I will praise you, O Lord.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
In the presence of the angels I praise you.  
I bow down toward your ho-ly tem-ple. **R/**

I give thanks to your name ~  
for your merciful love and your faith-ful-ness.  
You have exalted your name o-ver all.  
On the day I called, you an-swered me;  
you increased the strength of my soul. **R/**

All earth's kings shall thank you, O Lord,  
when they hear the words of your mouth.  
They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,  
'How great is the glory of the Lord!' **R/**

You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes.  
With your right hand you save me; ~  
the Lord will accomplish this for me.  
O Lord, your merciful love is e-ter-nal;  
discard not the work of your hands. **R/**

**Second Reading**

*1 Corinthians 15:1-11(RSV)*

Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

**Alleluia**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

I call you friends, says the Lord;  
because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Fa-ther.

**Gospel***Luke.4:21-30 (RSV)*

While the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennes'aret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' And Simon answered, 'Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.' And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.' For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zeb'edee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men.' And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

**Offertory**Dear Lord and Father of mankind (*see below*)**Prayer over the Offerings**

O Lord our God, who once established these created things to sustain us in our frailty, grant, we pray, that they may become for us now the Sacrament of eternal life. 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 &c.

**Communion Antiphon***Confiteantur Domino*

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men; for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.*Ps 107:8-9*

**Post Communion**Be still for the presence of the Lord (*see below*)**Prayer after Communion**

O God, who have willed that we be partakers in the one Bread and the one Chalice, grant us, we pray, so to live that, made one in Christ, we may joyfully bear fruit for the salvation of the world. Through Christ our Lord.

**Scripture Reading****(Week 5 Year 2)**

Monday	1 Kings 8:1-7,9-13	Mark 6:53-end
Tuesday	1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30	Mark 7:1-13
Wednesday	1 Kings 10:1-10	Mark 7:14-23
Thursday	1 Kings 11:4-13	Mark 7:24-30
Friday	1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19	Mark 7:31-end
Saturday	1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34	Mark 8:1-10
<b>Sunday 6C</b>	<b>Jeremiah 17:5-8</b>	
	<b>2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2</b>	<b>Luke 9:28-43a</b>

## **Offertory**

**DEAR LORD** and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who  
    heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

4 Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and  
    stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.

5 Breathe through the heats of our  
    desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind,  
    and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!

*John Greenleaf Whittier*

## **Post Communion**

**BE STILL** for the presence of the  
    Lord

The Holy one is here  
Come bow before him now  
In reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found  
We stand on Holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the  
Lord  
The Holy one is here.

2. Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around  
He burns with Holy fire  
With splendour He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight  
Our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.

3. Be still for the power of the  
Lord  
Is moving in this place  
He comes to cleanse and heal  
To minister His grace  
No work too hard for Him  
In faith receive from Him  
Be still for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place.

*David Evans*

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*Charles Wesley*

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# FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Fifth Week *Per Annum***

**Weekday Lectionary Year 2**

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**Monday in Week 5** [*Year 2*]

**7<sup>th</sup> February**

**Reading**

*1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13 (RSV)*

*Dedication of the Temple*

**8** Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. **2** And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the feast in the month Eth'anim, which is the seventh month. **3** And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. **4** And they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. **5** And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. **6** Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. **7** For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles...**9** There was nothing in the ark except the two tables of stone which Moses put there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. **10** And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, **11** so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

**12** Then Solomon said,

'The LORD has set the sun in the heavens,  
but has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.  
<sup>13</sup> I have built you an exalted house,  
a place for you to dwell in for ever.'

## Reflection

**TODAY'S** reading has provided inspiration for the consecration services of millions of religious buildings in the last three thousand years. The VIPs – here 'elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the priests and the levites' assemble. We notice the priority given to 'the two tables of stone which Moses put [into the ark] at Horeb'. This is the Word of God as written and this explains the importance of the contents of the ark in synagogue – the scrolls containing the Jewish *Torah* or Law – and also the significance of the Book of Gospels at Mass. Just as 'all the holy vessels' were brought up by the priests and the Levites, so all is made good in the new worship space and, after sacrifice, not 'so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered' but the offering of the one Sacrifice of Calvary, the tabernacle is filled with the indwelling Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The cloud of incense, the prayers of the saints, indicated, for the People of Israel, as indeed for us too, the *shekinah*, the dwelling and settling of the glory of the LORD in our midst.

## Tuesday in Week 5 [Year 2]

### 8<sup>th</sup> February

#### Reading

*1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30 (RSV)*

#### *Solomon's Prayer of Dedication*

<sup>22</sup> Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven; <sup>23</sup> and said, 'O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing mercy to your servants who walk before you with all their heart;... <sup>27</sup> 'But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house which I have built! <sup>28</sup> Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer which your servant prays before you this day; <sup>29</sup> that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the

place of which you have said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may listen to the prayer which your servant offers toward this place. <sup>30</sup> And hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; yes, hear you in heaven your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive.'

## Reflection

**SOLOMON** begins his prayer by declaring the Lord's uniqueness and faithfulness to his promises. He then seeks confirmation that God will preserve the lineage of David, at first seemingly absolute but now understood conditionally. That section of the prayer (vv.24-26) is omitted in our mass reading but it is significant, in view of subsequent events, that the fulfilment of God's promise to Solomon is a conditional one, a point made three times (the earlier occasions are found in 1 Kings 3:14 and 6:12). For Christians, the absoluteness of the promise is found in Christ, the Son of David. There follows a sophisticated theology of Presence: God is both present in the Temple and yet cannot be confined. His dwelling place is heaven and even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain him. We must bring this dimension to our understanding of worship and the Eucharist. God is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar and yet we cannot limit his Presence in space or time.

## Wednesday in Week 5 [Year 2]

**9<sup>th</sup> February**

**Reading** .

*1 Kings 10:1-10 (RSV)*

*The Visit of the Queen of Sheba*

**10** Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. <sup>2</sup> She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. <sup>3</sup> And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king which he could not explain to her. <sup>4</sup> And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, <sup>5</sup> the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their

clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings which he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit in her.

<sup>6</sup>And she said to the king, 'The report was true which I heard in my own land of your affairs and of your wisdom, <sup>7</sup> but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it; and behold, the half was not told me; your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report which I heard. <sup>8</sup>Happy are your wives! Happy are these your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! <sup>9</sup>Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD loved Israel for ever, he has made you king, that you may execute justice and righteousness.' <sup>10</sup>Then she gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and a very great quantity of spices, and precious stones; never again came such an abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

## Reflection

**IN AN** earlier chapter (1 Kings 5, not in our reading scheme), we learnt more about the fame of King Solomon and the way the emissaries of kings from foreign peoples made their way to Solomon's court. Today's reading gives us an example of one of the people who came. The Queen of Sheba came from what is now thought to have been the South Arabian kingdom of Saba in Yemen. She brought gold, spices, and precious stones – exhibiting and bestowing great wealth. We are in 1 Kings 10 and , if we read to the end of the chapter, we should hear more about Solomon's riches: more gold, some silver, an ornate ivory throne, exotic animals. We discover that much of his wealth is from exacting tribute, but he is also a trader, importing and exporting chariots. Bound up with Solomon's power and wealth is his wisdom: we remember (1 Kings 3) that when the Lord appeared in a dream at Gibeon and asked what gift Solomon would like, Solomon asked for wisdom. This pleased God because he had not asked for self-serving rewards like long-life or the death of his enemies. At the height of Solomon's reign, not only was the wealth of the Israelite kingdom enormous, so was the academic prowess of Jerusalem. Wisdom, it could be said, was at the very centre of things, as books like the Book of Proverbs and the Wisdom of Solomon show.

## Thursday in Week 5 [Year 2]

10<sup>th</sup> February

**Reading**

*1 Kings 11:4-13 (RSV)*

*Solomon's Apostasy incurs Divine Displeasure*

When Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods; and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. <sup>5</sup>For Solomon went after Ash'toreth the goddess of the Sido'nians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup>So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. <sup>7</sup>Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup>And so he did for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

<sup>9</sup>And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, <sup>10</sup>and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD commanded. <sup>11</sup>Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, 'Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. <sup>12</sup>Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. <sup>13</sup>However I will not tear away all the kingdom; but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.'

**Reflection**

**SOLOMON** is derailed finally by preferring the love of foreign women to love of the Lord. Had we begun the Bible passage a verse earlier (11:3), we should have learnt that these foreign women numbered 700 wives and 300 concubines; the emphasis is not on mathematics but on numbers symbolising completion. The foreign women introduced Solomon to other gods and, throughout these historical books, turning away from the Lord to idols is the cardinal sin of apostasy. It seems that wise old Solomon, as he got older, lost his judgment. Despite his massive achievements. He is now compared unfavourably with King David, his father.

## Friday in Week 5 [Year 2]

11<sup>th</sup> February

### Reading

1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19 (RSV)

#### *Israel in Perpetual Rebellion*

At that time, when Jerobo'am went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahi'jah the Shi'lonite found him on the road. Now Ahi'jah had clad himself with a new garment; and the two of them were alone in the open country. <sup>30</sup> Then Ahi'jah laid hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. <sup>31</sup> And he said to Jerobo'am, 'Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon, and will give you ten tribes <sup>32</sup> (but he shall have one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel)....

<sup>19</sup> So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

### Reflection

**THE DEUTERONOMIC** history is thought to consist of six books of the Bible - Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings. They tell the history of Israel from the arrival in the Promised Land to the sack of Jerusalem and the exile in Babylon. Throughout, there is a constant theme: Israel's unfaithfulness, punished by national misfortune. Against that sorry picture, various episodes of well-being are described by way of contrast, but misfortune outdoes happiness - even taking into account the prosperity of King Solomon. Today's reading described the rebellion of Jeroboam, who had been entrusted by Solomon with the repair of the Millo - no one is quite sure what the Millo was, but it was a building work of some sort, part of the ramparts of the city very possibly. Jeroboam felt he was being exploited and rebelled and received a prophecy from Ahijah to the effect that Solomon will lose the kingdom, because of polytheism and idolatry, and that Jeroboam will succeed to ruling over ten of the tribes, though one will remain for Solomon's son. All of this, as we would expect from the Deuteronomic historian, and we would find out a few verses later, is conditional on Jeroboam and his dynasty obeying the commandments and statutes of the Lord.