

# Sunday Readings

8th July 2018

## SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12:7-10

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel Acclamation

*John 1:12. 14*

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The Word was made flesh and lived among us;  
to all who did accept him  
he gave power to become children of God.  
Alleluia!*

## GOSPEL

*Mark 6:1-6*

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

## Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, having been replenished by such great gifts, we may gain the prize of salvation and never cease to praise you. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Collect

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. 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. Amen.

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel 2:2-5

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

## Responsorial Psalm

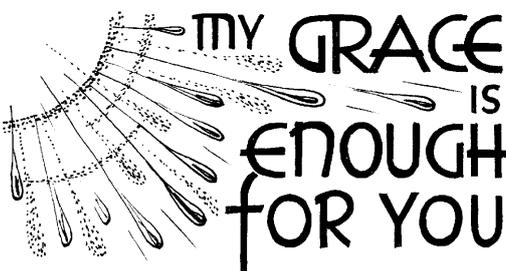
*Psalm 122. R/. v.2.*

***R/. Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy.***

To you have I lifted up my eyes,  
you who dwell in the heavens;  
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves  
on the hand of their lords. **R/.**

Like the eyes of a servant  
on the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes are on the Lord our God  
till he show us his mercy. **R/.**

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
We are filled with contempt.  
Indeed all too full is our soul  
with the scorn of the rich,  
with the proud man's disdain. **R/.**



# The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year B

*the word of god*

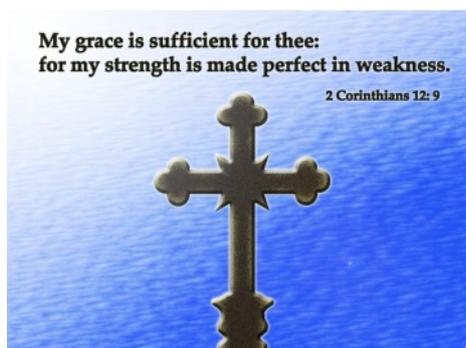
*saint of the week*

***“My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness”***

In today's first reading we examine the idea of what a prophet is. Our society tends to think of prophets as predictors of the future, but Biblical prophets tend to do a little of that, but a lot more. We learn from the first reading that it is God's spirit that motivates, drives and allows God's voice to be heard. "A spirit entered me and set me on my feet" Ezekiel says. Then we learn that prophets are sent by God for particular times and reasons. Prophets are chosen by God, to speak for God and are imbued with the spirit of God. But, God, in the first reading, is realistic. He knows that everyone might not listen to a prophet. They are stubborn, they don't want to hear what the prophet tells them because it upsets their convenient little universe. But that does not stop God from trying. He sends his prophets anyway, so that God's voice can be heard among the people who are not on the right track.

This is a highly appropriate first reading because Jesus is also a prophet and one who people refused to listen to. He is a prophet because he was sent by God the Father, he speaks the words of God, he tries to explain God's ways to the people. During Christ's lifetime, he was predominately seen by everyone as a prophet and healer, but in his own home town, where everyone knew him and had watched him grow up, they were unable to see him as a prophet, but only the carpenter's son who grew up down the street and seemed to be nothing special. Because of the negativity brought about by his non-acceptance, Jesus was unable to do remarkable things in his home town, although he was able to accomplish a few cures, we are told. It seems that for a miracle to occur, there has to be some sort of faith and belief involved.

Who are the prophets that inspire us today? Will we recognize them when they come, when they disturb our little worlds and ask us to do things outside our comfort zone. Remember Paul's words: "My grace is enough for you." My grace is enough for you. And that is the Good News that we are challenged with today.



**Wednesday 11 July 2018**

**St Benedict (480 - 547)**

Benedict was born in Nursia, in Umbria, and studied in Rome; but he was unable to stomach the dissolute life of the city, and he became a solitary hermit at Subiaco. His reputation spread, and some monks asked him to be their abbot, but they did not like the discipline he imposed and tried to poison him.

Benedict organised various small communities of monks and nuns in various places, including the great monastery of Monte Cassino. He drew up a set of rules to guide the communal life of monasteries, and, though not the first monastic rule ever, the Rule of St Benedict has proved so wise and balanced that it has served as the foundation of practically every attempt at communal living ever since. It recognises that people aim at perfection but often fall well short of it, and aims to be a "rule for beginners" in which even the least perfect and least able can grow in spiritual stature. To visit a Benedictine monastery of almost any kind is to find oneself spending time among a group of people who, by their strivings to live and grow together, have become more and more *themselves*, as God intended them, instead of being crushed into false uniformity by some idealistic and authoritarian regime.

For those of us in the world, too, the Rule of St Benedict has much to say: it drags our eyes up to the stars but keeps our feet firmly on the ground; it calls us to perfection but keeps us sane.

*prayer of the week*

**A Prayer of St Benedict**

Gracious and holy Father,  
give us wisdom to perceive you,  
intelligence to understand you,  
diligence to seek you,  
patience to wait for you,  
eyes to behold you,  
a heart to meditate on you,  
and a life to proclaim you;  
through the power of the  
Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.