

Sunday Readings

6th July 2025

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Galatians

6:14-18

Brothers and Sisters: Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 3:15a, 16a

Alleluia, alleluia.

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.*

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 10:1-12,17-20

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house!" And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near." I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.'

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!' And he said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

66:10-14

Thus says the LORD:

'Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy,
all you who mourn over her;
that you may nurse and be satisfied
from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight
from her glorious abundance.'

For thus says the LORD:

'Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river,
and the glory of the nations like an overflowing
stream;
and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her
hip,
and bounced upon her knees.

As one whom his mother comforts,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.
You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bones shall flourish like the grass;
and the hand of the LORD shall be known to his
servants.'

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 65:1-7,16,20. R/. v.1.

R/. Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **R/.**

'Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. **R/.**

He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. **R/.**

Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul:
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer
nor withhold his love from me. **R/.**



The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

In the gospel of today we have the sending out of the seventy two disciples. This is very unique. All the gospels mention the twelve disciples and them being commissioned by Jesus to continue his mission. However it is only Luke who makes a reference to the sending out of the seventy two disciples. There must be a reason for this. Jesus says that the harvest is big and there are not enough people to do the necessary work. In the same manner Luke wants to tell us that the mission of Jesus is not only carried forward by the so called experts like priests and religious but it is the responsibility of every believer in Jesus.

How are we going to do this? Very often I have heard people say that they feel that they have not the proper qualifications to be involved in the mission of Jesus. Many cannot come to terms with the fact that the work of Jesus requires above all a heart that is passionate enough to share with others what it has already experienced, the life-giving Holy Spirit of God living within it.

Sometimes we forget that small is very important in the Bible. Jesus said that where two or three are gathered in his name He is also present. He fed so many thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. Moreover, he portrayed children as being the ones who truly manifest the qualities that he was encouraging and promoting. Through Luke, Jesus is saying that we can continue his mission not only by being involved in great and well organised and very well attended courses. The mission of Jesus is also accomplished by ordinary people doing ordinary things and being faithful to their responsibilities.

The gospel should encourage each and every one of us to take an active part in the life of our parish. Every little gesture of kindness, every single act of service to others, every little word of encouragement helps us to become very aware of our mission. These simple and ordinary acts make a difference in the lives of so many.

"Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you for my life and for all the good qualities that you have given to me. Help me to use these qualities for my own growth and in helping others. May I be a witness of your resurrection wherever I may be. I know that you honour and bless whatever good I do. May I be a source of your blessing to anyone who I meet every day of my life. Amen"



Friday 11th July 2025

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. Although this was 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 – and not only in religious communities. The Rule of St Benedict 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.