

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 3

CLEAR OUT OF HERE!

(JOHN 2:13-25)



Jesus Cleanses the Temple

In the Gospel accounts of Mark, Matthew and Luke, the episode of the cleansing of the Temple follows the entry of Jesus and his disciples into Jerusalem and provides the reason for the final plot to bring about Jesus' death.

In the Fourth Gospel (John) version, the pretext for this conspiracy is the raising of Lazarus, so the evangelist places this well-attested event at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The area of Judaea is that of hostility to Jesus, Jerusalem is the chief city in the region and the Temple is the religious focal point of the capital. The Passover is the principal Jewish pilgrimage feast, so the setting of today's event could not be more significant. Three terms are used to denote the place: "Temple", "my Father's house" and "sanctuary". The first refers to the physical building; the second, the house of the Lord (the traditional way of referring to the Temple) which has become a "market"; the third, the inner sanctuary, the place of God's presence to the people of Israel.

In the Fourth Gospel, we find the theme of *replacement*: Jesus in himself replaces the feasts and institutions of Judaism. The Temple was the place of privileged access to the presence of God for Israel. The discussion with the Jewish authorities plays on the ambiguity of the physical stone structure and its ultimate purpose as the place where God's presence is located in a special way. As a result of Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus himself will be the place where God's presence is accessible to people. ■

LEARN

In the Fourth Gospel, the term "the Jews" usually refers to the religious and political leaders in Israel, not to the people as a whole.

In this Gospel version, Jesus replaces, in himself, the Temple as the focus of God's presence.

The Temple was the place of sacrifice: after its destruction by the Romans in AD 70, it was never rebuilt and the sacrificial cult ceased in Judaism.

REFLECT

The Gospel account of the driving out of the merchants from the Temple precincts is the only one in the Gospels which shows Jesus in a fury. The merchants were providing the animals required for the rituals of sacrifice: the money changers were converting Roman coinage bearing the emperor's image into acceptable currency for use within the sacred enclosure; there is no suggestion of racketeering. Although there was nothing technically wrong with what they were doing, Jesus sees it as an abuse, distracting from the purpose for which the Temple was built, and takes drastic action to rectify the situation.

Anger is an emotion which is often misunderstood. It is essentially the appropriate reaction to unjust situations or the exploitation of the weaker members of society. It is usually the driving force behind much-needed reforms, for instance in regard to slavery, child labour and discrimination of any kind. It is, indeed, listed among the seven deadly sins, but if we look at these titles, we will find that they contain a positive value and that the "sin" is, in fact, an extreme and inappropriate expression of this. Anger enables a constructive response to injustice: uncontrollable rage is destructive, both to the person concerned and to others involved. Without anger, there would be a resigned acceptance of unfair treatment: this is not the message of the Bible, of the prophets or of Jesus. It may be that we do not get angry enough when we should. ■

SAY

God, give me the courage to change the things I can.
(from the Serenity Prayer)

DO

Reflect on what makes you angry in society or your local area: decide what you can do about it – and do it.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.**

COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. 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.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

(For shorter form, read between > <)

A reading from the book of Exodus.

>God spoke all these words. He said, "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

"You shall have no gods except me.<

"You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

>"You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

"Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. < For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

>"Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

"You shall not kill.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

"You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his."

The word of the Lord.<

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 18

Response:

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)

4. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,**

whoever believes in me will never die.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

John 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market." Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, "What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(all bow during the next two lines)**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

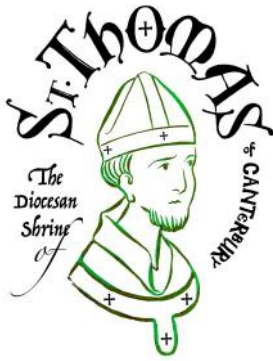
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com> St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin: Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is Closed & Linda is working from home. Linda can access emails via the church email so please contact her this way initially.

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00pm (Vigil): W Dabrowski - RIP (*Dabrowski Family*)

Sunday 7th Mar: 3rd Sunday of Lent Jn 2: 13-25

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Welfare of Douglas Strien (*Mrs Strien*)

11.00am: John O'Driscoll - RIP (*Catherine Ashman*)

3.00 pm: *Stations of the Cross*

6.00 pm: Joan McFadden - RIP (*Anne Rowe*)

RCIA: *Second Scrutiny*

Monday 8th Mar: Lk 4: 24-30

7.30 am: Pat Gill - RIP (*Angela Nichols*)

10.30am: Church NOT open for private prayer & adoration

11.00am: Funeral of Baby Layla Green

12 noon: Johnny Delaney - RIP

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Tuesday 9th Mar: Feria Mt 18: 21-25

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Jim Milligan - RIP (*Mary Insall*)

6.00 pm Live-streamed Prayer

Wednesday 10th Mar: Feria Mt 5: 17-19

7.30 am: Delaney Family

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

10.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Sylvester O'Sullivan - RIP (*Mary Insall*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

Thursday 11th Mar: Feria Lk 11: 14-23

Novena of St Joseph Begins

7.30am: Sr Elizabeth Morris (SMSL) on her birthday (*Mary De Wolf*)

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Francis Chrystal - RIP (*Mary Chrystal*)

1.00 pm: Funeral of Paul Victor Card at Sturry Cemetery

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

7.30 - 8.30pm: Adoration for Young Adults with Fr John

Friday 12th Mar: Feria Mk 12: 28-34

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Richard Clark - RIP (*Martina Clark*)

1 - 3 pm: Church open for private prayer and adoration

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: Anne Queenen - welfare (*Tina Hamilton*)

Saturday 13th Mar: Feria Lk 18: 9-14

10.30am: Reconciliation

10.30am: Church open for private prayer and adoration

12 noon: Roberta di Paco - RIP (*Philippa Burniston*)

6.00pm (Vigil): for Parish Helpers (*Angela Nichols*)

Sunday 14th Mar: 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

Jn 3: 14-21

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Welfare of Ellen Reynolds (*Mary Reynolds*)

11.00am: Thanksgiving (*Martina Clark*)

3.00 pm: *Stations of the Cross*

6.00 pm: Brown Family

RCIA: *Third Scrutiny*

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Pippa Swan, Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Jean Boyce

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Carol Mary Kidby, Anna Hesketh, Tom Hodges, Rebecca Judge, Gertraude Katherine Brock, Vera Fletcher, Maria Daniels, Maria Prado, Hannelore Hall, Bernie Fisher, Joseph McKee, Tony Kenny, Michael Jones, Douglas Ricketts, Maurice Crosland, Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald, Anna Koeller, Fr Michael Gwinnell, Ann Sexton, Paulina Manfredini, Fr Michael Boland, Fr George Webster, Theresa Ramsundar, Canon Frank O'Sullivan, Margaret Willis, Rev Paul Saunders, Sylvia Guy, Pat Gill, Baby Layla Green and Paul Card

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

Danielle Rosher, Maria Bryant, Roberto di Paco & Pam Dodds

SECOND COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

This weekend: 6/7 Mar: No second collection

Next weekend: 13/14 Mar: No second collection

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: These will be available after all Masses **next weekend, 13/14 March** in the **All Saints Chapel**. If you have any questions or concerns, please email the parish office on canterbury@rcaos.org.uk. Thank you

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Sunday during Lent:

7 March at 3.00 pm
14 March at 3.00pm;
21 March at 3.00 pm; and
28 March at 3.00pm

An invitation to 'Building a better Marriage'

A day in which married couples can explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable in-sights into their communication and the call of the Church to the married. Sat 13th March, 2021 Online course : 10am till 1pm £10 per couple (suggested donation)

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Contact:- Mrs Carole Batty

T: 07983524727 E: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

From Fr Anthony ...

Some years ago I met an elderly priest who lived in one room in a presbytery at a nearby parish and he spent his days studying the Ten Commandments. He was doing research and the walls of his study were lined with box files containing his work. At the time it seemed strange that he should spend so much time on the Decalogue. There are some who might think that in this modern age they are outmoded or old fashioned. St Thomas Aquinas and many other writers have pointed out that they are at the root of natural law. One writer has described them as “a kind of DNA-inscribed pattern into the human subject, which are the very constitution of human happiness, justice and peace.” The first three commandments concern our relationship with God and the other seven regulate social order and lay a foundation for human ethics and social responsibility. God is setting out how God wants us to relate to him and how he wants us relate to others. They are to be learned and constantly remembered. That is why they are ten so that people could count them off on their fingers. In the Gospel this Sunday Jesus cleansed the temple of buyers and sellers saying that “Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.” We are all temples of the Holy Spirit. Lent is a good time for us to drive out all that prevents us being fully human and prevents us being open to God.

Here is a suggested Examination of Conscience based on the Ten Commandments that might help.

I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.

Have I treated people, events, or things as more important than God?

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have my words, actively or passively, put down God, the Church, or people?

Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Do I go to Mass every Sunday (or Saturday Vigil) and on Holy Days of Obligation (The Epiphany, the Ascension; June 29th; 15th August; Nov. 1; Dec. 25)? Do I avoid, when possible, work that impedes worship to God, joy for the Lord's Day, and proper relaxation of mind and body? Do I look for ways to spend time with family or in service on Sunday?

Honour your father and your mother.

Do I show my parents due respect? Do I seek to maintain good communication with my parents where possible? Do I criticise them for lacking skills I think they should have?

You shall not kill.

Have I harmed another through physical, verbal, or emotional means, including gossip or manipulation of any kind?

You shall not commit adultery.

Have I respected the physical and sexual dignity of others and of myself?

You shall not steal.

Have I taken or wasted time or resources that belonged to another?

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

Have I gossiped, told lies, or embellished stories at the expense of another?

You shall not covet your neighbour's spouse.

Have I honoured my spouse with my full affection and exclusive love?

You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.

Am I content with my own means and needs, or do I compare myself to others unnecessarily?

This examination of conscience was taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This week on Thursday, 11th March, we begin a **Novena to St Joseph**. Here is an example prayer to you to use.

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in thee all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, assist me by thy powerful intercession and obtain for me all spiritual blessings through thy foster Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, so that, having engaged here below thy heavenly power, I may offer thee my thanksgiving and homage. O St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating thee and Jesus asleep in thine arms. I dare not approach while He reposes near thy heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me, and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions. Oh St Joseph, pray for me.

Get our Parish Newsletter emailed directly to you by subscribing at stthomasofcanterbury.com/newsletters/. This weekly eNewsletter also shares additional information from around the Parish.

CONTACTING THE PARISH OFFICE. Please use only the email canterbury@rcaos.org.uk to contact the Parish office as the Parish Administrator, Linda, does not have access to any other email addresses. Thank you

THANK YOU to everyone who continues to send in their Mass donations, weekly collections and other very generous payments to the parish funds. Thank you too for all the generous donations to our SVP and to CAFOD. Please be assured they are being passed to the right people.