



Apostolic Johannite Church

St. Teresa Parish News

Feasts this Week:

Nil



Rector's Ramblings

I hope that this newsletter finds you all doing well.

I am sorry that I have been a little silent of late. Some health issues have come to the fore that have had me a little worried and I have been attempting to take care of those.

Rest assured that as it stands at the moment I am doing ok and chances are that what were worrying symptoms will turn out to be nothing major.

Though I have not gotten newsletters out to you the last couple of weeks I did prepare some materials. For that reason I have included sections on two Saints who's days we have missed recently. I hope that you find reading a little of their tales to be insightful.

Today, and in the week to come, there are no feast days on our calendar, instead we find ourselves squarely in what is often called "Ordinary Time".

Ordinary Time are those periods in the Church calendar that stand between the major festivals of Christmas and Easter (and their attendant preparatory periods.

While this period is often looked at as a fallow time with the odd interesting Saint's Day here and there I tend to look at it a little differently.

The liturgical colour of "Ordinary Time" is green, and it is in this

that we find some meaningful symbolism.

What is it that you think of when you imagine the colour green? For me it is lush fields of deep green grass, the cool forests and woods with their full foliage, I think of growth, and of life. And it is these concepts that stand at the heart of ordinary time.

Instead of being a time where we take a break from the business of the Holy-days and rest it is a time for us to focus inwards. It is a time for us to kindle our spiritual lives anew and permit ourselves to grow.

Each week in this ordinary space we are still presented with readings and lessons from sacred texts that are meant to inspire us and spur us on to discover more about ourselves.

Along with this comes an intent for each Sunday. Each of these intends is meant to give us focus for the week ahead, something to contemplate and focus on.

This week is no exception. Our intent for Sunday and the week ahead is that of discernment.

Discernment is a very important skill for our spiritual walk. As we tread the path towards Gnosis we will come across many different branches and intersections we can choose from. There is a multiplicity of techniques, communities, practices, and people we can

come into contact with.

Some of these many options will be good for us and lead us to new helpful discoveries, and others, may not be so enlightening for us.

There is no map or field guide that we can follow as we walk these paths, as each of us journey's in new territory. Instead, we have to work on developing our skills of discernment. Our own ability to tap into our own inner mind, and the mind of the Divine to know which course we should follow.

There's no easy key to this process. I myself have led a very winding path to get me to where I am today. Do I regret some of those choices? I sure do. But in the long run, I can look back and realise that at the time, the paths made sense, and each of them has led to a learning experience.

Throughout the coming week I invite you to join with me in contemplating the role of discernment in our lives.

When faced with a spiritual crossroads how do you decide which path to take? Do you seek Divine assistance? Do you ask for guidance from trusted friends? What practices could you try out to help?

Until next we meet, blessings,

Fr. Brenden+

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Intent of the Day



Prayer of the Day

O Indwelling God, whose never-failing guidance orders our lives both within and without, grant that we may unfold within ourselves such discernment, that we may avoid those things hurtful to the soul and seek only those things that give us strength to know you, to love you and to serve you; O God our beginning and end, our rising sun and evening star. Amen .

Lesson - Revelation of St John

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying: Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and he will dwell with them and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said: Behold, I make all things new.

Gospel - Gospel of Truth

But when the light appears, man comes to recognize that the fear which took hold of him was nothing. Thus men were in ignorance concerning the Father, Him Whom they saw not. When this ignorance inspired them fear and confusion left them uncertain and hesitant, divided and torn into shreds, there were many vain illusions and empty and absurd fictions tormented them, like sleepers who are prey to nightmares. But only down to the moment when those who have passed through all this have woken up. Then they see nothing, for all those dreams are nought. Thus they have cast their ignorance far away from them, like the dream which they account as nought.

Parish Finances

On the advice of a couple of Parishioners we are going to include an ongoing update of the Parish expenses for this financial year. Please rest assured the lack of incoming finances does not denote the Parish is in debit; when no donations are incoming Fr. Brenden covers these costs.

If you would like to contribute to Parish expenses this can be done via the Donation Jar at services or via bank transfer to Fr. Brenden's account. Please rest assured that a full accounting of donations and spending will be published in the first newsletter of the month.

Account Name: B. S. Humberdross
BSB: 06 4421
Account Number: 10483259

Reference: Surname AJC
 (to allow for accurate and open accounting)

Date	Description	Incoming	Outgoing
3/07/2022	Hall Hire West End Uniting Church		\$45.00
8/06/2022	Maryborough Community Rec. Hire		\$15.00
7/08/2022	Harlaxton Hall Hite (Toowoomba)		\$50.00
2022-2023 Financial Year to Date			\$110.00

August 20 - Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

It has been acknowledged by historians that there is some difficulty in establishing a precise biography for Esclarmonde of Foix as there were a number of noblewomen living in her time and location with the same name.

However, it is generally accepted that she the daughter of Raymond Roger I Count of Foix, married Jourdain III, lord of L'Isle-Jourdain in 1175, and had 5 children.

However, it is not for her noble associations that she is commemorated on the AJC. After the death of her husband in 1200 Esclarmonde converted to Catharism and in 1204 received the consolamentum.

It is said that she took part in some of the series of conferences between the

Cathars and the Catholic Hierarchy. In fact Esclarmonde is said to have organised the final conference in which Dominic de Guzman (Saint Dominic of the Order of Preachers) took part.

It is said that at the final conference Esclarmonde was vocal in her defense of the Cathars and her deeply held beliefs to the point that Dominic told her to "You had better go back to your spinning-wheel, Madame. It's not suitable for a woman to interfere in this sort of debate."

For the Cathars these conferences were an opportunity to argue for their continued existence and the light of gnosis which they held. Sadly the establishment was not swayed and a year after



Prayer of the Day

Divine Beloved, St. Bernard was filled with zeal for your house and was a radiant light in your Church. By his prayers may we be filled with this spirit of zeal and walk always as children of Light. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lesson - The perfect Sermon of Hermes, the Thrice Great Lord

In those days darkness will be preferred to light, and death will be held more useful than life; no one will look up to Heaven; the pious will be deemed mad and the impious a sage, the insane will be held brave and the most wicked good. For the soul and all things about it, whereby we assume that either it is born immortal or that it will attain to immortality, will be considered not only a jest but even non-existent. Nothing holy, nothing pious, nothing worthy of heaven or heavenly things, will be heard or believed by the mind. Nay, believe me, even the punishment of death shall be decreed for the man who has dedicated himself to the religion of the truth

Gospel - Gospel of St. Matthew

Jesus taught His disciples, saying: Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad; for great is your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

August 24 - Holy Apostle Bartholomew

Bartholomew is one of the Apostles of Jesus as found in the canonical gospels. In the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, and Luke Bartholomew is always mentioned along side his companion the Apostle Phillip however, in the Gospel of John Phillips companion is named Nathanael. This has led to a long tradition of this Apostle being known by both names in different parts of the Christian world.

Like many of the characters found in the New Testament there is little historical evidence regarding their life. However, tradition sees Bartholomew portrayed as a great missionary. He is said to have travelled to the East to spread the message of Jesus. His jour-

ney's include the countries of India, Ethiopia, Mesopotamia, Parthia, Lycaonia and Armenia.

Tradition holds that Bartholomew, along with the Apostle Jude Thaddeus brought Christianity to Armenia; for this reason the two Apostles are patrons of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

These same traditions hold that Bartholomew met his end after converting the King Polymius of Armenia to Christianity. The king's brother, fearing the political repercussions of the conversion had Bartholomew executed.

The execution is said to have either been by being crucified upside down or flayed alive and beheaded.

In opposition to this modern scholarship suggests that Bartholomew likely died in India. This is due to their being no record of a King Polymius in Armenia but one existing in the west Indian city of Kalyan.



St Bartholomew (c. 1611)
by Peter Paul Rubens

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your Word: Grant that your people may love what he believed and preach what he taught; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lesson - First Letter to the Corinthians

I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless, and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day.

I am not writing this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

Gospel - Gospel of St. Luke

A dispute arose among the apostles as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

"You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Prayer List

For Healing, Recovery from Illness and Wellbeing

*Jen Petsche
Megan,
Elke
Craig Snapp
Ann Holmes
Ken Chapman
Blair Blundon
Fr. John DiGilio
Bess DiGilio
Myint Myint Aye
Carrie Aitkins
Magdalena Dargue
Dorothy DiGilio
Melissa DiGilio-Busch
Bonnie
Marie Hoffman
Rev. Joe Revels
Nichelle Rogers
Rob Penman
Jake Stratton-Kent
Joyce Masters
Matthew Duncan Masters
James Mitchell*

*Jennifer Mitchell
Chandra Fundak
Chris Schuck
Emanuel Newell
Vicky Kapatos
Fr. Brenden Humberdross
Austin Sands*

For Peace, Healing, Relief from Stress and Distress

*Megan
Kylie
Jason Mehmel
Ingrid
Shaun McCann
Brad Rees
Grace
Mar Thomas
Danu and Karel
Stephen and Valis Porter*

Other Matters

*For all those affected by
COVID-19
Jon Vandergaag for relief*

*from pain and distress
For the people of Burma
For the people of Ukraine
Kyle for financial relief*

For the Repose of the Soul

*Starr
Lucius
Ellen Garrick*



2022 Meeting Schedule

Brisbane

West End Uniting Church Hall
12:30 (service begins after set-up)
July 3rd
October 2nd
December 4th

Maryborough

Community Recreation Centre; Ariadne St
10:00am Third Sunday of the Month

Online

Lectio Divina - via Zoom and Live Stream
6:30pm - 2nd Sunday of the Month

Toowoomba

2023 Date TBA

For further details please contact Fr. Brenden

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