

PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

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The Second Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A – 19 January 2014

Entrance: *All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High*

Responsorial psalm: *Here I am Lord! I come to do your will*

Gospel: *Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!*

Communion: *You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst*



In my Message for the World Day of Peace, dedicated to fraternity as the foundation and pathway to peace, I observed that *“fraternity is generally first learned within the family...”*, for the family *“by its vocation... is meant to spread its love to the world around it”* and to contribute to the growth of that spirit of service and sharing which builds peace. This is the message of the Crib, where we see the Holy Family, not alone and isolated from the world, but surrounded by shepherds and the Magi, that is by an open community in which there is room for everyone, poor and rich alike, those near and those afar. In this way we can appreciate the insistence of my beloved predecessor Benedict XVI that *“the language of the family is a language of peace”*. Sadly, this is often not the case, as the number of broken and troubled families is on the rise, not simply because of the weakening sense of belonging so typical of today's world, but also because of the adverse conditions in which many families are forced to live, even to the point where they lack basic means of subsistence. There is a need for suitable policies aimed at supporting, assisting and strengthening the family! It also happens that the elderly are looked upon as a burden, while young people lack clear prospects for their lives. Yet the elderly and the young are the hope of humanity. The elderly bring with them wisdom born of experience; the young open us to the future and prevent us from becoming self-absorbed. It is prudent to keep the elderly from being ostracized from the life of society, so as to preserve the living memory of each people. It is likewise important to invest in the young through suitable initiatives which can help them to find employment and establish homes. We must not stifle their enthusiasm! I vividly recall my experience at the Twenty-Eighth World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro. I met so many happy young people! What great hope and expectation is present in their eyes and in their prayers! What a great thirst for life and a desire for openness to others! Being closed and isolated always makes for a stifling, heavy atmosphere which sooner or later ends up creating sadness and oppression. What is needed instead is a shared commitment to favouring a culture of encounter, for only those able to reach out to others are capable of bearing fruit, creating bonds of communion, radiating joy and being peacemakers. The scenes of destruction and death which we have witnessed in the past year confirm all this – if ever we needed such confirmation. How much pain and desperation are caused by self-centredness which gradually takes the form of envy, selfishness, competition and the thirst for power and money! At times it seems that these realities are destined to have the upper hand. Christmas, on the other hand, inspires in us Christians the certainty that the final, definitive word belongs to the Prince of Peace, who changes *“swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks”* (cf. Is 2:4), transforming selfishness into self-giving and revenge into forgiveness. (Taken from Pope Francis' address to the members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, 13th January 2014)

It is with this confidence that I wish to look to the year ahead. I continue to be hopeful that the conflict in Syria will finally come to an end. Concern for that beloved people, and a desire to avert the worsening of violence, moved me last September to call for a day of fasting and prayer. Through you I heartily thank all those in your countries – public authorities and people of good will – who joined in this initiative. What is presently needed is a renewed political will to end the conflict. In this regard, I express my hope that the Geneva 2 Conference, to be held on 22 January, will mark the beginning of the desired peace process. At the same time, full respect for humanitarian law remains essential. It is unacceptable that unarmed civilians, especially children, become targets. I also encourage all parties to promote and ensure in every way possible the provision of urgently-needed aid to much of the population, without overlooking the praiseworthy effort of those countries – especially Lebanon and Jordan – which have generously welcomed to their territory numerous refugees from Syria.

Remaining in the Middle East, I note with concern the tensions affecting the region in various ways. I am particularly concerned by the ongoing political problems in Lebanon, where a climate of renewed cooperation between the different components of civil society and the political powers is essential for avoiding the further hostilities which would undermine the stability of the country. I think too of Egypt, with its need to regain social harmony, and Iraq, which struggles to attain the peace and stability for which it hopes. At the same time, I note with satisfaction the significant progress made in the dialogue between Iran and the Group of 5+1 on the nuclear issue.

Everywhere, the way to resolve open questions must be that of diplomacy and dialogue. This is the royal road already indicated with utter clarity by Pope Benedict XV when he urged the leaders of the European nations to make “the moral force of law” prevail over the “material force of arms” in order to end that “needless carnage”[6] which was the First World War, whose centenary occurs this year. What is needed is courage “to go beyond the surface of the conflict”[7] and to consider others in their deepest dignity, so that unity will prevail over conflict and it will be “possible to build communion amid disagreement”.[8] In this regard, the resumption of peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians is a positive sign, and I express my hope that both parties will resolve, with the support of the international community, to take courageous decisions aimed at finding a just and lasting solution to a conflict which urgently needs to end. I myself intend to make a pilgrimage of peace to the Holy Land in the course of this year. The exodus of Christians from the Middle East and North Africa continues to be a source of concern. They want to continue to be a part of the social, political and cultural life of countries which they helped to build, and they desire to contribute to the common good of societies where they wish to be fully accepted as agents of peace and reconciliation.

In other parts of Africa as well, Christians are called to give witness to God’s love and mercy. We must never cease to do good, even when it is difficult and demanding, and when we endure acts of intolerance if not genuine persecution. In vast areas of Nigeria violence persists, and much innocent blood continues to be spilt. I think above all of the Central African Republic, where much suffering has been caused as a result of the country’s tensions, which have frequently led to devastation and death. As I assure you of my prayers for the victims and the many refugees, forced to live in dire poverty, I express my hope that the concern of the international community will help to bring an end to violence, a return to the rule of law and guaranteed access to humanitarian aid, also in the remotest parts of the country. For her part, the Catholic Church will continue to assure her presence and cooperation, working generously to help people in every possible way and, above all, to rebuild a climate of reconciliation and of peace among all groups in society. Reconciliation and peace are likewise fundamental priorities in other parts of Africa. I think in particular of Mali, where we nonetheless note the promising restoration of the country’s democratic structures, and of South Sudan, where, on the contrary, political instability has lately led to many deaths and a new humanitarian crisis.

The Holy See is also closely following events in Asia, where the Church desires to share the joys and hopes of all the peoples of that vast and noble continent. On this, the fiftieth anniversary of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea, I wish to implore from God the gift of reconciliation on the peninsula, and I trust that, for the good of all the Korean people, the interested parties will tirelessly seek out points of agreement and possible solutions. Asia, in fact, has a long history of peaceful coexistence between its different civil, ethnic and religious groups. Such reciprocal respect needs to be encouraged, especially given certain troubling signs that it is weakening, particularly where growing attitudes of prejudice, for allegedly religious reasons, are tending to deprive Christians of their liberties and to jeopardize civil coexistence. The Holy See looks, instead, with lively hope to the signs of openness coming from countries of great religious and cultural traditions, with whom it wishes to cooperate in the pursuit of the common good.

Peace is also threatened by every denial of human dignity, firstly the lack of access to adequate nutrition. We cannot be indifferent to those suffering from hunger, especially children, when we think of how much food is wasted every day in many parts of the world immersed in what I have often termed “the throwaway culture”. Unfortunately, what is thrown away is not only food and dispensable objects, but often human beings themselves, who are discarded as “unnecessary”. For example, it is frightful even to think there are children, victims of abortion, who will never see the light of day; children being used as soldiers, abused and killed in armed conflicts; and children being bought and sold in that terrible form of modern slavery which is human trafficking, which is a crime against humanity.

Nor can we be unmoved by the tragedies which have forced so many people to flee from famine, violence and oppression, particularly in the Horn of Africa and in the Great Lakes Region. Many of these are living as fugitives or refugees in camps where they are no longer seen as persons but as nameless statistics. Others, in the hope of a better life, have undertaken perilous journeys which not infrequently end in tragedy. I think in particular of the many migrants from Latin America bound for the United States, but above all of all those from Africa and the Middle East who seek refuge in Europe.

Still vivid in my memory is the brief visit I made to Lampedusa last July, to pray for the numerous victims of the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean. Sadly, there is a general indifference in the face of these tragedies, which is a dramatic sign of the loss of that “sense of responsibility for our brothers and sisters”,^[9] on which every civil society is based. On that occasion I was also able to observe the hospitality and dedication shown by so many people. It is my hope that the Italian people, whom I regard with affection, not least for the common roots which unite us, will renew their praiseworthy commitment of solidarity towards the weakest and most vulnerable, and, with generous and coordinated efforts by citizens and institutions, overcome present difficulties and regain their long-standing climate of constructive social creativity.

Finally, I wish to mention another threat to peace, which arises from the greedy exploitation of environmental resources. Even if “nature is at our disposition”,^[10] all too often we do not “respect it or consider it a gracious gift which we must care for and set at the service of our brothers and sisters, including future generations”.^[11] Here too what is crucial is responsibility on the part of all in pursuing, in a spirit of fraternity, policies respectful of this earth which is our common home. I recall a popular saying: “God always forgives, we sometimes forgive, but when nature – creation – is mistreated, she never forgives!”. We have also witnessed the devastating effects of several recent natural disasters. In particular, I would mention once more the numerous victims and the great devastation caused in the Philippines and other countries of Southeast Asia as a result of typhoon Haiyan.

Your Eminence, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pope Paul VI noted that peace “is not simply the absence of warfare, based on a precarious balance of power; it is fashioned by efforts directed day after day towards the establishment of an order willed by God, with a more perfect justice among men and women”.[12] This is the spirit which guides the Church’s activity throughout the world, carried out by priests, missionaries and lay faithful who with great dedication give freely of themselves, not least in a variety of educational, healthcare and social welfare institutions, in service to the poor, the sick, orphans and all those in need of help and comfort. On the basis of this “loving attentiveness”, [13] the Church cooperates with all institutions concerned for the good of individuals and communities.

At the beginning of this new year, then, I assure you once more of the readiness of the Holy See, and of the Secretariat of State in particular, to cooperate with your countries in fostering those bonds of fraternity which are a reflection of God’s love and the basis of concord and peace. Upon you, your families and the peoples you represent, may the Lord’s blessings descend in abundance. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary

Please come along and enjoy tea and coffee in the parish room after the Sunday morning Masses

The numbers drawn for week 34 were 35, 4, 7 & 49

No winner

Prize money for week 35 is £140.00 and five numbers to be drawn

Peace Sunday: today will see the Church throughout the world pray together for peace. Peace Sunday is an annual event and this year Pope Francis asks us to focus on a culture of fraternity within the world; recognising those around us as our brothers and sisters. As such, the theme this year is to be "*Living as one family is the foundation and pathway to peace*"

Choral Evening Prayer: to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Choral Evening Prayer will be held at St David's Cathedral, Charles Street, Cardiff, CF10 2SF today at 3.00pm. All are welcome. Come and join in the hymns, prayers and psalms. It will be followed by tea & coffee at 'The Cornerstone'. For further details contact: Canon Peter Collins, Tel. 029 2023 1407

Hereford Cathedral Choir: will sing Choral Evensong in the Abbey church at Belmont today at 4:00 pm

Octave of prayer for Christian Unity: 18th to 25th January. The events in Hereford for the week are as follows:

- ❖ Sunday, 19th – All Saints church at 4:00pm, a bring and share tea followed at 5:00pm by worship
- ❖ Monday, 20th – Hereford Cathedral at 12:30pm
- ❖ Tuesday, 21st – St John's Methodist church at 7:30pm
- ❖ Wednesday, 22nd – St Peter's church at 10:30am for Close House Project update, and 11:30am in the Lady chapel for Communion
- ❖ Thursday, 23rd – Friends' Meeting House at 12:30pm
- ❖ Friday, 24th – Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs at 12:30pm

"Is Christian disunity a scandal before God? Or is it something we have grown accustomed to, as though it were a creaky door that we never seem to get around to fixing? St Paul's words challenge us as we reflect upon this question. To suggest that disunity is something acceptable is declaring that Christ himself is divided – and that really is a scandal! The Churches of French Canada have chosen for us a key biblical text of the ecumenical movement, *Is Christ Divided*, and have invited us to think about what our divisions say to the world and to each other about the Christian faith." (Taken from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website)

Hereford LIFE Group: the Annual General Meeting is on Monday 20th January at 7:30 pm in St Martin's Church, 89 Ross Road - all welcome

Tuesday Devotions: Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass and the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary afterwards

Benedict and Francis: January 31-2 February; we reflect on two saints, two sons of Umbria and the vision of life and faith carried forward in today's renewal of the Church. Led by Dom Brendan Thomas at Belmont

Welsh National Pilgrimage to Lourdes: the re-constituted Welsh National Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from Sunday 27 July until Friday 1 August. Travelling with Joe Walsh Tours means that a lower price has been negotiated, as requested at the Council of Priests. Further details, booking forms, registration can be made through Fr. Kevin Paine (Tel: 01495 243304)

Congratulations: to Archbishop Vincent Nichols on his elevation to the College of Cardinals. His Grace, Archbishop George, has asked that prayers for Archbishop Vincent's intentions and well being be offered by the faithful of our archdiocese

SPUC collection: last Sunday raised a total of **£263.21** – thank you

Second week of Ordinary Time

Psalter: Week II

Today:

9:30 am John Farren
11:30 am Anthony Moruzzi
6:30 pm

Monday 20 January 9:30 am Mass – Int of A McGowan
St Sebastian, Martyr

Tuesday 21 January 7:00pm Mass – Shirley Walters
St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr

Wednesday, 22 January 9:30 am Mass – E & J O'Callaghan
St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr

Thursday, 23 January 9:30 am Mass – Int of J Doverman
Feria

Friday, 24 January 7:00 pm Mass – Int of A Coleman
St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

Saturday, 25 January 9:30 am Confessions
Conversion of St Paul 10:30 am Mass – E & A Ross

Sunday, 26 January (Third Sunday of OT)

9:30 am Andrew & Sadie Cummings
11:30 am Angelo Moruzzi
6:30 pm Celebrated by Fr Cenydd Marrison

Please pray for:

The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Karen Royer, Sue Watkins, Julie Martin, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O'Neil, Andrew Walker, Natalie Chadwick, Sylvia Jones, Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Jason Houten, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, John O'Donahue, Sr Catherine Jackson OP, Joe Carroll, Dorothy Dzioba, Stan Morris, Joan Sheeran, Glyn Matthews, Sam Thomson, Ian O'Donahue, Dr Mike O'Kane, Madeleine Went, Anna Foggo, Colin Reid, Catherine Rollings, Łukasz Maziarski, and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially Harry Grafen, Simon Williams, Jeanette Harrall, Fr John Meredith, Jim Smith, Barry Britton, Janet McNamara and John Hodgson

Those whose anniversary falls in the month of January, including: Lillian Orchard, Walter Jennings, Kathleen Jones, Kathleen Shawcross, Marjorie Sullivan, Ellen Willis, Elizabeth Farley, Ernest Cooper, Patrick Taylor, Margaret Ryan, Jamie McGoran, Winifred Brennan, Catherine Ross, Syd Swann, Eileen Harris, Patrick Lynch, Denise McQuaid, Ronald O'Connor, Joseph Kelly, Raymond Watkins, Leslie Foulkes, Celia Methven, Reginald Sly, Shirley Walters, Irene Brennan, Jean Chappell, Angelo Moruzzi, Anthony Moruzzi, Raymond Breeze, Amelia Smith, Jerzy Schmidt, Michał Piwień, Baden Powell, Francis Seymour, Eileen Scott, William Graham, James Jones, Louise Champion and Margaret Dean

Being a new pastor to an aging congregation, I told them I would be serving them prune juice at Holy Communion. When asked why I would dare entertain such a thought, I said, "If the Holy Spirit won't move you--the prune juice will!"

Rota Schedule for 24 to 30 January 2014

Flower Arrangers: A Rollings & S West
Cleaners: Volunteers
Ushers: 9:30am P Roberts & C Sharland
11:30am R Cotterell & volunteer
6:30pm Volunteers
Readers:
9:30am P Buckley
11:30am J Meenaghan
6:30pm TBC
Eucharistic Ministers:
9:30am C Sharland, T Bray (A Hepworth)
11:30pm C Balestra, M Davies, E Cotterell
6:30pm J Winter, R Jones, C Milsom
Altar Linen: M Lynch

Polish Information:

Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 26 stycznia godz 16:00

Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 12th January came to **£369.85** – thank you

Pete found a bottle on the shore of Morecombe Bay, and when he opened it out popped a genie. The genie granted him three wishes. Pete wished for a million pounds, and poof! there was a million pounds. Then he wished for a sports car, and poof! there was a sports car. Finally he wished to be irresistible to women and poof! he turned into a box of chocolates.