

PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

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The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A – 26 January 2014

Entrance: *O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place*

Responsorial psalm: *The Lord is my light and my help*

Gospel: *Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom, and cured all kinds of sickness among the people. Alleluia!*

Communion: *Look towards the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed*



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. 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. 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*” which was the First World War, whose centenary occurs this year. What is needed is courage “*to go beyond the surface of the conflict*” 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*”. 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. (Taken from Pope Francis’ address to the members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, 13th January 2014)

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 35 were 37, 41, 33, 48, and 4

No winner

Prize money for week 36 is £140.00 and five numbers to be drawn

Second collection: this will be dedicated to the forthcoming decoration work in the parish buildings

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

Deanery Pastoral Council: will meet in our parish hall this coming Wednesday at 7:30 pm

Bible Study: this coming Thursday in the parish house at 7:00 pm – all welcome. New subject starting

Update from the PAC: during 2013 we installed a new heating system in the parish hall; solar panels were fitted to the parish hall roof for renewable energy; improvements were made to the drainage in the car park, so that it no longer floods when we have heavy rain. We are currently in the process of changing the lighting in the church to enable us to get the full benefit from the feed in tariff for the solar panels. The ongoing works for 2014 will include the redecoration of the church and parish hall and new carpet for the church. The members of the PAC thank the parishioners for your continued support

PAC membership: due to the resignation of PAC members we currently have vacancies; if you would like to put your name forward please see Fr Cenydd or Richard Seamark. The post of secretary to the PAC also needs filling. Meetings take place about every 6 weeks, so the task is not onerous

Communication: for easy access for those who are interested, the parish newsletters are uploaded on to the parish web site weekly, and an archive of past newsletters is available to browse. The PAC approved minutes are also on the website and on the notice board at the back of church, along with PAC members' photos

From Celia Sharland: I would like to thank everyone for their messages of sympathy, prayers and attendance at my brother Jim's Requiem Mass

Archdiocesan moves: Fr. William Isaac has been appointed parish Priest at St. Teilo's and Our Lady of Lourdes in succession to Canon Eddie O'Connell, who has retired to Ireland. Fr. Gareth Jones has been appointed Parish Priest at St. Mary's, Bridgend, pro tem. This is in addition to his other duties as Catholic Chaplain at the University of Cardiff. He will be assisted at Bridgend by Fr. Tadeusz Rutkowski, a priest from the Archdiocese of Bialystok in Poland. He is on loan to the Diocese of Cardiff for three years. Together with Fr. Tim McGrath from Porthcawl, Fr. Gareth and Fr. Tadeusz will also be responsible for the pastoral care of Maesteg and Aberkenfig. They will be supported by Deacons Robert Coyne, Philip Manghan and Anthony Martin

Message from the Hereford Food Bank: a sincere thank you for all in Our Lady's Parish who help with donations of food and money, or who help at the Food Bank and with supermarket collections. From March to December 2013 the Food Bank provided almost 1500 emergency food parcels. In December alone there were 150 referrals, almost three times the number provided when the Food Bank started in March 2013. A third of these were for families with children. Please continue to help us in 2014; we distributed more than 70 parcels in the first two weeks of January alone. We urgently need tins of potatoes, vegetables, fruit, rice puddings and custard, packets of tea bags, coffee, sugar, dried milk and rice. We also need shampoo, toothpaste, soap, baby food, disposable nappies, toilet rolls, and cat and dog food. We already have quite a lot of pasta. Again, thank you

Ecumenical Celebration of Family Life: a special non-Eucharistic service will be held in St David's Cathedral, Cardiff, on Saturday March 8th at 12 noon, to celebrate God's love at work in our everyday family life, in happy and less happy times. All are very welcome, so please invite family and friends of all denominations to come with you. If you would like to take a special part by giving a reading or carrying a symbol to the altar please contact 029 20212821 or fic@rcadc.org.uk

Third week of Ordinary Time

Psalter: Week III

Today:

9:30 am Andrew & Sadie Cummings
11:30 am Angelo Moruzzi
6:30 pm

Monday 27 January 9:30 am Mass – Int of G Edwards
St Angela Merici, Virgin

Tuesday 28 January 7:00pm Mass – Int of Rita O’Leary
St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Wednesday, 29 January 9:30 am Mass – Int of Rhian Firth
Feria

Thursday, 30 January 9:30 am Mass – Int of Elizabeth Lee
Feria

Friday, 31 January 7:00 pm Mass – E Uden & N Willis
St John Bosco, Priest

Saturday, 01 February 9:30 am Confessions
Votive Mass of the BVM 10:30 am Mass – Elizabeth Corbin

Sunday, 02 February (Presentation of the Lord)

9:30 am Jim Smith
11:30 am Fr John Meredith
6:30 pm Celebrated by Fr Michael Evans

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, 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, Ivan Champion, Margaret Anderson and all in our prayer book

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

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

Mary was having a tough day and had stretched herself out on the sofa to do a bit of what she thought to be well-deserved complaining and self-pitying. She moaned to her mum and brother, “Nobody loves me ... the whole world hates me!” Her brother, busily occupied playing a game, hardly looking up at her passed on this encouraging word: “That’s not true, Mary. Some people don’t even know you.”

I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn’t work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.

Rota Schedule for 31 January to 06 February 2014

Flower Arrangers: L Meredith

Cleaners: Volunteers

Ushers: 9:30am J Sullivan & volunteer

11:30am J McGowan & J Kelly

6:30pm R & R Seemarks

Readers:

9:30am C Sharland

11:30am H Meenaghan

6:30pm V Woods

Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am A Hepworth, D Lissaman, (T Bray)

11:30pm H Meenaghan, J McGowan

6:30pm J Winter, C Milsom, G McAleer

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, 19th January came to **£600.59** – thank you