

3rd April

Daily Prayer and Reflections

As we are in the penultimate week of Lent, we take this time to pray and reflect on the sacrifice that Jesus undertook for us. We particularly take moments of still and quiet like Jesus did after his baptism in the desert for 40 days. We typically observe lent by giving something up as our sacrifice. But we can push ourselves further and take that extra time of prayer and observe the 3 pillars of Holy Lent which is to pray, fast and give. Coming up to Holy Week, we should try to take as much prayerful time to be a witness to our faith during these unprecedented times.

Today's Prayer:

Lord,

As this week draws to a close, I come to offer it all up to You. All the things that I am grateful for and to rely more on Your strength in situations that arise. Continue to guide me along the path you have written for me.

Amen

On the @BC_Chaplaincy Twitter Page, we upload daily reflections and prayer ideas which we invite you to look at with readings of the day also posted. We post small reflections so we can keep God's word active throughout the day and accessible. We also have a blog on the website which unpacks some different types of prayer.

Today's Gospel

The Jews fetched stones to stone him, so Jesus said to them, 'I have done many good works for you to see, works from my Father; for which of these are you stoning me?' The Jews answered him, 'We are not stoning you for doing a good work but for blasphemy: you are only a man and you claim to be God.' Jesus answered:

'Is it not written in your Law:

I said, you are gods?

So the Law uses the word *gods*

of those to whom the word of God was addressed,

and scripture cannot be rejected.

Yet you say to someone the Father has consecrated and sent into the world,

"You are blaspheming,"

because he says, "I am the son of God."

If I am not doing my Father's work,

there is no need to believe me;

but if I am doing it,

then even if you refuse to believe in me,

at least believe in the work I do;

then you will know for sure

that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.'

They wanted to arrest him then, but he eluded them.

He went back again to the far side of the Jordan to stay in the district where John had once been baptising. Many people who came to him there said, 'John gave no signs, but all he said about this man was true'; and many of them believed in him.

We are close to Holy Week, during which we commemorate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Beginning with the fourth week of Lent, the texts of the Gospel of every day are texts taken almost exclusively from the Gospel of John, the Jesus makes of the mystery of the Father which fills Him completely, and on the other side, the closing up of the Jews who always become more impermeable to the message of Jesus. The tragic aspect of this closing up is that they claim it is in fidelity to God. They refuse Jesus in the name of God.

- This way in which John presents the conflict between Jesus and the religious authority is not only something which has taken place in the far past. It is also a mirror which reflects what happens today.

John 10:31-33: The Jews want to stone Jesus. The Jews prepare stone to kill Jesus and Jesus asks: "I have shown you many good works from My Father, for which of these are you stoning me?" The answer: "We are stoning you, not for doing a good work, but for blasphemy; though you are only man, you claim to be God". They want to kill Jesus because He blasphemates. The law ordered that such persons should be stoned.

Prayer

Lord,

We pray that we take appreciation of all the goodness You have betrothed on to us. We pray that we accept everyone as who you made them to be and positive with all of our bothers and sisters in christ.

Amen

Diocesan Information

Masses are live streamed up and down the diocese and are daily. If you want to watch mass, follow this link select a church and the mass times are listed so you can plan Mass Live stream in to your day:

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/west-midlands>

Praise and Worship Playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8umfBRIwW8>

