

LECTIO DIVINA (Holy Reading)
PRAYING WITH THE SACRED SCRIPTURES.
Sunday 1 September 2024
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B
For those who pray the Liturgy of the Hours, the Psalter takes Week Two

Before beginning prayer with the Sacred Texts, let us take a look at the week ahead in the Liturgy, the Australian Church and the Social Justice Calendar.

In the Liturgy:

- 03: St. Gregory the Great. (Feast)
- 06: Our Lady of Solitude. (Memorial)

In the Australian and New Zealand Church:

- 01: World Day of Prayer for Creation.
- 02: Toowoomba: Anniversary of the death of Bishop Edward Kelly, 1994.
Sydney: Anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral, 1928.
- 03: Hobart: Anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of the Most Rev. Julian Porteous.
- 03: Sydney: Episcopal Ordination of the Most Rev. Anthony Fisher.
- 07: Wilcannia Forbes: Anniversary of the dedication of the Cathedral, 1960.
- 06: Hamilton: Anniversary of the death of the Most Rev. Edward Gaines.

In the Social Justice Calendar:

- 01: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.
- 01: Season of Creation begins
- 05: International Day of Charity.
- 06: Spring Ember Day. This is a special Day of Prayer and Penance for Australian Catholics.
- 10: World Suicide Prevention Day.

LET US NOW MOVE INTO PRAYER WITH THE SACRED TEXTS

The readings are:

- Deuteronomy 4:1-2 and 6-8.
- James 1:17-18, 221-22, 27.
- Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

Lectio: Read the first text from the Book of Deuteronomy, chapter 4:1-2 and 6-8. Read it slowly, listening as you read. This text is for you and me, not for others, so let's hear it that way.

Meditatio: Deuteronomy is one of the law books of the Old Testament, and number five of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament). The term "Deuteronomy" refers to the second statement of the Law of Moses. Timewise, it is about 1475 B.C.

Chapters 1-4 of Deuteronomy are about looking back. Looking back at all that God has done...

You will find in this book that everyone's person is to be secure (Deut. 5:17 and 24:7, and 27:18).

It's worthwhile reading and praying with these texts before moving on. Remind yourself that 5 September is the International Day of Charity.

Moses teaches the people that observance of the law of the Lord is essential for life.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 14: 2-5

The response is: THE JUST WILL LIVE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

Psalm is a series of questions and answers. When you have finished reading the Psalm you have the type of person who is worthy of like because that person:

Walks without fault

Acts with justice

Speaks truth from the heart

Keeps a pledge come what may

Takes no interest on a loan

Accepts no bribes against the innocent.

Such a person will stand firm forever.

This is a picture of one who observes the laws and customs of God which Moses spells out in the text from Deuteronomy.

Lectio: Read the Second Mass text from James 1:17-18, 21,22 and 21.

Meditatio: This text is about unspoilt religion which means coming to the help of widows and orphans when they need it. The Word of God which has been planted in us to save us.

The key verse in James and the one we need to keep close to our hearts is:

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Gospel Acclamation is from Jame 1:18

THE FATHER GAVE US BIRTH BY HIS MESSAGE OF TRUTH,
THAT WE MIGHT BE AS THE FIRST FRUITS OF HIS CREATION.

Lectio: Read the Gospel from Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

Meditatio: Irenaeus has written a commentary on this Gospel. At the heart of his theology is a vision of unity, the recapitulation of all things in Christ. Just as all have sinned in one man, Adam, so all are offered salvation in Christ, the second Adam.

“The Pharisees claimed that the traditions of their elders safeguarded the law, but in fact they contravened the law Moses had given. By saying: ‘Your merchants mix water with wine’, Isaiah shows that the elders mixed their watery tradition with God’s strict commandment. In other words, they enjoined an adulterated law which went against the law, as the Lord also made clear when he asked them: “Why do you transgress God’s commandment for the sake of your tradition? By their transgression they not only falsified God’s law, mixing water with wine, but they also set against it their own law, called to this

day the Pharisaic law. In this their rabbis suppress some of the commandments, add new ones, and give others their own interpretation, thus making the law serve their own purposes.

***Evangelizatio* is my LIVED RESPONSE to the sacred scriptures given to me each week by the Church for my formation as a Christian. If I don't respond, they are merely texts on a page. When I do respond, they are my life.**

To pray with this Gospel text, we need to go back and pray with the first text. The Gospel text is built on that text.

St. Benedict, in his Rule for Monasteries describes sarabaites as the most detestable kinds of monks, saying that their law was what they like to do, whatever strikes their fancy. Anything they believe in and choose they call holy; anything they dislike they consider forbidden. We all know these people. We've encountered them: in political life, in the local council, in the registry office, in hospitals, in schools, everywhere. Everywhere are those who like to control us with their views on what's holy and what isn't.

*Lectio Divina is a way of life, not a method prayer.
We read (Lectio), pray (oratio), rest in the Lord, (contemplation)
and we respond, evangelizatio (evangelisation of self – losing the self-ego).
And we go on pondering, like the Mother of God
who pondered everything in her heart.*



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)