

St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton

[Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216]

Fr John Sharp

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Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

18th October 2020

PARISH LITURGY – MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

Saturday **No Saturday evening Mass at present**
Sunday 9.30 am People of the Parish

Monday [Feria]

9.00 am Delia Murray

Tuesday [Feria]

9.00 am Isobel Eustace

Wednesday [Feria]

9.00 am Private Intention

Thursday [St John Paul II, pope]

9.00 am Private Intention

Friday [Feria]

9.00 am Private Intention

Saturday [Feria (of our Lady)]

9.00 am Private Intention

Confessions: Saturday, 4.30-5.00 pm

Please pray for the sick in our parish and those who have died: **Hilda Poole** (anniversary)

Peter came to Rome. What else but obedience to the inspiration received from the Lord could have guided him and brought him to this city, the heart of the Empire? Perhaps the fisherman of Galilee did not want to come here. Perhaps he would have preferred to stay there, on the shores of the Lake of Genesareth, with his boat and his nets. Yet guided by the Lord, obedient to his inspiration, he came here.

According to an ancient tradition, Peter tried to leave Rome during Nero's persecution. However, the Lord intervened and came to meet him. Peter spoke to him and asked 'Quo vadis, Domine?' – 'Where are you going, Lord?' And the Lord answered him at once: 'I am going to Rome to be crucified again.' Peter went back to Rome and stayed here until his crucifixion.

Our time calls us, urges us, obliges us to gaze on the Lord and to immerse ourselves in humble and devout meditation on the mystery of the supreme power of Christ himself.

He who was born of the Virgin Mary, the carpenter's Son (as he was thought to be), the Son of the living God (as confessed by Peter), came to make us all 'a kingdom of priests.'

The Second Vatican Council has reminded us of the mystery of this power and of the fact that Christ's mission as Priest, Prophet-Teacher and King continues in the Church. Everyone, the whole People of God, shares in this threefold mission. Perhaps in the past the tiara, that triple crown, was placed on the Pope's head in order to signify by that symbol the Lord's plan for his Church, namely that all the hierarchical order of Christ's Church, all 'sacred power' exercised in the Church, is nothing other than service, service with a single purpose: to ensure that the whole People of God shares in the threefold mission of Christ and always remains under the power of the Lord; a power that has its source not in the powers of this world, but instead in the mystery of the Cross and Resurrection.

The absolute, yet sweet and gentle, power of the Lord responds to the whole depths of the human person, to his loftiest aspirations of intellect, will and heart. It does not speak the language of force, but expresses itself in charity and truth.

The new Successor of Peter in the See of Rome today makes a fervent, humble and trusting prayer: Christ, make me become and remain the servant of your unique power, the servant of your sweet power, the servant of your power that knows no dusk. Make me a servant: indeed, the servant of your servants.

Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power. Help the Pope and all those who wish to serve Christ and with Christ's power to serve the human person and the whole of mankind.

Do not be afraid. Open, I say open wide the doors for Christ. To his saving power open the boundaries of states, economic and political systems, the vast fields of culture, civilization and development. Do not be afraid. Christ knows 'that which is in man'. He alone knows it.

So often today, man does not know that which is in him, in the depths of his mind and heart. So often he is uncertain about the meaning of his life on this earth. He is assailed by doubt, a doubt which turns into despair. We ask you, therefore, we beg you with humility and with trust, let Christ speak to man. He alone has words of life, yes, of life eternal.

From the inaugural sermon of Pope John Paul II

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