


SUNDAY *Plus*

Pentecost **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

Spirit of love and peace, humanity is often divided. Unity and understanding can seem so distant as innocent people become victims of injustice and cruelty. Help me to radiate love to my own little world. Make me an instrument of your peace.  Amen.

Blessing of St Clare of Assisi

What you hold, may you always hold.

What you do, may you always do and never abandon. But with swift pace, light step, unswerving feet, so that even your steps stir up no dust, may you go forward securely, joyfully and swiftly, on the path of prudent happiness, not believing anything, not agreeing with anything, that would dissuade you from this resolution or that would place a stumbling block for you on the way, so that you may offer your vows to the Most High in the pursuit of that perfection to which the Spirit of God has called you.

St Clare of Assisi

Today, as in the days after Pentecost, the Church, led by the Holy Spirit, pursues her journey through history with trust, joy and courage as she proclaims the name of Jesus and the salvation born of faith in the saving truth of the Gospel.

Pope Leo XIV

Your Holy Spirit blows where he will – where he will, not where I will. He is not simply always there, whenever and wherever someone wants him to be. We must go to him, there, where he chooses to give his grace. And that's why your salvation is bound up with your visible Church. That's why your grace comes to us in visible signs.

This is all quite clear to me, Lord, and I'm very happy about this distinctive characteristic of your grace. It's comforting to know that I can approach you... in concrete, tangible, visible signs. It warms my heart to know that I can be sure of your power and presence in my life through the water of baptism, or by the audible

word of forgiveness spoken by the priest, or in the holy bread of the altar...

Can one pass on your truth without having fully grasped it himself? Can I preach your Gospel, if it has not struck deep roots in my own heart? Can I pass on your life, if I am not alive with it myself? Your holy signs can produce grace of their own power, it's true...

Thus, I shall be happy to set out again and again on my messenger's rounds to my fellow men and women. You have sent me, and so I go in your name, not my own. Let your power triumph through my weakness, whenever you desire it to do so.

Karl Rahner SJ,
Encounters with Silence

Feast of the week
Wednesday 27 May

St Augustine of Canterbury (d. 604)

St Augustine landed in Anglo-Saxon Britain after Pope Gregory the Great met some slaves on sale in the market in Rome. The experience catalysed him to send Augustine to people who were, "Not Angles but angels!"

The Romans brought Christianity to Britain. St Alban, the first-recorded British Christian martyr, died in 305, 590 years before Augustine landed on Kentish shores. The Glastonbury Legend says that Joseph of Arimathea set up the first British Christian community at Glastonbury. After the departure of the Romans, small pockets of Christianity survived until Augustine's arrival, although there is little evidence that Romano-British Christians tried to bring the Anglo-Saxons into the fold.

After Kent's King Ethelbert became a Christian, Augustine reported that ten thousand of his subjects followed the king.

Augustine's limited understanding of the culture, traditions and thinking of the people he had come to evangelise possibly explains his limited effectiveness in Wales and other parts of England, during his eight years as the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

READINGS

Today:
Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3-7.
12-13
John 20:19-23

Monday:
Genesis 3:9-15. 20 or
Acts 1:12-14
John 19:25-34

Tuesday:
1 Peter 1:10-16
Mark 10:28-31

Wednesday:
1 Peter 1:18-25
Mark 10:32-45

Thursday:
Genesis 22:9-18
Matthew 26:36-42

Friday:
1 Peter 4:7-13
Mark 11:11-26

Saturday:
Jude 17, 20b-25
Mark 11:27-33

Next Sunday:
Exodus 34:4-6. 8-9
2 Corinthians
13:11-13
John 3:16-18