



Monday 23rd August 2021
21st Week in Ordinary Time Year 1
Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin

Gospel

Mt 13:44-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sold all that he had and bought the field.

Jesus said to the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

Reflection By Fr John Lovell

St Rose of Lima was born Isabel Flores De Olivia in the city of Lima, Peru in 1586, and was the first person in the Americas to be canonised a saint.

She modelled herself on St Catherine of Sienna and took a perpetual vow of virginity against the wishes of her parents who expected her to marry. As they wouldn't allow her to enter a convent as a nun, she became a Third Order Dominican.

Her life from an early age was characterised by prolonged periods of seclusion and contemplative prayer, severe acts of penance, and caring for the sick and the poor of her city. She used her needlework and gardening skills to produce fine lace and grow flowers to raise funds for the poor.

Rose died in 1617 at the age of 31 and was canonised by Pope Clement X in 1671. She is a patron saint of: embroiderers, gardeners, florists, of Peru, South America, and the Indies. May we pray through her intercession that we also grow in our love for the sick and the poor. In our Gospel reading today Jesus is in the Holy city of Jerusalem where He is displaying incredible boldness and courage in publicly denouncing the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy and false standards. We don't often see Jesus speaking to in such harsh tones and His heated confrontation with these 'blind' leaders, as He called them, probably sealed His fate, making them more determined than ever to do away with Him.

Speaking out in defence of justice and truth often comes as a price. Many of the prophets and the martyrs also paid for their outspokenness with their lives. May God give us the discernment, wisdom and courage to stand up for the truth in our day, but always with humility and understanding; for only God has the authority to judge and condemn individuals in the manner Jesus is doing today. Yet, since the Lord is ever merciful, even from the Cross He looked upon those 'blind' leaders who had condemned Him and cried out, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do".