



Wednesday 15th September 2021

24th WK ORDINARY TIME – YR 1

Our Lady of Sorrows

First Reading

Heb 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 30:2-6. 15-16. 20 R. v.17

(R.) Save me, O Lord, in your steadfast love.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge.
Let me never be put to shame.
In your justice, set me free,
hear me and speedily rescue me. (R.)
2. Be a rock of refuge for me,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
For your name's sake, lead me and guide me. (R.)
3. Release me from the snares they have hidden
for you are my refuge, Lord.
Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord. (R.)
4. As for me, I trust in you, Lord.
I say: 'You are my God.
My life is in your hands, deliver me
from the hands of those who hate me.' (R.)
5. How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you,
that you show to those who trust you
in the sight of men. (R.)

Sequence

Stabat Mater

At the cross her station keeping
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last;

through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
all his bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword had passed.

Oh, how sad and sore distressed
was that Mother highly blessed
of the sole-begotten One.

Christ above in torments hangs;
she beneath beholds the pangs
of her dying glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,
whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain
from partaking in her pain,
in that Mother's pain untold?

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled
she beheld her tender child
all with bloody scourges rent;

for the sins of his own nation
saw him hang in desolation,
till his spirit forth he sent.

for the sins of his own nation
saw him hang in desolation,
till his spirit forth he sent.

O you Mother, fount of love!
Touch my spirit from above,
make my heart with yours accord;

make me feel as you have felt;
make my soul to glow and melt
with the love of Christ our Lord.

Holy Mother, pierce me through;
in my heart each wound renew
of my Saviour crucified;

let me share with you his pain
who for all my sins was slain,
who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with you,
mourning him who mourned for me
all the days that I may live;

by the cross with you to stay
there with you to weep and pray,
is all I ask of you to give.

Virgin of all virgins best,
listen to my fond request:
let me share your grief divine;

let me, to my latest breath,
in my body bear the death
of that dying Son of yours.

Wounded with his every wound,
steep my soul till it has swooned
in his very blood away;

be to me, O Virgin, nigh,
lest in flames I burn and die
in his awful judgement day.

Christ, when you shall call me hence,
be your Mother my defence,
be your cross my victory.

While my body here decays,
may my soul your goodness praise,
safe in paradise with you.

Gospel

Jn 19:25-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

How that loving mother was pierced with grief and anguish when she saw the sufferings of her son.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

Reflection - Fr John Lovell

Although Mass was celebrated last Sunday for our annual Perpetual Day of Remembrance, the actual date it falls on is 15th September, the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. Just as Mary stood sorrowing at the foot of the Cross while her Divine Son hung there dying, we the Church of Maitland-Newcastle are specially called at this time to express sorrow and to prayer for healing for all our brothers and sisters who have suffered over the years and continue to suffer as a result of the abuses they experienced at the hands of individuals in our Church. Countless families, friends and loved ones of these victims also continue to carry in their lives the scars of those acts, just as Jesus's crucified and resurrected body continued to carry the wounds of His Crucifixion.

As Mary stood vigil at the foot of the Cross, we too must stand vigil with all those who have suffered from child sexual abuse in our time. We must remain ever vigilant and alert to ensure such crimes never happen again.

And as Mary at the foot of the Cross looked forward with hope to the Resurrection, we too must be filled with hope in anticipation of the life-restoring Second Coming of the Lord and the General Resurrection that is promised to all who have shared in His Cross.