



Tuesday 05 Oct 2021

Tuesday of the twenty-seventh week in Ordinary Time Year 1

First Reading

Jon 3:1-10

A reading from the prophet Jonah

Nineveh was converted from its evil ways and was spared by the Lord.

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said, 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least. The news reached the king of Nineveh, who rose from his throne, took off his robe, put on sackcloth and sat down in ashes. A proclamation was then promulgated throughout Nineveh, by decree of the king and his ministers, as follows: 'Men and beasts, herds and flocks, are to taste nothing; they must not eat, they must not drink water. All are to put on sackcloth and call on God with all their might; and let everyone renounce his evil behaviour and the wicked things he has done. Who knows if God will not change his mind and relent, if he will not renounce his burning wrath, so that we do not perish?' God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129:1-4. 7-8. R. v.3

(R.) If you, O Lord, laid bare our guilt,
who could endure it?

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. **(R.)**
3. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

Gospel

Lk 10:38-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Martha took up the duties in the house. Mary chose the better part.

Jesus came to a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. She had a sister called Mary, who sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to him speaking. Now Martha who was distracted with all the serving said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister is leaving me to do the serving all by myself? Please tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered: 'Martha, Martha,' he said, 'you worry and fret about so many things, and yet few are needed, indeed only one. It is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her.'

Reflection by Fr John Lovell

One of those traditional Catholic sayings I have never felt completely comfortable with is: 'Extra Ecclesiam Nulla Salus', which translates as, 'There is no salvation outside the Church'. And among the Jewish people of the Old Testament (the 'Chosen People'), similar ideas must have circulated. We see this in an inscription at the entrance to the great Temple in Jerusalem that warned gentiles against proceeding any further under penalty of death.

Consider these concepts in the context of today's First Reading where God sends a Jew, Jonah, to bring a message of repentance and salvation to a huge city of pagans: Nineveh. Jonah had been very reluctant at first, probably because the Assyrians were mortal enemies of the Jews. So why would God or the 'Chosen people' want to help them? But after some persuasion from God, Jonah finally gave way. He went into the great city and his message was promptly heeded by the people of that city.

Who are my enemies today? How is God calling me to reach out to them? And if I don't love and pray for them, what will He say to me when one day I appear before His judgement seat? After all, this is why we have been called and chosen to be His disciples, to bring His saving love to all the peoples of our world, especially those who don't share our faith.

Today is also the memorial of St Maria Faustina Kowalska, a young Polish nun who in early 1931 began receiving visions from our Lord. From these came the wonderful image and devotions we call Divine Mercy. Through this devotion Jesus is specially calling us to commend all people to His infinite mercy, for no sin is too great for Him to forgive, if only people will ask for His mercy and place their trust in His saving power.

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