



**St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



## **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 29, 2023**

**Mary**

**Pope Benedict XVI**

"Mary is so interwoven in the great mystery of the church that she and the church are inseparable, just as she and Christ are inseparable. Mary mirrors the church, anticipates the church in her person, and in all the turbulence that affects the suffering, struggling church she always remains the star of salvation. In her lies the true centre in which we trust, even if its peripheries very often weigh on our soul." Homily, Dec. 8, 2005

### **READINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**                      **Zep 2:3; 3:12-13**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**                      **1 Cor 1:26-31**

**Gospel**                                **Mt 5:1-12a**

### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS**

**Introduction:** Today's readings define our Christian goal of eternal happiness and explain the attitudes and actions necessary to reach it. They form the outline for Christ-like living, noting the personal qualities expected of a disciple of Jesus and pointing out the way of life to be lived by a disciple. They show us the values that Christ cares about. In essence, the Beatitudes both fulfil and complete the Ten Commandments which stress the "Thou shalt nots." But Jesus presents the Beatitudes in a positive sense, as the virtues in life which will ultimately lead to the rewards of salvation - not in this world, but in the next.

**Scripture lessons:** Zephaniah, in the first reading, calls the "moral minority" of the Jews of his time "blessed" because they seek justice, humility, truth, and

righteousness, thus making a declaration of dependence on God. In the second reading, Paul advises his Corinthian Christians to use their gifts and Heaven-sent blessings for the good of the community because God has chosen to give them life in Jesus, by whom He justified, sanctified and redeemed them.

In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples in the paradoxical blessedness of poverty, hunger, sorrow, and persecution. In poverty, we recognize God's reign; in hunger, His providence; in sorrow, true happiness; and in persecution, true joy. In other words, the blessed in Jesus' list are poor in spirit, compassionate, meek, merciful, clean of heart, peace-makers and those who are willing even to be insulted and persecuted for their lived Faith in him Each of the inspired authors of today's readings, Zephaniah, Paul, and Matthew, "makes a motion," that each of us should consider making a personal *Declaration of Dependence* on God and then work with His grace to lead a holier and happier life.

### **In Search of Freedom; Against Reason Fallen Ill and Religion Abused- By Pope Benedict XVI**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, 1944, when the landing of the allied troops in German-occupied France commenced, a signal of hope was given to people throughout the world, and also to many in Germany itself, of imminent peace and freedom in Europe. What had happened? A criminal and his party faithful had succeeded in usurping the power of the German state. In consequence of such party rule, law and injustice became intertwined, and often indistinguishable. The legal system itself, which continued, in some respects, still to function in an everyday context, had, at the same time, become a force destructive of law and right. This rule of lies served a system of fear, in which no one could trust another, since each person had somehow to shield himself behind a mask of lies, which, on the one hand, functioned as self defense, while, in equal measure, it served to consolidate the power of evil. And so it was that the whole world had to intervene to force open this ring of crime, so that freedom, law and justice might be restored.

We give thanks at this hour that this deliverance, in fact, took place. And not just those nations that suffered occupation by German troops, and were thus delivered over to Nazi terror, give thanks. We Germans, too, give thanks that by this action, freedom, law and justice would be restored to us. If nowhere else in history, here clearly is a case where, in the form of the Allied invasion, a *justum*

*bellum* worked, ultimately, for the benefit of the very country against which it was waged.

To Europe was given, after 1945, a period of peace of such duration as our continent had never seen in its entire history. To no small degree, this was the accomplishment of the first generation of post-war politicians -- Churchill, Adenauer, Schuman, De Gasperi - whom we have to thank at this hour: We are to give thanks that it was not punishment that was fixed upon, nor again revenge and the humiliation of the defeated, but rather that all should be accorded their rights.

Let us say it openly: These politicians took their moral ideas of state and right, peace and responsibility, from their Christian faith, a faith that had undergone the tests of the Enlightenment, and in opposing the perversion of justice and morality of the party-states, had emerged re-purified. They did not want to found a state upon religious faith, but rather a state informed by moral reason, yet it was their faith that helped them to raise up again a reason once distorted by, and held in thrall to ideological tyranny.

Across Europe ran a frontier, and not just across our continent, but dividing the entire world. A great part of Central Europe and Eastern Europe came under the domination of an ideology that subjected state to party, in the end, effacing the difference. Here, again, the result was the rule of lies. Visible after the collapse of these dictatorships, was the enormous destruction - economic, ideological, and psychological - which followed from this rule. In the Balkans, there were the entanglements of belligerency, bringing, along with the admittedly ancient burdens of history, new explosions of violence.

If Europe, since 1945 was permitted to experience a period of peace (the complications in the Balkans to one side), the state of the world taken as a whole was surely far from peaceful. From Korea, through Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Algeria, the Congo, Biafra-Nigeria, to the conflicts in Sudan, in Rwanda-Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozambique, Angola, Liberia, and on to Afghanistan and Chechnya, stretches a bloody arc of armed conflict, to which may be added the struggles in and concerning the Holy Land, and in Iraq. This is not the place to undertake a typology of these wars. But two, in some ways new phenomena, I would like to examine more closely.

(will Continue)

## **JAN 21/22 COLLECTIONS**

Gift Aid collection	92.00
Loose cash	91.97
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>183.97</u></b>

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday  
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

### **Please Pray for our Sick**

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,  
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

### **ANNIVERSARIES (Jan29-Feb-4)**

Brian David Cheetam, '95:, George Elias Hughes, '91: Margaret Joy Caldwell, '81:  
Gerald Williams, '04:, Walter Mc Grath, Sr. Carmel, '96: Anne Glover, The Turner  
Brothers, Elizabeth Gardner, Mary Mildred Williams, '86:, Gordon Payne '14 Sr.  
Ursula, '77: Jim Williams, '77: John Wooley,, Sr. Leone, '77

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