



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



June 25, 2023

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“He will shelter you with His pinions, and under His wings you may take refuge; His faithfulness is a protecting shield. You shall not fear the terror of the night nor the arrow that flies by day, Nor the pestilence that roams in darkness, nor the plague that ravages at noon.”
PSALMS 91: 4-6

READINGS

1st Reading Jer 20:10-13

2nd Reading Rom 5:12-15

GOSPEL Mt 10:26-33

Introduction: Our Scripture readings for this Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time call us to preach Christ through our words and lives without fear. The first reading tells us how the prophet Jeremiah trusted in the power of God while he faced opposition in his prophetic ministry. The psalmist in today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 69) displays the same trust in the *kindness and great mercy of God* when he is misunderstood and ill-treated even by his brothers and relatives. In the second reading, Paul assures the Christians in Rome that they need not be afraid of opposition both because they share in the death of Jesus and his Resurrection and because they are united with Christ, the new Adam, in his Resurrection. Today's Gospel passage is taken from the end of Jesus' instruction to the Twelve apostles as he sends them forth in pairs to prepare the people for His own coming, giving them a share in His own powers of miraculous healing. He instructs them to live simply and to expect opposition and rejection. After having

predicted future opposition and persecution, Jesus encourages his disciples to stand firm. Three times they are urged, "*Do not fear!*" "*Do not be afraid!*" Instead of shrinking from their task, they are to proclaim the Gospel boldly because they will be protected, just as Jeremiah was assured of God's protection. Hence, Jesus commands his disciples not to fear their persecutors. He presents before them the image of the sparrow to reinforce the disciples' trust and Hope in God. The readings hint at the opposition the Apostles themselves would meet, and we future Christians will encounter as we carry on the work of Jesus in the world, and they encourage us to persevere in doing the work of Jesus. They assure us that we will be successful despite the opposition we encounter.

The first reading: Jer 20:10-13 explained:

Like today's Gospel, the first reading, taken from the prophecy of Jeremiah, reflects on the sufferings of the believer. The passage from Jeremiah contains three voices and three addressees. There is the overall narrator, there is Jeremiah himself, and there are his enemies. Jeremiah (ca 650 BC to 580 BC) experienced the dangers posed by his friends because he spoke the words given him by Yahweh. Most of his work was in Judah's capital, Jerusalem. Jeremiah tried to keep the people and the kings faithful to God in a world of political intrigue. He met active hostility. Nevertheless, Jeremiah was confident that God would not let his enemies overcome him. He declared, "*But the Lord is with me, like a mighty Champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph.*" He praised God for salvation before he actually experienced it. "*Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!*"

The second reading: Rom 5:12-15 explained:

Paul assures the faithful followers of Jesus that they need not be afraid of opposition because they share in the death of Jesus and in His Resurrection. With words of encouragement, Paul explains why, in spite of their bitter experience of opposition, their work will succeed. Since Jesus, by His death and Resurrection, has conquered sin, Jesus' followers will ultimately succeed in carrying out his work, despite the opposition they encounter. Paul describes Jesus as the new Adam. Where the first Adam brought sin and death into the world, the second Adam brings grace and life. The passage tells us that we have died with Christ to the law, to sin, to self, and to the world. We need not be afraid of those who

oppose us, for we are united with Christ in his Resurrection. In the end, those who oppose Christ will be dishonoured, and those who have remained faithful will be redeemed and blessed with eternal life.

Gospel exegesis: Have no fear.

Today's Gospel passage is taken from the end of Jesus' instruction to his disciples as he sends them forth to carry on his mission of preaching and healing. He asks them to live simple lives and to expect opposition and rejection. After having foretold future opposition and persecution, Jesus encourages his disciples to stand firm. Three times they are urged, "*Do not fear!*" "*Do not be afraid!*" Instead of shrinking from their task, they are to proclaim the Gospel boldly because they will be protected, just as Jeremiah was assured of God's protection. Hence, Jesus commands his disciples not to fear their persecutors. He presents before them the image of the sparrow to reinforce the disciples' trust and hope in God. The readings hint at the opposition we future Christians will encounter as we carry on the work of Jesus in the world, and they encourage us to persevere in doing the work of Jesus. They assure us that we will be successful, despite the opposition we encounter.

JUNE 17/18 COLLECTIONS

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Loose cash | 151.08 |
| Gift Aid | 130.00 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>281.08</u> |

MASS INTENTIONS June 24-30

| Date | Offered by | Intentions |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 24/06/23- | | For the Parishioners |
| 25/06/23 | Jean and Chris Smith | For Fr. Terry Carr, 40th Anniversary |
| 26/06/23 | Jean Taylor | Ellen Hili, Death Anniversary |
| 27/06/23 | Angela Gonsles | For Healing |
| 28/06/23 | Derick Eric | Birthday of Mammy and Sunitha |
| 29/06/23 | Juliana | For Michael and Bridget Mongan |
| 30/06/23 | Brigida Fernandes | deceased members of the family |

Please Pray for our Sick

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

ANNIVERSARIES (June-24-30)

Henry John Coughlin, 2021, Maureen Condon, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF STS. PETER AND PAUL- On June 29, Thursday, being the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, and a Holyday of Obligation, the Holy Mass will be in the Church at 10.00 am.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO ST. WINEFRIDE'S SHRINE & WELL

The Diocesan Office of Wrexham reminds that this pilgrimage is on Sunday 25th June. It will start with a procession from St. Winefride's Church at 2.30pm followed by Mass at the Shrine at 3.00pm, officiated by His Lordship Bishop Peter Brignall. All the parishioners are requested to participate in the event.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

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

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