

## THE JOY OF OUR HOPE

In response to this reading, we are invited to make the plea of the psalmist our own, asking that, out of the kindness of God's heart, God will be compassionate towards us. This psalm helps us to be one in the faith that Francis expresses, when he says that despite our sinfulness "all is not lost... We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom" (*Laudato Si'*, 205). We pray that God will put "a steadfast spirit within us", and that the Holy Spirit will create for us "a pure heart" (Psalm 50:10). In this way, we commit ourselves to cooperating with God, expressing "our God-given ability to respond to his grace at work deep in our hearts". Francis appeals to "everyone throughout the world not to forget this dignity which is ours" (*Laudato Si'*, 205), our capacity to respond to the transforming call of God. At the end of today's psalm, we ask God that we will be sustained in our efforts by "a spirit of fervour" and to be given "again the joy of your help". Francis says something similar towards the end of *Laudato Si'*, inviting us not to put any boundaries in the way of our hearts, as they go out to those in need. The transformations that are needed in the world are great and will involve struggle, as they did for Jesus, but Francis prays: "May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope" (*Laudato Si'*, 244).



### Mass text

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against a nation that is  
faithless.

From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

PSALM Psalm 50

RESPONSE A pure heart create for me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. R.

2. A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R.

3. Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,  
that I may teach transgressors your ways  
and sinners may return to you. R.

SECOND READING Hebrews 5:7-9

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glorify to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must  
follow me;  
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.  
Glorify to you, O Christ, you are the Word of  
God!

GOSPEL John 12:20-33

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of  
wheat  
falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single  
grain.  
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

www.rpbooks.co.uk rp@rpbooks.co.uk @redemptorist

### Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-7  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Mark 14:1 - 15:47



# SUNDAY BULLETIN

THINKING FAITH

## LIVING FROM THE HEART

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus declares that his "hour" – the moment that John's Gospel has been building up to since it started – "has come" (John 12:23). It is fascinating that what triggers this statement is the arrival of some Greeks, who tell Philip that they would like to see Jesus. The mission of Jesus is not limited to saving his Jewish listeners, but reaches beyond the boundaries that humans erect between people of different nationalities and faiths. In the teaching that follows, Jesus says: "when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself", which the Gospel writer explains as indicating "the kind of death he would die" (John 12:32-33). As we move towards the climax of our Lenten season, the message of Jesus that we read today is applicable to anyone and everyone. As Pope Francis says in *Laudato Si'*, "when our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one" (92). This describes very well the kind of heart that Jesus had, and it is the kind of heart that we too are called to have, as his followers.



Our first reading, from the prophet Jeremiah, tells of a day when God will plant God's Law deep within God's people, "writing it on their hearts" (Jeremiah 31:33). He is speaking in the context of the exile, which is interpreted as a punishment for sin, but the prophecy shows us – as Pope Francis insists – that God always "wishes to work with us and... counts on our cooperation" (*Laudato Si'*, 80). Even though the people broke the covenant that God had made with their ancestors, God wants to make a new one with their descendants, so that God shall once again "be their God and they shall be my people" (Jeremiah 31:33). Francis assures us that the promised transformation means that God "can also bring good out of the evil we have done". This is an action of the Spirit, who "has filled the universe with possibilities and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can always emerge" (*Laudato Si'*, 80).

## A journey

### through

### Lent with

### *Laudato Si'*



Dr Martin Poulsom  
SDB considers the  
transformation of our  
hearts that can make  
us more like Christ.

21 MARCH 2021

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 1