

May 26, 2020
Tuesday of the 7th Week of Easter
Acts 20:17-27
John 17:1-11

Today's Activities & Tasks

- Read Today's Readings
- Gospel Reflection from Fr. Brian Johnson
- Prayer and Challenge for the Day
- Biography of St. Philip of Neri
- Fr. Brian's Letter to Parishioners
- Message from Bishop Medley: Public Celebration of Mass began May 20th.

Easter Week 7 Tuesday Reflection Acts 20-17-27 & John 17:1-11

St John Paul II often used this line of St Paul "Woe to me if I don't preach the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:16). St Paul and John Paul felt strongly the burden of responsibility to preach Jesus and the Kingdom to everyone. In today's first reading, Paul is almost giving a last will and testimony to the presbyters of Miletus and Ephesus. If not his last will, then it is at least Paul's finished report of work completed at Miletus. The tone of 'finality' is in Paul's voice because he is about to go to Jerusalem, about which he has been repeatedly warned to avoid, due to hostility and persecution awaiting him there. In Acts 20:20 he says to them that he never shrunk "from telling you what was for your benefit". He preached the gospel despite the risk of rejection, or the gospel's unpopularity. He is at peace with his ministry and service to in the area of Miletus. Knowing he has been faithful to Christ, he now rests on Christ's grace. Almost in a spirit of good resignation or retirement, Paul can say "I consider life of no importance to me, if only I may finish my course..." (Acts 20:24). This is so similar to his extended meditation on such 'holy resignation to God's will' that he writes about in the letter to the Philippians (while he was in jail!). In Philippians 3:8, he says, "For Christ's sake I have accepted the loss of all things". Paul is ready for the final

curtain, it sounds like. Yet, to us on the outside of his personal history, we know that Paul will not immediately die as a martyr in Jerusalem. Hard times await him there, for sure, but he will not die but for a couple of more years. He will be arrested and his free-ranging ministry as he has been practicing it with all of the missionary journeys, that will all come to an end. He will face a trial, and after appealing to Caesar based on his Roman Citizenship, he will be sent to Rome and await a judicial hearing. He is kept under house arrest and it may be two-three or several more years yet, after this dramatic testimony he gave to the Ephesians and Miletans, before he is finally executed. But still, Paul gives a good lesson in being prepared for our personal end and death, whether at this moment it comes to that or not. Jesus Himself taught such preparation. Whenever He was asked about the end times and end of the world, He always seemed to say, "Today may be the day-Be ready!" For example, in Matthew 24:44, Jesus said, "So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Don't put off what needs doing! We only have now!

Also, I just want to make a quick mention about a statement of Jesus in the gospel that may perplex us. In John 17:9, Jesus says, "I pray for them. ***I do not pray for the world*** but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours". What, Jesus is holding back on prayer for the world (that we know needs it more than anybody!)? Is this the same Jesus, who said, "Pray for your enemies (Matthew 5:44)? Please don't be troubled, because Jesus does care for the world. Remember John 3:17 "God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but that the world be saved through Him." I understand that Jesus is setting a temporal priority to prepare and pray for His disciples ***first***, and the 'world' will benefit and be prayed for through them. Like with our daily prayers, we all have to start with something, we can't say it all at once, so we begin and work through our list of intercessions. Sometimes, it happens that as we pray for first intentions, the later needs become answered and dealt with through the resolution of the earlier ones. The world will be prayed for, but first things first! In fact, John 17:20, has Jesus follow up by saying "I pray not only for those you gave me, but also for those who will believe in me through their word (world!)"

Resignation Prayer of St Thomas More:

Give me the grace, Good Lord. To set the world as nothing. To set my mind firmly on You and not to hang upon the words of men's mouths. To be content to be solitary. Not to long for worldly pleasures. Little by little utterly to cast off the

world and rid my mind of all its business. Not to long to hear of earthly things, but that the hearing of worldly fancies may be displeasing to me. Gladly to be thinking of God, piteously to call for His help. To lean into the comfort of God. Busily to labor to love Him. To humble myself under the mighty hand of God. To bewail my sins and, for the purging of them, patiently to suffer adversity. Gladly to bear my purgatory here. To be joyful in tribulations. To walk the narrow way that leads to life. To have the last thing in remembrance. To have ever before my eyes my death that is ever at hand. To foresee and consider the everlasting fire of Hell. To pray for pardon before the judge comes. To have continually in mind the passion that Christ suffered for me. To buy the time again that I have lost. To abstain from vain conversations. To cut off unnecessary recreations. Of worldly substance, friends, liberty, life and all, to set the loss at naught, for the winning of Christ. To think my worst enemies my best friends, for the brethren of Joseph could never have done him so much good with their love and favor as they did him with their malice and hatred. These thoughts are more to be desired of every man than all the treasures of all the princes and kings, Christian and heathen, were it gathered and laid together all in one heap. Amen

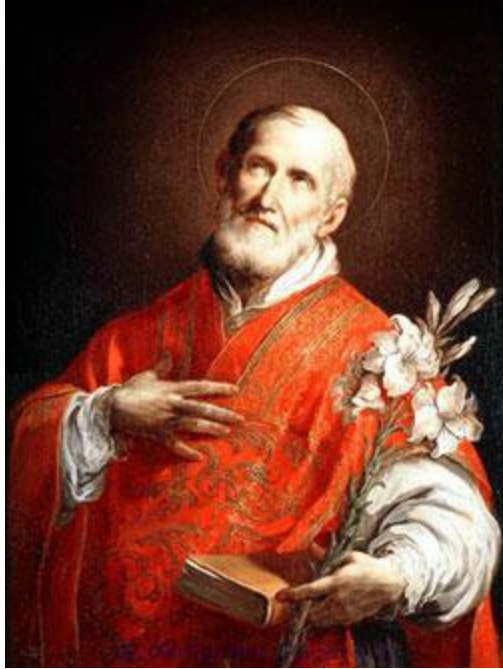
Challenge for the Day:

Do you read or watch, catching up on the news before praying in the morning, or after your morning prayers? We have much to pray for in the world. What are the five most needed concerns of the world to you that you pray for each day?

Biography of
St. Philip Neri, Priest

(Source: [Catholic.org](https://www.catholic.org) website)

St. Philip of Neri was the founder of the Congregation of the Priests of the Oratory. He is the patron saint of Rome, US Special Forces, humor and joy and his feast day is celebrated on May 26. To read more, please visit https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=97



Letter to Parishioners

Fr. Brian Johnson has written a letter to all our parishioners about returning to Mass. This letter outlines adjustments and adaptations we will need to follow during Mass. We look forward to seeing everyone.

However, if you have any reservations about attending public Mass, please stay at home, and, if possible, watch the Mass via our Facebook Live feed or another source available on television.

Please click on the link below to read Fr. Brian Johnson's letter to the parishioners:

Letter to Parishioners

Returning to Public Mass

Bishop Medley has released a statement about the Diocese of Owensboro returning to public Mass. St. Pius X Parish in Calvert City started public Mass on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 8:00am.

Please read or view Bishop Medley's announcement from our Diocese's website:

Returning to Public Mass
Announcement