

Day 1 (30th August 2017)

Theme: “Prayer and Peace”

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (2:9-13)

You are witnesses, and so is God, that our treatment of you, since you became believers, has been impeccably right and fair. You can remember how we treated every one of you a father treats his children, teaching you what was right, encouraging you and appealing to you to live a life worthy of God, who is calling you to share the glory of his kingdom.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God’s message, you accepted it for what it really is, God’s message and not some human

thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Responsorial Psalm

Salve Mater*, A New Hymn to Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

(lyrics by. Seamus Devitt, Esker Redemptorist Community)

*(Full lyrics at end of this PDF)

Verses 1, 2 & 3

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (23:27-32)

Jesus said, 'Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who are like whitewashed tombs that look handsome on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of corruption. In the same way you appear to people from the outside like good honest

men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

‘Alas for you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You who build the sepulchres of the prophets and decorate the tombs of holy men, saying, “We would never have joined in shedding the blood of the prophets, had we lived in our fathers’ day.” So! Your own evidence tells against you! You are the sons of those who murdered the prophets! Very well then, finish off the work that your fathers began.’

Day 2 (31st August 2017)

Theme: “Healing and Hope”

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (3:7-13)

Brothers, your faith has been a great comfort to us in the middle of our own troubles and sorrows; now we can breathe again, as you are still holding firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you, for all the joy we feel before our God on your account? We are earnestly praying night and day to be able to see you face to face again and make up any shortcomings in you faith.

May God our Father himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, make it easy for us to come to you. May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as

much as we love you. And may he be so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Responsorial Psalm

Salve Mater*, A New Hymn to Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

(lyrics by. Seamus Devitt, Esker Redemptorist Community)

*(Full lyrics at end of this PDF)

Verses 1, 4 & 5

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (24:42-51)

Jesus said to his disciples: “Stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had

known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you would not expect.

‘What sort of servant, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master’s arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you solemnly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the dishonest servant who says to himself, “My master is taking his time,” and sets about beating his fellow servants and eating and drinking with drunkards, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know.

The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.”

Day 3 (1st September 2017)

Theme: “Life and Love”

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (4:1-8)

Brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

What God wants is for you all to be holy. He wants you to keep away from fornication, and each one of you to know how to use the body that belongs to him in a way that is holy and honourable, not giving way to selfish lust like the pagans who do not know God. He wants nobody

at all ever to sin by taking advantage of a brother in these matters; the Lord always punishes sins of that sort, as we told you before and assured you. We have been called by God to be holy, not to be immoral; in other words, anyone who objects is not objecting to human authority, but to God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm

Salve Mater*, A New Hymn to Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

(lyrics by. Seamus Devitt, Esker Redemptorist Community)

*(Full lyrics at end of this PDF)

Verses 1, 6 & 7

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (25:1-13)

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaid took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible; the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, “The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him.” At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, “Give me some of your oil: our lamps are going out.” But they replied, “There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some yourselves.” They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived.

Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. “Lord, Lord,” they said, “open the door for us.” But he replied, “I tell you solemnly, I do not know you.” So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.’

Salve Mater*, A New Hymn to Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

(lyrics by. Seamus Devitt, Esker Redemptorist Community)

Sung as Responsorial Psalm

Response

Salve Mater, The Mother of our Lord;

Virgin Mary, The Mother of our God.

Eyes so tender that turn to all our cares,

Heart so ready to run to all our prayers.

O Maria!

Verse 1

Mary, blessed one,

To us you always run:

We are to you

As Christ, your only Son:

Perpetual Help

You're with us in our tears:

We place our hands

In yours with all our fears.

O Maria! (*R*)

Verse 2

Sister of all flesh,

So human with us all,

Disciples too,

We're gathered by our call.

Perpetual Help

You are to us indeed:

We'll watch with you

For all who are in need.

O Maria! (*R*)

Verse 3

Help perpetual,
An icon of our race,
With you we stand,
All filled with God's own grace:
Our sister Earth,
We'll cherish, will not harm,
And hold the world
Of peoples in our arms:
O Maria! (*R*)

Verse 4

Mother of our God,
No honour could be more,
If we have words,
As grains upon the shore,
If we had tongues,
As there are blades of grass,

No higher praise
Would e'ver come to pass.

O Maria! (R)

Verse 5

Bearer of our God,
This title above all;
You said your Yes
In answer to the Call:
The uncontainable you did contain,
In ev'ry age
Your name we will proclaim.

O Maria! (R)

Verse 6

Mary full of praise,
With heart so full of thanks
In God your Saviour

Still your feet will dance.
The lowly ones
are lifted up on high
And one with us
You sing your song of joy.
O Maria! (*R*)

Verse 7

The faith within your heart,
the Child within your womb.
God's living Word
Has found a home in you.
We too conceive
We too bring Christ to birth.
Emmanuel
God with us here on earth.
O Maria! (*R*)