A Message from your Parish Priest

When you come to think about it, it is a peculiar accident of history which has made us proud to call ourselves "Roman Catholics." The faith, which was born in the Holy Land, grew up in a world dominated by the power of the Roman Empire, but I am sure that the earliest Christians would have been very reluctant to associate themselves with that institution. As far as everyday life went, Rome would have been synonymous with violence and oppression. As far as their religious convictions were concerned, it would have represented the overwhelming power of paganism.

Rome came to have a different set of associations for us, all these centuries later by a strange circumstance. The power of Rome to inflict violence on those who fell within its grasp was demonstrated in the death of two men who are foundational figures in our religion; St Peter and St Paul. The reason the violence was inflicted was the unavoidable conflict between paganism and the Christian faith. The Romans had no particular need for a person to believe in their pantheon of gods. It was expanding all the time to include the strange deities of the far-flung regions which little-by-little fell under their control. The important thing for the Romans was not that a person believe at all, but that they should act *as though they believed*. In particular, it was of fundamental importance to them that their subjects should be prepared to worship the Emperor, the embodiment of the Roman State. No Christian could do that, and for that reason Christianity was always liable to be persecuted.

St Peter and St Paul found themselves in Rome during the earliest of those periodic persecutions of the faithful. The Emperor Nero was casting around for someone to blame for the catastrophic fire which had destroyed great areas of Rome during his reign. The Christians were an easy target. St Peter and St Paul were key figures in the Christian community of Rome, and so they must die.

Their deaths took place at the same time, but were rather different. Peter was a nobody in the Roman system; a fisherman from the Sea of Galilee in a remote province of their empire. The death which was inflicted on him was the cruel death reserved for such people by the Roman State. He was crucified, as Jesus Christ Himself had been crucified, though tradition tells us that St Peter asked for his own martyrdom to take place upside down, to distinguish it from that of his master. The Romans were used to such refinements of cruelty, they would have had no objection. St Paul, in contrast, was a Roman Citizen, with rights few people living under Roman rule would have enjoyed. Amongst these was the right to be spared the slow death of crucifixion. St Paul was beheaded instead.

St Peter suffered in the circus which the Emperor Caligula had built for chariot races on the Vatican Hill. His death would have provided a moment of entertainment during an interval between races, though it would have lasted long enough to have been accompanied by the cheers of a crowd whose attention had already moved on to the main business of their excursion to the race track. When the crowd had dispersed, his friends would have collected his body and placed it in a plot belonging to one of them in the cemetery nearby.

St Paul, on the other hand, suffered his fate at the spot called "Tre Fontane" outside the walls of the city. Executions were not private affairs in those days for anyone, but it must have been a considerably quieter affair than that of St Peter in the circus. Besides that, of course, it will have been mercifully swift. Paul's remains would have been handed back to his followers, as St Peter's had been, and buried in one of the roadside tombs which lined every road leading to and from the city.

On Wednesday we celebrate the feast of the dedication of the two great Basilicas which, when Rome had at last embraced the faith, were raised above the sites of those two burials. A curious feature of both churches is the open crypt which stands in front of their High Altars, approached by a curved flight of steps. This crypt is called the "Confessio", because it marks the place of the two great saints' "confession of faith" by dying for Christ. It is the witness of their martyrdom, more than anything else, which has transformed the word "Roman" from a name to be feared and shunned, into a badge which we are now proud to wear as the mark of our Christian faith.
With every blessing, Monsignor Smith

THE PARISH OF St MARY'S, SELBY and CARLTON

Parish Priest: Very Rev. Monsignor D. Canon Smith MA
St Mary's Presbytery, Gowthorpe, Selby, YO8 4HS
Tel: 01757 703345
Email: office.stmary.selby@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
Website: www.stmarysselby.org.uk

MASS SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS
Saturday:
10.00am-10.30am (in Selby)
5.15pm-5.45pm (in Selby)
And on request in Carlton.

The Readings for the Sunday Mass are on page 155
Preface VIII of Sundays in Ordinary Time: Page 68



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Saturday:
10.00am-10.30am
5.15pm-5.45pm
(in Selby during confessions)

Marriages and Baptisms

By appointment. Please see the priest after Mass to make arrangements

SATURDAY NOVEMBER	14th	6:00pm	Selby	Peter Heald, Anne and James Stronach	**Vigil Mass**
SUNDAY NOVEMBER	15th	9.30am 11:15am	Selby Carlton	Albert Cosgrove Pro Populo	**33rd SUNDAY IN THE YEAR**
MONDAY	16th	10.00am	Selby	Katie Hunnaball & Monica Howden	Feria
TUESDAY	17th	9.30am	Carlton	Tommy Alford	St Hilda
WEDNESDAY	18th	10.00am	Selby	Karolina's Intention	Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul.
THURSDAY	19th	**10.00am**	**Selby**	**Patrick Tracey**	**Requiem Mass**
FRIDAY	20th	6.30pm	Selby	The McGuire Family	Feria
SATURDAY	21st	9.30am 6:00pm	Selby Selby	Yorkshire Brethren Eliza Mary Bolster & Thomas Chesham	Presentation of BVM **Vigil Mass**
SUNDAY NOVEMBER	22nd	9.30am 11:15am	Selby Carlton	Mary & Thomas Huddlestone & The Snee Family Pro Populo	**CHRIST THE KING**

OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St Mary's Catholic Primary Academy, Baffam Lane, Selby YO8 9AX
Tel: 01757 706616 Email: admin@sm.bkcat.uk Headmistress: Mrs L. Bird

YOUR OFFERINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday 8th November: £1053.31 (Including Standing Orders) ***Many Thanks for your Generosity.***
Funeral Donations in memory of the late Jill Penney: £80
Roof Donations £60

PLEASE PRAY

For the repose of the souls of those whose anniversaries occur around this time, especially: Canon William Ward (Carlton !956-59), Wieslaw Szubert, Marion Eaglen, Marlene Leake, Madeline Anderson, Ann Griffiths, Patricia Davey, Lisa Marie Abbott, Ellen Howley, Norah Coles, Pte Martin Higgins, Alexander Dawson, Donald Antonio Coletti.

Please remember also in your prayers Patrick Tracey, Philip Conniss and John Burrows who have sadly died.

May they Rest in Peace. Amen. The Requiem Mass for Patrick Tracey will take place on Thursday, 19th November at 10.00am

CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

On November 22nd at 2.00p.m. Tickets cost £15 each and include a glass of prosecco, small savouries, sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee. There will also be a Christmas themed quiz. As places are limited, please do not buy a ticket unless you are attending.

DEAD LIST

Envelopes are available at the back of church. Please return as soon as possible.

SCRIPTURE COURSE

The short scripture course on St Mark's Gospel continues this week: Tuesday 17th November at 6.30pm, repeated the following morning, 18th November at 10.30am.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

Please remember very specially in your prayers those who are sick:

Maureen McDonnell, Gerry McCrossan, Shirley Harrison and Jean Wilson, Zita Birchwood, Breda Gallagher, Irene Bradshaw, Pat Lynch, André Joseph Gudgeon, Lesley Stripe, Elizabeth McCormack and Eileen Cooke.

MASSES RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK

Patrick Tracey, Chrissie Owen (x2), Ann Pitts (Sick), Derek and Marzena (Wedding Anniversary), Adam (Birthday Thanksgiving), Marzena (Birthday Thanksgiving), Szymon (Birthday Thanksgiving), Michaska (Birthday Thanksgiving), Special Intention (Healing)

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

The First Confessions for our year four children: **– Preparation continues this week-end (Saturday 4.45pm and Sunday 10.30am)**

First Confessions for year three children will take place in the spring, and First Holy Communions on the week-end of 19th/20th June.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place in St Mary's on Friday 5th March 2027. Anyone in year six or older if not yet confirmed should receive the sacrament on that day. For those who missed the meeting on Monday evening, enrolment forms are available at the back of church and should be returned to the presbytery as soon as possible.

CARLTON NEWS

- We plan to have a Christmas Raffle this year with tickets on sale from this Sunday, 15th November. Wonderful Prizes. Tickets £1 each. The draw will take place after 11.15am Mass on Sunday 13th December. Mulled Wine, Juice, Mince Pies and Biscuits will be served. All proceeds to go towards the church repairs. For further information please contact Margaret Kilner 01405 862986

Mass Offerings, Notices and News Items for the Parish Bulletin should be given to Monsignor Smith by Wednesday evening.

Leeds Diocese Charity Registration No. 249404