

MORNING MEDITATIONS

Friday, Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

To forbear is to hold back or withhold which implies patience and self-control.

Hosea 14:2-10

Hosea called his people to return to the Lord. He promised that God would forgive his people because of His love. He promised healing and wholeness for God's people because God loves. God would make them fruitful again. He encouraged his people to be wise, to be prudent, to walk in the way of the Lord and become just in their ways.

Be wise and prudent and learn to walk in the way of the Lord in justice and truth.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me God in your kindness;
in the greatness of your compassion,
wipe out my offense.
Thoroughly ask me from my guilt
and of my sin cleanse me.

Mathew 10:16-23

Jesus instructed his disciples to be cautious and discerning in the way they live and fulfill the mission which he had given them.

They must keep proclaiming the Kingdom. They must also be prepared to face adversities. Adversities may come from family, from the state, even from the Synagogue.

Jesus encouraged them not to be afraid, but always remain confident.

They were not to be worried about what to say or how they should say what had to be said. Because they will not be the speakers, "the spirit of the father will be speaking" in them.

Do not be afraid! The Spirit of the Father will be speaking in you!

Be prudent! Be discerning in taking risks! Unnecessary risks could bring disaster!

Saint of the day, July 12 - St. John Jones and 25 other saints are remembered this day

John Jones was born in Wales into a Welsh family, who had remained faithful Roman Catholics throughout the Protestant Reformation. He was ordained a diocesan priest and was imprisoned in the Marshalsea under the name Robert Buckley from 1582 to about 1585 for administering the sacraments. By summer 1586 he was out on bond, but in 1587 confined at Wisbech Castle. He left England, either escaped or exiled, in 1590 and at the age of sixty joined the Conventual Franciscans at Pontoise. Afterwards he went to Rome, where he lived among the Observant Friars of the Ara Coeli. After a time he was sent back by his superiors to the English mission. He reached London towards the end of 1592, and stayed temporarily at the house which Father John Gerard, S.J., had provided for missionary priests. He ministered to Catholics in the English countryside until his arrest in 1596.

In 1596 the 'priest catcher' Richard Topcliffe was informed by a spy that Father Jones had visited two Catholics and had said Mass in their home. It was later shown that the two Catholics were actually in prison when the alleged offense took place. Regardless, Jones was arrested, severely tortured and scourged.

Following his torture, Jones was imprisoned for nearly two years. During this time Jones helped sustain John Rigby in his faith, who later also became one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales. On July 3, 1598 Father Jones was tried on the charge of "going over the seas in the first year of Her majesty's reign (1558) and there being made a priest by the authority from Rome and then returning to England contrary to statute". He was convicted of high treason and sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered.

The execution was delayed by about an hour because the hangman forgot to bring a rope. Jones used the time to preach to the people and answer their questions. When the time came to draw away the cart, the hangman whipped the horses; but they were held back by three or four fellows till Jones had finished what he was saying. John Jones' dismembered remains were fixed atop poles on roads leading to Newington and Lambeth. His remains were later reputedly removed by at least two Catholic Englishmen, one of whom suffered a long imprisonment for this offense. He was canonized on October 25, 1970 by Pope Paul VI as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, who are commemorated on that date.

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