

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday of Holy Week

Great minds have purpose, others have wishes

Isaiah 49:1-6

Isaiah encountered disappointments and began to feel that he had wasted his time and had worked for nothing. He came out of this experience with renewed faith in his calling. He also gained new insights about his vocation which gave him strength.

Isaiah had an intense experience of being called by God even before his birth, “from his mother’s womb”, to be a “servant” and much more.....to be a light to the nations..... that salvation “may reach the ends of the earth”.

Psalms 71

**In you O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me and deliver me;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

John 13:21-38

Jesus and the disciples were around the Passover table. Tension mounted among the twelve disciples as Jesus told them that one of them would betray him. Questions about who the betrayer was, suspicion of each other..... many such factors created confusion.

It is amazing to know how Jesus tried to help the disciples become aware of what was happening and what was going to happen to him. They just failed to understand. They were too preoccupied with themselves and their ambitions.

Jesus made a final and special appeal to the heart of Judas. For the host to offer a special morsel from the dish was a sign of special friendship. When Jesus handed Judas Iscariot the “bit of food”, the “dipped morsel”, it was an offer of “special friendship”, a final appeal to the heart. But the heart of Judas was unmoved, full of greed, darkness, hate and didn’t see the light or the love that was offered.

Jesus told Peter as he affirmed his loyalty that even he would deny him ‘three times before the cock crows’. This was a tough time for Jesus and his disciples.

Be alert! Stay awake! Be sensitive to those around you..... Be compassionate!

Saint of the Day, April 15 St. Paternus and 10 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Paternus was born at Poitiers, about the year 482. His father, Patranus, with the consent of his wife, went to Ireland, where he ended his days in solitude. The mother raised Paternus in great piety. When Paternus grew up he decided to follow in the steps of his father and, obtaining his mother's permission and blessing, he set out to Wales together with a group of other young ascetics seeking the solitary life.

In Wales, Paternus started to withdraw for solitary prayer. But, in a short time, together with other monks, Paternus founded the great Monastery of Llanbadarn Fawr ("the Great Monastery of Padarn") near to Aberystwyth in the former county of Cardiganshire, which is now Ceredigion. Some 120 monks lived in this monastery under St. Paternus. Paternus was most probably not only the Abbot of Llanbadarn but also a bishop at the same time. After governing his diocese for thirteen years, he withdrew to solitude in France, and there ended his days about the year 550.

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