**MAY 2018**

## FIRST DECADE OF MAY

## IS HE NOT THE CARPENTER'S SON?

## Gn 1.26-2.3 opp. Ps 3.14-15.17.23-24; Ps 89; Mt 13.54-58

### 1 MAY

Jesus gives an infallible rule so that every man of God walks in history with a wise, intelligent, just and true discernment: observing every man bare from every origin or derivation of family, lineage, nation, tribe and degree of study or nobility, of attendance or friendship. One must look at man, only man and his works. The work is the fruit of the man. It never deceives, it never leads us to wrong judgments, neither to the false good, nor to the fake good. But the work must be the fruit of the Word of God, but not modified by man, but enlightened by the Holy Spirit.

*When the feast was already half over, Jesus went up into the temple area and began to teach. The Jews were amazed and said, "How does he know scripture without having studied?" Jesus answered them and said, "My teaching is not my own but is from the one who sent me. Whoever chooses to do his will shall know whether my teaching is from God or whether I speak on my own. Whoever speaks on his own seeks his own glory, but whoever seeks the glory of the one who sent him is truthful, and there is no wrong in him. Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?" The crowd answered, "You are possessed! Who is trying to kill you?" Jesus answered and said to them, "I performed one work and all of you are amazed because of it. Moses gave you circumcision - not that it came from Moses but rather from the patriarchs - and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. If a man can receive circumcision on a Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I made a whole person well on a Sabbath? Stop judging by appearances, but judge justly" (Jn 7,14-24).*

A true prophet stands out from every false prophet, because he lives the whole Word of the Lord, starting with the first Commandment. Since Jesus observes all the Word of the Father, never might he be a false prophet. A true man says true words.

*"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them (Mt 7,15-20).*

The people of Nazareth should remember that their great king David was a humble shepherd of sheep. His father had not even considered him worthy to present himself before Samuel. It is not the lineage that raises, but only the Lord who creates his men.

*He also had Jesse and his sons cleanse themselves and invited them to the sacrifice. As they came, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord’s anointed is here before him." But the Lord said to Samuel: "Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart." In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any one of these." Then Samuel asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here." Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The Lord said, "There-anoint him, for this is he!" Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David (Cf. 1Sam 16,1-13).*

It is precisely the humility of the origins of Jesus that should have opened hearts to believe in what was announced. Their faith is without memory of history, deprived of any truth.

*He came to his native place and taught the people in their synagogue. They were astonished and said, "Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds? Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? Are not his sisters all with us? Where did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his native place and in his own house." And he did not work many mighty deeds there because of their lack of faith.*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us of faith full of memory.

## MY FATHER IS THE VINE GROWER

## At 15,1-6, Ps 121; Jn 15,1-8

### 2 MAY

Whoever reads the Gospel - even leaving out the rest of the New Testament and the whole of Ancient Scripture - must necessarily, if it is an honest person, affirm that the God of Christ Jesus no longer exists. He has been erased from the mind and heart of the believer. In place of the God of the Gospel another one has been "created" all milk and honey: merciful, compassionate, forgiving, who hates hell and never created it, who has cancelled the commandments and never dictated them, who has abolished the distinction between good and evil and made it bad, who has also proclaimed the non-existence of the devil, indeed he never existed, who declared the Church no longer the only way to reach true salvation, who even ridiculed Lord Jesus, the Crucified, making him a man like any other, without either distinction or difference from other men. One among others, one like others. Even the sacraments, once so much defended, are useless. They are a historical heritage and must be lived as a heritage. The last straw is that this God has no word to say to men. Everyone says the word he wants and he is happy to take them all and make them all his own, especially those that deny once and again all his ancient words. This is the God who is fashionable today. Today only the one who destroys the old God, who also cancels his existence, is listened to by the world and even by the Church. People do not want him anymore even as a museum exhibit or as a historical relic.

Instead, the Gospel puts us before the Father who effectively intervenes on the true vine that is Jesus the Lord, his one and only true vine. The first great truth of this God already appears and is highlighted. He does not care about any other vine. His true vine is only one: Christ the Lord. This true vine is the object of his love and of his care, made by him with supreme intelligence. To understand the supreme intelligence with which the Father cares for his true vine, an anecdote is more than useful. One day they find I was in a vineyard during harvest. I saw the winemaker cutting the bunches with the scissors, talking to each vine and telling it which branches he would have cut and how he would have done it at the time of pruning. I remembered Jesus' similitude and now I know that the Father's attention to his true vine is infinitely more. He observes every branch with wisdom and intelligence of the Holy Spirit. At the time of pruning, he comes, prunes if the branch produces fruit. Cuts or severs the branch if it does not bear fruit. His true vine cannot be weighed down or exploited by whoever does not bear fruit. But this God who is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is no longer our God and if this God is no longer our God, not even Christ Jesus is our true life. Jesus and the Father are one, inseparable forever. Whoever changes God necessarily must change Christ Jesus. Whoever changes Christ Jesus must necessarily change God. Even who changes the Church must change God and Christ. Even whoever changes his ministry changes; he changes the Church, changes Christ and changes God. Today the true Christ of God and the true God of Christ Jesus have been overthrown by the new God created by the mind of his worshipers.

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

Man can destroy all the truths of the Christ of God and the God of Christ Jesus. But never might he destroy the true Christ of God and the true God of Christ Jesus. They always descend in history and always operate according to their very pure truth. The Father comes and plants his true vine. But he also comes to prune and cut and order the cut branches to be thrown into the fire. The man can never prevail against his God.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us worshipers of the true God.

## SO THAT THE FATHER MAY BE GLORIFIED IN THE SON

## 1 Cor 15,1-8; Ps 18; Jn 14,6-14

### 3 MAY

Why must every prayer be raised to the Father through the Son? The motivations are divinely high. Two passages from the Gospel can help us to ascertain the truth.

*Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" (Jn 1,47-51).*

*At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Mt 11,25-30).*

In the Gospel according to John Jesus is the ladder that unites heaven and earth, his Father and men. Nothing descends from heaven to earth except through Christ Jesus. Nothing from the earth rises up to heaven, except through Him. There are no other stairs. Even in heaven between the Father and all the blessed of Paradise the only ladder that reaches the heart of the Father is the heart of Christ. Everything is accomplished in Christ, through Christ and with Christ.

In the Gospel according to Matthew the same truth is affirmed. By saying Jesus that everything was given to him by his Father, we must understand for everything every grace, every truth, every revelation and every mediation, including listening to prayer. We pray in Christ, with Christ and for Christ, the Father listens to us. One does not pray in Christ, with Him and for Him, the Father cannot listen to us. He misses the ladder, he is deprived of the mediator. But how do we pray in Christ, with Christ and for Christ? Dwelling us in the Word, living the Word and living for the Word. Christ and his Word are inseparable forever. He is in Christ who is in his Word. He prays for Christ, who gave his life to the Word for the announcement and the testimony of it. We pray outside the Word, we do not pray for Christ, because we are not in Christ and we are not with Christ. The Word is the ladder that makes us enter the heart of Christ. The heart of Christ is the ladder that introduces us into the heart of the Father.

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it.*

The Father wants the whole world to know who Jesus is for Him: his All. He also wants it to know that He does nothing without Christ. Whoever wants to find Him, the Father, can only find Him in the Son. Who wants to love him can love him only in the Son. Whoever wants to be heard by him, can be it only in the Son for the Son. Without the Son, the Father not only does not exist, he does not want to exist and or act, or speak and or operate. He does not even want to be invoked, praised, prayed and celebrated. Everything must take place in his Son, in his Beloved. The Father according to the Gospel and the God without the Gospel are as distant as Heaven and hell: irreconcilable forever. I am for the Father of Christ Jesus.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints give us true faith in the Father.

## I NO LONGER CALL YOU SLAVES

## At 15.22-3 1; Ps 56; Jn 15,12- 17

### 4 MAY

Saint Paul reveals to Christians that the love of Christ is stupendously high. He died for us when we were godless, enemies of God. He died just for the unjust.

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access (by faith) to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation (Rm 5,1-11).*

The prophet Amos reveals to us that the friends of God are his prophets. He reveals to them all. He does nothing without first talking to them. The prophets are his confidants.

*Hear this word, O men of Israel, that the Lord pronounces over you, over the whole family that I brought up from the land of Egypt: You alone have I favoured, more than all the families of the earth; Therefore I will punish you for all your crimes. Do two walk together unless they have agreed? Does a lion roar in the forest when it has no prey? Does a young lion cry out from its den unless it has seized something? Is a bird brought to earth by a snare when there is no lure for it? Does a snare spring up from the ground without catching anything? If the trumpet sounds in a city, will the people not be frightened? If evil befalls a city, has not the Lord caused it? Indeed, the Lord God does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants, the prophets. The lion roars -  who will not be afraid! The Lord God speaks -  who will not prophesy! (Am 3,1-8).*

Micah instead puts us in front of a corrupt world in which friendship is dead.

*Put no trust in a friend, have no confidence in a companion; Against her who lies in your bosom guard the portals of your mouth. For the son dishonours his father, the daughter rises up against her mother, The daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and a man's enemies are those of his household (Mi 7,5-6).*

The Gospel reveals to us that Judas is not a friend of Jesus. He is not in his truth. This suggests to us that if one wants to be a friend of Jesus, he must love his Word.

*When the day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread arrived, the day for sacrificing the Passover lamb, he sent out Peter and John, instructing them, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." They asked him, "Where do you want us to make the preparations?" And he answered them, "When you go into the city, a man will meet you carrying a jar of water. Follow him into the house that he enters and say to the master of the house, 'The teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' He will show you a large upper room that is furnished. Make the preparations there." Then they went off and found everything exactly as he had told them, and there they prepared the Passover (Lk 22,7-13).*

Whoever wants to receive the confidences or revelations of Jesus must become his friend. How? Abiding in his Word. Not only does the Son manifest and reveal himself to the one who lives in the Word, the Father also manifests and reveals himself. He reveals his heart to him.

*This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true friends of Christ Jesus.

## THEY DO NOT KNOW THE ONE WHO SENT ME

## At 16,1-10; Ps 99; Jn 15,18-21

### 5 MAY

No one can give himself the knowledge of God. We can know all the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, but not for this we know God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the supernatural and eternal realities. The knowledge of God and of every other reality is a gift, a very pure gift, made to us through Jesus Christ. Whoever refuses to accept the Word of Christ Jesus remains in the non-knowledge of God for the entire life. There are no other ways for God to be known. Only Christ is the way, the truth and the life. In the Gospel according to John Jesus says it with great clarity to the Jews: *"You do not know God. The historical fact that you want to kill me that am from God, come from him and speak his Word, attests to it"*. If Jesus is the only one that reveals the Father whoever opposes Christ, fights him, denies him, disgraces him, slanders him, says false testimony about him and misrepresents his words, he certainly does not know God.

*So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching and said, "You know me and also know where I am from. Yet I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true (Jn 7, 28).* *So they said to him, "Where is your father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also" (Jn 8, 19).* *You do not know him, but I know him. And if I should say that I do not know him, I would be like you a liar. But I do know him and I keep his word (Jn 8, 55).* *The Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you (Jn 14, 17).* *And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me (Jn 15, 21).* *They will do this because they have not known either the Father or me (Jn 16, 3). Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me (Jn 17, 25).*

What prevents the Jews from welcoming the testimony of Christ Jesus? This truth is also revealed. It is the bad works that they perform and that they do not want to abandon. Without the abandonment of sin, never might the light of Jesus enter into a heart. If the will is oriented to evil, every light goes out and no flame of truth enters the heart. It is not enough to give light. It must also be accepted. The Jews do not want to welcome the light, rather they decided to turn it off forever.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God (Jn 3,16-21).*

Light and sin are opposed to each other. Sin suffocates light. The light extinguishes sin in the heart. But the man does not want to take away the sin from the heart; he is willing not only to reject the light, but also to shut it down, suffocate, kill and crucify it.

*"If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you, 'No slave is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me.*

Jesus warns the disciples. They must know that they will be hated by the world just as He has been hated. If He has not been accepted, might they be welcomed? If the world as world remaining world welcomes the disciples, then it is right they question themselves. This happens only when there is a betrayal of light and truth. They are disciples, but according to the world, in harmony with it and not according to Christ Jesus.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true disciples of Jesus.

## REMAIN IN MY LOVE

## At 10,25-26.34-35.44-48; Ps 97; 1Jn 4,7-10; Jn 15,9-17

### 6 MAY – VI EASTER SUNDAY – B

God and Commandments are one. One does not love God if he does not love his Commandments, which are his heart. Christ Jesus and the Gospel are one. One does not love Christ Jesus if he does not love his Gospel, which is his very life. We love the Commandments, we love God. We love the Gospel and we love Christ Jesus. This bond must always remain indissoluble. The measure of our love for the Father is given by our love for Christ Jesus, who is his heart and his life. We love Christ, we love our father. One does not love Christ, he does not love the Father. Christ and the Father are one. Making two separable realities of Christ and of the Father, one is neither with the love of Christ and nor of the Father, because the love of the Father is Christ and the love of Christ is the Father.

One remains in the love of Christ if he remains in Christ. One remains in Christ if he remains in his Word, however not the one understood by us, but the one perennially illuminated according to fullness of truth by the Holy Spirit. As Jesus the Lord was in the Holy Spirit and for him he was always in the Word or will of the Father, so if the disciple will be in the Holy Spirit, he will always be in the Father's will. Father, Christ Jesus, Holy Spirit and Word are eternally an indivisible and inseparable one. Those who are separated from the Father are separated from Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Word. Whoever separates himself from the Son, separates himself from the Father, the Holy Spirit and the Word. Whoever separates himself from the Holy Spirit, is separated from the Father, the Son and the Word. Whoever is separated from the Word is separated from the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. He is no longer a live branch of the true vine.

Jesus also reveals to us the modality of the love of his disciple. It must be a love in all similar to his. The commandment of Jesus must be observed, just as He observed the commandments of his Father. We know how Jesus observed the commandments of the Father: by delivering to them soul, spirit, body, desires, wills, aspirations, time and eternity. Nothing in Jesus is from his heart. Instead everything is from the heart of the Father. Nothing in the disciple must be from his heart, but everything from the heart of Christ. Just as the Son loved the Father by becoming obedient to death on the cross, so too must the disciple become obedient till death on the cross. One body, one love, one only way of loving, one obedience and one cross. Jesus made of his life a gift to the Father. The disciple makes of his life a gift to Christ. When a gift is given, what is given is no longer from our will, but from the will of the one to whom the gift has been offered. Jesus gives himself to the Father. The disciple gives himself to the Son. The Father gives the Son for the salvation of the world. The Son gives the Father the disciple who has given himself to him, so that he may make of him a gift of salvation.

*As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.*

What is the sign that we love Christ Jesus? Love for every one of his disciples. Love for his body. Who does not love the body of Christ, does not love Christ. Love for the body of Christ is the unequivocal sign that we love Jesus. Why must the body of Christ be loved? Because it is the only instrument of salvation in the hands of the Father and it is our love that makes it perfect in the gift. How is the body love? First of all, keeping it in the highest holiness. Then helping every other to grow in holiness. From the sanctity of the body is the sanctity of the world. This truth must never be forgotten.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true love in Christ.

## WILL THINK HE IS OFFERING WORSHIP TO GOD

## At 16,11-15; Ps 149; Jn 15,26- 16,4a

### 7 MAY

The uniqueness of God is the truth that is the mother of every truth for the people of the Lord. Other gods do not exist. They are the invention of man's thought. God is only one and unique.

*Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength (Dt 6,4-5).*

From this truth the obligation in the Lord's people arises to eliminate from the children of Israel those who in any way were found idolaters or induced others to idolatry.

*"If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer who promises you a sign or wonder, urging you to follow other gods, whom you have not known, and to serve them: even though the sign or wonder he has foretold you comes to pass, pay no attention to the words of that prophet or that dreamer; for the Lord, your God, is testing you to learn whether you really love him with all your heart and with all your soul. The Lord, your God, shall you follow, and him shall you fear; his commandment shall you observe, and his voice shall you heed, serving him and holding fast to him alone. But that prophet or that dreamer shall be put to death, because, in order to lead you astray from the way which the Lord, your God, has directed you to take, he has preached apostasy from the Lord, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and ransomed you from that place of slavery. Thus shall you purge the evil from your midst.*

*"If your own full brother, or your son or daughter, or your beloved wife, or your intimate friend, entices you secretly to serve other gods, whom you and your fathers have not known, gods of any other nations, near at hand or far away, from one end of the earth to the other: do not yield to him or listen to him, nor look with pity upon him, to spare or shield him, but kill him. Your hand shall be the first raised to slay him; the rest of the people shall join in with you. You shall stone him to death, because he sought to lead you astray from the Lord, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. And all Israel, hearing of it, shall fear and never again do such evil as this in your midst.*

*"If, in any of the cities which the Lord, your God, gives you to dwell in, you hear it said that certain scoundrels have sprung up among you and have led astray the inhabitants of their city to serve other gods whom you have not known, you must inquire carefully into the matter and investigate it thoroughly. If you find that it is true and an established fact that this abomination has been committed in your midst, you shall put the inhabitants of that city to the sword, dooming the city and all life that is in it, even its cattle, to the sword. Having heaped up all its spoils in the middle of its square, you shall burn the city with all its spoils as a whole burnt offering to the Lord, your God. Let it be a heap of ruins forever, never to be rebuilt. You shall not retain anything that is doomed, that the blazing wrath of the Lord may die down and he may show you mercy and in his mercy for you may multiply you as he promised your fathers on oath (Dt 13,2-18).*

Saul kills Christians for zeal. Truly He thinks to give glory to God. He wants to eliminate idolatry from his people. If God is one and only one, according to him Christ might never be the true God. He had not yet been touched by the light of the Holy Spirit.

*"When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. "I have told you this so that you may not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God. They will do this because they have not known either the Father or me. I have told you this so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you.*

Today, deaths occurring in the name of God, to worship God, are many. The Gospel has abolished this ancient norm. Christ is preached, he is accepted and he accepts us. He is not accepted and He does not accept us. Evil is not Christian, it might never be religiously true, especially when innocent people are killed. Of every death one is responsible eternally before the Lord. Even in this Christ is great, the greatest. He came to make an offering of eternal life. It is ours if we want to.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true worshipers of Jesus.

## IT IS BETTER FOR YOU THAT I GO

## At 16,22-34; Ps 137; Jn 16,5-11

### 8 MAY

Why is it a good thing that Jesus goes away? Because if He remains, everything remains limited, finished and unfinished. Even the sky remains closed and He is a "prisoner" of his body of flesh. Without his death, no prophecy is fulfilled. His messianism dies. There is a future of eternal life that will have to open up and it can only happen with his death.

*Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water" (Jn 4,13-15). The Jews quarrelled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever" (Jn 6,52-58). On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'" He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified (Jn 7,37-39).*

*Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honour whoever serves me. "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour (Jn 12,23-27). Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, for the Sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced" (Jn 19,31-37). Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28,18-20).*

If Christ had not gone, we would have remained without the Holy Spirit, without the Eucharist, without the sacraments, without his presence with every apostle and disciple, without the gift of the Father and without our own truth. We would be in our sins.

*But now I am going to the one who sent me, and not one of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I told you this, grief has filled your hearts. But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation: sin, because they do not believe in me; righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; condemnation, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.*

If Jesus had not gone, no kingdom of God would have ever been established on our earth. But not even any prophecy of the Father would have been fulfilled and we would all still be in our sins and with the heart of Stone. With the death of Jesus, the doors of Heaven, of the heart of the Father open up; the Holy Spirit, the Giver of life descends on earth and everything is renewed. Even the very life of Jesus is divinely different. In his body of spirit and light he can be simultaneously in every place, with every disciple and in the Eucharist, in every consecrated host of the earth.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us of true faith in Christ.

## HE WILL TAKE FROM WHAT IS MINE

## At 17,15.22-18,1; Ps 148; Jn 16,12-15

### 9 MAY

It is an eternal, universal and immortal truth. Jesus is the only mediator between God and the world. This truth is the very essence of Christ the Lord. Without this truth the Christ of God does not exist. Whoever deprives Christ Jesus of this truth, closes the gates of heaven.

*At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Mt 11,25-30).*

*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him (Jn 1,14-18).*

Christ Jesus the gift given by the Father to the world, a gift in which he himself, the Father is given to every man. Christ Jesus is welcomed, the Father is welcomed. Christ the Lord is rejected, the Father, his light, his truth and his eternal life are rejected.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God (Jn 3,16-21).*

Why does Christ Jesus give the Holy Spirit? He gives him without measure because he is the Spirit through which the Father always gives Christ to every heart. But the gift of the Spirit is the fruit of perfect obedience to the Father. If the Spirit is not given, Christ might never be known, never accepted and never formed in the heart of man.

*The one who comes from above is above all. The one who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of earthly things. But the one who comes from heaven (is above all). He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. Whoever does accept his testimony certifies that God is trustworthy. For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him (Jn 3,31-36).*

The Holy Spirit comes not in *"parallel"* to Christ Jesus. But to take all of Christ and form him in every heart. This is the true salvation: the formation through the work of the Holy Spirit of Christ Jesus in the heart of every one of his disciples. The Father gives the Son, the Holy Spirit forms the Son in man. Life is proportionate to the formation of Christ Jesus.

*"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.*

Without the Spirit, the perennial gift of Christ, man remains in his sin and death.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, give us as a gift to the Holy Spirit.

## YOUR GRIEF WILL BECOME JOY

## At 18,1-8; Ps 97; Jn 16,16-20

### 10 MAY

Present and future are one the fruit and the other the tree. On the tree of the present can grow a fruit of eternal life or eternal death. The tremendous choice is up to man. The fruit of life matures handing all of the present over to the Word of Christ Jesus. We do not give life to Christ today, we live it for ourselves, we do not produce eternal life.

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay everyone according to his conduct. Amen, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom" (Mt 16,24-28).*

The damned of hell will forever cry their folly. They used the things of this world for their exclusive use. They did not share them with Christ, who is the poor before their eyes. Christ cannot share his Paradise of joy with them.

*Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life" (cf. Mt 25,41-46).*

The Book of Wisdom reveals to us what the wicked who consume their lives in the torments of hell say. They curse their folly and ignorance forever.

*We, then, have strayed from the way of truth, and the light of justice did not shine for us, and the sun did not rise for us. We had our fill of the ways of mischief and of ruin; we journeyed through impassable deserts, but the way of the Lord we knew not. What did our pride avail us? What have wealth and its boastfulness afforded us? All of them passed like a shadow and like a fleeting rumour; Like a ship traversing the heaving water, of which, when it has passed, no trace can be found, no path of its keel in the waves. Or like a bird flying through the air; no evidence of its course is to be found - But the fluid air, lashed by the beat of pinions, and cleft by the rushing force Of speeding wings, is traversed: and afterward no mark of passage can be found in it. Or as, when an arrow has been shot at a mark, the parted air straightway flows together again so that none discerns the way it went through - Even so we, once born, abruptly came to nought and held no sign of virtue to display, but were consumed in our wickedness." Yes, the hope of the wicked is like thistledown borne on the wind, and like fine, tempest-driven foam; Like smoke scattered by the wind, and like the passing memory of the nomad camping for a single day (cf. Wis 5,1-16).*

The Apostles, both today for the death of Jesus and tomorrow for their death, will be in sadness. Christ will rise again and they will be in joy. After their martyrdom they will be welcomed into the blessed skies and their joy will be eternal. The present must always be given to Christ.

*"A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while later and you will see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, "What does this mean that he is saying to us, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" So they said, "What is this 'little while' (of which he speaks)? We do not know what he means." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing with one another what I said, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy.*

The present of pain, martyrdom, deprivation must always be lived in view of eternal joy.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints give us true wisdom today.

**MAY 2018**

## SECOND DECADE OF MAY

## NO ONE WILL TAKE YOUR JOY AWAY FROM YOU

## At 18,9-18; Ps 46; Jn 16,20-23a

### 11 MAY

Without a strong, robust faith, very certain in eternal joy, it is always difficult to live the present which is suffering, deprivation and martyrdom for Christ and his Word. The way of faith is always a delivery to the death of the present in order to have a future of glory. This truth is admirably revealed in the Letter to the Hebrews. Abraham is called to live in continual death in his present because there is a future that awaits him. So also every other man of God. Even Christ Jesus handed his life over to death.

*Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name." He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.*

*I have not time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was righteous, obtained the promises; they closed the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; out of weakness they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Some were tortured and would not accept deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword's point; they went about in skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, in caves and in crevices in the earth. Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect (Cf. Heb 11,1-40).*

The present of the Apostles is in suffering. They must believe, more than Abraham, in hope against all hope. They must believe that it is in the Crucifix that all their hope finds its perfect fulfilment. But this faith is not yet in their hearts. There is currently only sadness for the loss of their Master in them. But Jesus reassures them. The Cross is not the last Word of God on Him. The Cross is the Word of Christ to the Father, through which he sings all his love for his God and Lord. But then it will be his Father the one to sing his Word of love for the Son and this Word will be of glorious resurrection. The Father will give his Son a spiritual, glorious and immortal body.

*Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy. When a woman is in labour, she is in anguish because her hour has arrived; but when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the pain because of her joy that a child has been born into the world. So you also are now in anguish. But I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you. On that day you will not question me about anything.*

When Jesus is resurrected, no one will be able to kill him again and the joy of the disciples will be perfect. Nobody might remove it from them. They will always be with him, in every corner and place of the earth. There will no longer be any separation. The Apostles will separate one another because of their mission, but never will they leave Jesus who will be with them, with each of them, always. This is the reason why through death he must enter into the womb of the sepulchre and be born from it to new life. If He does not enter into that bosom, not even there will be a new birth for Him and neither might He be led by the Spirit to every place where every one of his disciples will live tomorrow. Thus the disciple dies in the present to be tomorrow in eternal joy.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, always make us of right faith.

## I WILL TELL YOU CLEARLY ABOUT THE FATHER

## At 18,23-28; Ps 46; Jn 16,23b-28

### 12 MAY

Before the immensity of beauty, wisdom, love, charity, justice, fidelity and omnipotence of the Father, all of Scripture is only a very tiny flame. Neither can the comparison between sunlight and that of an oil lamp wick be made. God is the eternal infinite. Meditating on the mystery of his wisdom, St. Paul is limited only to singing a hymn to his greatness. You cannot act otherwise. The apostle himself, after his abduction to the third heaven, says that he saw things that no human language could describe. Heaven cannot even be imagined.

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counsellor?" "Or who has given him anything that he may be repaid?" For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen (Rm 11,33-36).* *I must boast; not that it is profitable, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know someone in Christ who, fourteen years ago (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows), was caught up to the third heaven. And I know that this person (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows) was caught up into Paradise and heard ineffable things, which no one may utter. About this person I will boast, but about myself I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. Although if I should wish to boast, I would not be foolish, for I would be telling the truth. But I refrain, so that no one may think more of me than what he sees in me or hears from me because of the abundance of the revelations. Therefore, that I might not become too elated, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong (2Cor 12,1-10).*

The most eloquent Word of the Father's heart is Christ Crucified. But who among us understands the mystery of the Cross? If we had understood it, we would certainly not act towards the Crucifix in such a hostile manner, with the satanic will to remove him even from our sight. We would stay with our sight set on him for eternity. Paul who had understood something of the mystery, had decided to preach only Him, the Crucifix.

*The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the learning of the learned I will set aside." Where is the wise one? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made the wisdom of the world foolish? For since in the wisdom of God the world did not come to know God through wisdom, it was the will of God through the foolishness of the proclamation to save those who have faith. For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength (1Cor 1,18-25).*

How will Jesus speak to us of the Father openly? Sending the Holy Spirit to his disciples. He comes and makes us participate in the divine nature in Christ. The more for his work we grow in the participation of the divine nature and the more we know the Father. It is the same knowledge that iron has of fire when it is immersed in it.

*Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. "I have told you this in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures but I will tell you clearly about the Father. On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not tell you that I will ask the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, help us to grow in the Father.

## PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE

## At 1,1 -11; Ps 46; Eph 4,1-13; Mk 16,15-20

### 13 MAY – ASCENSION OF THE LORD – S

The Apostles of the Lord are invested with a great mission: they must make the Word of God on Jesus true every day. What the Ancient Scripture says about the Christ of God will have to be fulfilled through them today in its entirety. Three ancient words are sufficient to attest to what great responsibility lays upon the Apostles.

*But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.  There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea (Cf. Is 11,1-9).*

*He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people,*

*A grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, Though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. (But the Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity.) If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, Because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; And he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses (Cf. Is 53,1-12). The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, To announce a year of favour from the Lord. You yourselves shall be named priests of the Lord, ministers of our God you shall be called (Cf. Is 61,1-11).*

The Apostle of the Lord will go to every people and every creature. He will show Christ Jesus with the Word and with his life. He will attract to him those whom the Father will give him, so that they too may become the life of Jesus in the midst of their brethren. This is the evangelizing mission. It is made by the Apostle and by the disciple who is the life of Christ.

*He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents (with their hands), and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.*

He will talk about the Holy Spirit by showing his beauty. He will speak of Christ, expiating the sin of the world. He will speak of the Father making himself his visible will in the midst of the Gentiles. Everything else will be done by the Father and the Son and by the Holy Spirit. If we do not become a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, of the Son and of the Father, there is no mission.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true missionaries of Jesus.

## IF YOU DO WHAT I COMMAND YOU

## At 1,15-17.20-26; Ps 112; Jn 15,9-17

###  14 MAY

Christ wants to be a friend of his disciples. But he puts a condition. Friendship with him can exist, be realized and lived only in the purest obedience to his will. We listen to the Word, we live it just as He lived it and we are his friends. One does not listen to his Word, he does not live it, even if he is his Apostles; he does not know us and does not know who we are. If we are strangers to Him, he will never introduce us into eternal dwellings. Friendship in the Book of the Apocalypse becomes a spousal relationship. It is a relationship in which we give ourselves to Christ in a full way, without any reservation, we surrender ourselves to his will, as He has surrendered himself to the will of the Father and became obedient until death on the cross.

*"Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates. The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water. I warn everyone who hears the prophetic words in this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words in this prophetic book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city described in this book. The one who gives this testimony says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! (Cf. Rev 22,10-21).*

We find a pale idea of ​​this friendship that turns into marriage in the Book of Wisdom. We get married with wisdom in order to transform our life into wisdom.

*Indeed, she reaches from end to end mightily and governs all things well. Her I loved and sought after from my youth; I sought to take her for my bride and was enamoured of her beauty. She adds to nobility the splendour of companionship with God; even the Lord of all loved her. For she is instructress in the understanding of God, the selector of his works. And if riches be a desirable possession in life, what is more rich than Wisdom, who produces all things? And if prudence renders service, who in the world is a better craftsman than she? Or if one loves justice, the fruits of her works are virtues; For she teaches moderation and prudence, justice and fortitude, and nothing in life is more useful for men than these. Or again, if one yearns for copious learning, she knows the things of old, and infers those yet to come. She understands the turns of phrases and the solutions of riddles; signs and wonders she knows in advance and the outcome of times and ages. So I determined to take her to live with me, knowing that she would be my counsellor while all was well, and my comfort in care and grief (Wis 8,1-9).*

This was Paul's wish: presenting each disciple to Jesus as a chaste virgin.

*If only you would put up with a little foolishness from me! Please put up with me. For I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God, since I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ (2Cor 11,1-2).*

In friendship the will of Christ becomes our will. We live to obey his voice. In the marriage the whole life of Christ becomes our life. The marriage is celebrated on the cross, becoming with him one only cross of salvation and redemption.

*As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.*

What is the first obedience to be given to Jesus the Lord? That of loving his body with his own love, just as He loved and gave his life for it.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true friends of Christ Jesus.

## TRULY UNDERSTOOD THAT I CAME FROM YOU

## At 20,17-27; Ps 67; Jn 17,1-11a

### 15 MAY

The first truth of our faith is the most pure confession that Christ Jesus, our Lord, not only is from the Father in time, as his envoy, but also from the Father in eternity because he was generated by him. *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God"*: always forever and in everything He is from the Father. The second truth to be proclaimed with a live, true and convinced faith tells us that Christ Jesus not only did the will of the Father, not only showed us the Father in all the power of his love and his light, but it is He who, through his Holy Spirit, gives the Father to every heart as its true life. If Jesus does not give the Father, we are without the true God, because the true God is only the Father of Jesus and is given only by Jesus. Christ the Lord is the gift of the Father to humanity, so that by accepting him, in him, for him and with him, we receive his Father as our true Father, becoming partakers of his divine nature. Everything is for Christ, but everything is also in Christ, everything is lived with Christ. Without Christ we are without the Father, the Holy Spirit, the light, life, truth, peace and true hope.

*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth* *(Jn 1, 14).* *Jesus answered and said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, a son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing; for what he does, his son will do also (Jn 5, 19).* *And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father" (Jn 6, 65).* *No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father" (Jn 10, 18).* *Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him" (Jn 14, 21).* *You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I (Jn 14, 28).* *I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father (Jn 15, 15).* *When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me (Jn 15, 26).* *Righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me (Jn 16, 10). I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father" (Jn 16, 28).*

In the prayer that Jesus addresses to the Father, before walking towards the cross, he tells him that the disciples know that He is from the Father. This truth is vitally important, because it is the irreplaceable foundation for starting a true relationship with God. If we do not believe that Jesus is from the Father, the consequences are disastrous. We have either a God without Christ Jesus, or a Christ God without the God who is the Creator of heaven and earth and all visible and invisible things. There would start a dualism in the faith without any relationship or communion in the truth. We would have two autonomous and independent Gods.

*When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. "I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you.*

Confessing that Jesus is from the Father we have only one eternal principle on which our faith must be founded: On the Father who sent Christ as a way of grace and truth so that we return to the Father. Christ came from the Father and returns to the Father. We for Christ come from the Father and through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, we return to the Father.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, give us the true faith in Christ.

## CONSECRATE THEM IN THE TRUTH

## At 20,28-38; Ps 67; Jn 17 ,11b-19

### 16 MAY

In the Gospel according to John on one side there is Christ Jesus who reveals himself to the world as the truth and the creator of it in the heart of every man and on the other there is Pilate, a true figure of the world, who at the end asks: *"What is the truth?"* We know that Pilate asks, but does not wait for the answer. This is the world: it asks, but it does not want to know the truth, because it frightens it. Is not the world afraid of the truth today? Does not it try to stifle, annihilate and destroy it? Who suffocates the truth, is suffocated. Who destroys the truth, is destroyed. Truth is life.

*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth (Jn 1, 14).* *Because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (Jn 1, 17).* *But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God (Jn 3, 21).* *But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him (Jn 4, 23).* *You sent emissaries to John, and he testified to the truth (Jn 5, 33).* *But now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God; Abraham did not do this (Jn 8, 40).* *You belong to your father the devil and you willingly carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks in character, because he is a liar and the father of lies (Jn 8, 44).* *But because I speak the truth, you do not believe me (Jn 8, 45).* *Can any of you charge me with sin? If I am telling the truth, why do you not believe me? (Jn 8, 46).* *Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (Jn 14, 6).*

*The Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you (Jn 14, 17).* *When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me (Jn 15, 26).* *But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you (Jn 16, 7).* *But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming (Jn 16, 13).* *Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth (Jn 17, 17).* *And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth (Jn 17, 19).* *So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice" (Jn 18, 37).* *Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, "I find no guilt in him" (Jn 18, 38).*

The dialogue between Christ Jesus and Pilate must be perpetuated in history between the body of Christ, every member of the body of Christ and the world. The body of Christ must present himself to the world as the purest truth. To the physical, bodily presentation, it is also necessary to add the word which illumines and enlightens. Life truth and word truth must be one thing. Never must they become two separate things. Either they exist together or they do not exist. The Word truth without life truth is useless. Jesus is all truth.

*Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.*

Consecrating in truth is making the disciples truth of life and truth of the Word. Truth is their body, their soul, their spirit, their thoughts, desires and aspirations. Truth is all their Word. Truth is the conformation of their being to the being of God.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us God's truth in Christ.

## YOU LOVED ME BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

## At 22,30; 23,6-11; Ps 15; Jn 17,20 -26

### 17 MAY

What Jesus asks of the Father today for the disciples: *"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they may contemplate my glory, that which you have given me; since you loved me before the creation of the world"*, we can understand it, letting ourselves be helped by what happened on the day of the transfiguration.

*After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid" (Mt 17,1-8).*

For a moment Peter sees the glory of Christ Jesus. He wants to transform time into eternity. He asks to be able to remain eternally in that vision of bliss and peace. Jesus today asks the Father to grant this grace to his Apostles: being with him tomorrow in the eternal dwellings, because only then will they know that their following of Jesus has not been in vain and useless. They will also know how great his love has been for them. Only when one lives in the tent of God, or in God the true tent of man, we will know how infinite the love of the Father has been. He gave us his eternal Son. Then we will also understand how immense the love of the Son has been. He let himself be crucified, He is the Eternal God, the God clothed with eternal glory, for our love. Today we can only imagine the greatness of the love of the Father and of the Son, if we are fully in the Holy Spirit. If we are not in the Spirit of God, we are also lacking in sound imagination. That the world today wants to remove Christ Jesus from its sight, asking everyone to hide the Crucified, testifies not only that it is without the Holy Spirit, but that it is also devoid of any human consideration. Neither has it pity for a just man unjustly condemned for hatred against God and against humanity. The passion of Christ is not over. It will continue until the day of the Parousia, when He will appear in the clouds of heaven for the universal judgment.

*"I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."*

In his First Letter to the Corinthians St. Paul reveals to us that none of the rulers of this world has known the wisdom hidden in Christ. He did not know it yesterday and does not know it today. Many Christians do not know it anymore today.

*Yet we do speak a wisdom to those who are mature, but not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him," this God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God (1Cor 2,6-10).*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, help us to know Christ.

## SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE?

## At 25,13b- 21; Ps 102; Jn 21,15-19

### 18 MAY

The higher we are, the greater our love must be. Jesus has been placed by the Father as the giver of life for every man, he must be full of life more than any other man. Jesus can be full of life more than any other, if he loves the Father more than any other. He loved the Father until he died on the cross and the Father was all placed in the heart of Christ with the fullness of his love and his truth. Now Jesus can love every man, of every time and every place, for eternity. Everyone can draw life from his divine and eternal source. If Jesus had not loved the Father more than anyone, he would have never been able to satisfy everyone with his love. God is love. Christ can love everyone by becoming Him, through his obedience, love of the Father. It is the eternal law of love.

Peter is called to feed sheep and lambs, that is, the whole flock of the Lord. It must nourish it with the love of Christ the Lord. For this he must love him, his Master, more than all the others. To feed all the others, he must be above all others. Above others he is only in one way: loving Christ just as Christ loved the Father. Christ Jesus is above others, because he loved the Father more than any other. Peter is above others because he is called to love Christ more than all others. But Peter does not yet feel capable of such a great love. He does not have the courage to tell Christ that he loves him. He simply tells him that he is fond of him. Jesus knows Peter's heart. He knows that now his love for him is great and entrusts him with sheep and lambs. The teaching is great for us. We are asked not to ever overestimate our love for Christ. It is asked to always underestimate it, so as to remain not only in great humility, but also in an incessant prayer so that the Lord may add love to love, truth to truth, justice to justice and holiness to holiness. Peter applies this rule to himself - his love is always little for Jesus - and he applies it to others. He asks the disciples of Jesus to add what is lacking in his perfection.

*His divine power has bestowed on us everything that makes for life and devotion, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and power. Through these, he has bestowed on us the precious and very great promises, so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature, after escaping from the corruption that is in the world because of evil desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control, self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion, devotion with mutual affection, mutual affection with love. If these are yours and increase in abundance, they will keep you from being idle or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Anyone who lacks them is blind and short sighted, forgetful of the cleansing of his past sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more eager to make your call and election firm, for, in doing so, you will never stumble. For, in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you (2Pt 1,3-11).*

After his profession of love, no one might question Peter's love for his Master. It is on the foundation of this love that Peter will be able to follow the Master, offering also his blood to him tomorrow. He will never betray Jesus again.

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." (Jesus) said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."*

In the Upper Room Peter had asked for martyrdom. This grace is now granted to him.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us grow in love.

## LORD, WHAT ABOUT HIM?

## At 28,16-20.30-31; Ps 10; Jn 21,20-25

### 19 MAY

The mystery of the life of every man is firmly hidden in the heart of the Father and it is an inviolable secret. No man on earth knows what will happen to him in a few seconds. All of Sacred History is the attestation of this truth. Never Noah could have thought of becoming one day for his justice the "saviour" of life on earth. Could have ever Joseph, the son of Jacob, been able to imagine being one day the viceroy of Egypt and dispensing wheat to the then known world? Moses, the saved from the waters, saves his people through the waters and leads it into an inhospitable desert for forty long years. David from a shepherd of flocks is raised to the great dignity of being the king of Israel. The future of a man is only and always hidden in the heart of the Father. It is our duty to always ask with great humility that the divine will be done on us. Jesus put this request at the foundation of his prayer: our Father. *"May your will be done in my life and in the universe"*. Saint Paul reveals to the Corinthians and to the Ephesians that gifts, vocations and ministries are bestowed by the Holy Spirit, in his free and unquestionable will: *"As he wishes"*.

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? (1Cor 12,4-11.27-30). And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ (Eph 4,11-13).*

Peter follows Jesus. He turns around and sees John. He asks him: "Lord, what will be of him?". The answer is immediate: "If I want him to stay until I come, what does it matter to you? You, follow me". What Jesus says to Peter is valid for every disciple. Every day the disciple of Jesus must ask God to reveal him his will to be carried out today for today and tomorrow for tomorrow. That's enough. He does not have to care about other things. He might only pray so that every other disciple obeys his Lord with immediate obedience.

*Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved, the one who had also reclined upon his chest during the supper and had said, "Master, who is the one who will betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me." So the word spread among the brothers that that disciple would not die. But Jesus had not told him that he would not die, just "What if I want him to remain until I come? (What concern is it of yours?)" It is this disciple who testifies to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.*

This truth that Jesus teaches us today must govern the life of every disciple. Everyone is obliged to his obedience, to his ministry and to his vocation. Lord of the other person is God and only Him. As Jesus showed the whole world how to obey God, so every disciple must show the Church and the world how to obey Christ. By doing everyone what is asked of Him, he will become a model and an example for everyone.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us models of truth and light.

## HE WILL TAKE FROM WHAT IS MINE

## At 2,1-11; Ps 103; Gal 5,16-25; Jn 15,26-27; 16,12-15

### 20 MAY – SUNDAY OF PENTECOST – S

The Holy Spirit is the Eternal Communion between the Father and the Son. He takes all that belongs to the Father and gives it to the Son. He takes all that is of the Son and gives it to the Father. We know by revelation that everything that belongs to the Father and the whole Father from the Holy Spirit has been given to Christ. Christ was constituted the only mediator between the Father and the entire universe. He is the only mediator in creation, in redemption, in salvation, in grace, in truth and in the gift of eternal life.

*At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Mt 11,25-30).*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him (Cf. Jn 1,1-18).*

There is no communion in the universe except in the Holy Spirit. For him, the whole Father has given himself to the Son. For him all the Son gives himself to the Father. Now the Father has established that all Christ, in whom He is entirely, is given to every man. This gift can only be accomplished in the communion of the Holy Spirit. The Father in Jesus and for him gives the Holy Spirit to the disciples. The Holy Spirit creates the communion between Christ and the disciples. He takes Christ and places him in the heart of the disciples, so that he lives entirely in them, in the same way that the whole Father lives in Christ. Everything is accomplished in the communion of the Spirit.

*"When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning. "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.*

Then, it is right that we ask ourselves: if the Holy Spirit gives us all of Christ, in the same way that he gave to Christ the whole Father, why are we not the life of Christ on earth? We know that Jesus grew in wisdom and grace. If we do not grow in obedience to the Word of Jesus, we are always *"small containers"*. How much light, truth, life and will of Christ the Lord might he pour into us, if we are even containers full of holes because of our vices and sins? Even if the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts all of Christ Jesus with every power of grace and truth, he would remain in us only for a moment. If we want the Holy Spirit to increase the gift of Christ, we must begin with a real struggle for the eradication of all disobedience and vice. For every vice that is removed from the mind, from the heart and from the body, our capacities to contain Christ the Lord increase. Jesus contained the whole Father because he was most holy.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us grow in every virtue.

**MAY 2018**

## THIRD DECADE OF MAY

## I DO BELIEVE, HELP MY UNBELIEF!

## Jam 3,13-18; Ps 18; Mk 9,14-29

### 21 MAY

Faith is believing that the Word of God is the only one on which we can build our present and future of true life. One believes in the truth of the Word and obeys the Word of truth. In the faith that becomes obedience is life. All temptations want to separate us from the truth of the Word of God, to seduce us so that we obey the word not of God, which is always of lie, falsehood and necessarily of death. The Word of God does not only say what we must do, it also reveals what God is doing for us and what he can do. For the Word we know that He is the Omnipotent. It is one of the first truths that God has revealed about himself. An approach to Genesis is enough and one will notice that every promise is founded by God on his omnipotence. In the remaining Pentateuch the word recurs only three times. Here is who the Lord is: *"I am God Almighty"*.

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said: "I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless (Gen 17, 1).* *May God Almighty bless you and make you fertile, multiply you that you may become an assembly of peoples (Gen 28, 3).* *God also said to him: "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed an assembly of nations, shall stem from you, and kings shall issue from your loins (Gen 35, 11).* *May God Almighty dispose the man to be merciful toward you, so that he may let your other brother go, as well as Benjamin. As for me, if I am to suffer bereavement, I shall suffer it"* *(Gen 43, 14).*  *Jacob then said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessing me (Gen 48, 3).* *The God of your father, who helps you, God Almighty, who blesses you, With the blessings of the heavens above, the blessings of the abyss that crouches below(Gen 49, 25).*

The Father has given Christ Jesus all power on earth and in the heavens. Christ Jesus gave some of his powers to the disciples, including that of expelling impure spirits. Being the power conferred with the Word, the disciples can only exercise it in faith. It does not act by magic or by pure command. All the powers of Christ, outside the celebration of the sacraments, demand faith in the Word. Faith, being a virtue, must necessarily grow. It will grow with incessant prayer elevated to God so that he makes it increasingly stronger in us. The disciples still do not know the mechanisms and the secrets of the spiritual life and for this they cannot drive the impure spirit away.

*When they came to the disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and scribes arguing with them. Immediately on seeing him, the whole crowd was utterly amazed. They ran up to him and greeted him. He asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" Someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I have brought to you my son possessed by a mute spirit. Wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive it out, but they were unable to do so." He said to them in reply, "O faithless generation, how long will I be with you? How long will I endure you? Bring him to me." They brought the boy to him. And when he saw him, the spirit immediately threw the boy into convulsions. As he fell to the ground, he began to roll around and foam at the mouth. Then he questioned his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" He replied, "Since childhood. It has often thrown him into fire and into water to kill him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, " 'If you can!' Everything is possible to one who has faith." Then the boy's father cried out, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" Jesus, on seeing a crowd rapidly gathering, rebuked the unclean spirit and said to it, "Mute and deaf spirit, I command you: come out of him and never enter him again!" Shouting and throwing the boy into convulsions, it came out. He became like a corpse, which caused many to say, "He is dead!" But Jesus took him by the hand, raised him, and he stood up. When he entered the house, his disciples asked him in private, "Why could we not drive it out?" He said to them, "This kind can only come out through prayer."*

The father, who asks for his son's recovery, came with much faith. But the disciples disappointed him. He believes that Christ is superior to everyone else. But he needs to be sustained, helped and supported in this faith. Little faith is for him as if it were unbelief. In fact, the faith of the disciples proved to be unbelief. He does not want to be incredulous. He wants to believe very firmly that his son will recover. How might Jesus help his unbelief? Testifying to him the truth of his omnipotence.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, help us to witness to the faith.

## IF ANYONE WISHES TO BE FIRST

## Jam 4.1-10; Ps 54; Mk 9,30-37

### 22 MAY

The kingdom of God is infinitely different than every kingdom of men existing on earth. It is also infinitely different than any other form of exercise of power, including also the form of democracy, under whatever form or manner it is exercised. In the kingdoms and governments of the world, power is either taken away from man or is delegated to him. But man does not govern. He will always be governed. Exactly the opposite happens in the kingdom of God. Here everyone is called to personally exercise his power, the one that God has bestowed on him. In the realms of the world everyone is either stripped or strips himself of power. In the kingdom of God, God and Christ are the ones who are stripped of their power to give it to every believer in Christ Jesus and also to every other man.

In the kingdom of God every power exercised is of love, truth, light, justice, mercy and compassion. This power which is of true creation of the good in the heart of man is exercised from below and not from above, from the last place and not from the first. It is a power that obliges us to take upon ourselves all the sin of the world to expiate it with our life, washing it if necessary with our own blood. What St. Paul says of Christ and his Church, it is not only valid for marriage, but also for every other service given in his body and by his body. One serves by pouring his own blood to free the world from all evil. He gives his life to save a life. In this Paul is a teacher.

*Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past. But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labour and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me (Col 1,24-29).*

*Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the saviour of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So (also) husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man shall leave (his) father and (his) mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband (Eph 5,21-33).*

The disciples quarrel because they think of the kingdom of God in all similar to the kingdoms and forms of government of this world. Yesterday's dispute ends only when one thinks with Christ's thoughts and uses his heart. The more we become one heart with Christ and one mind with the Holy Spirit and the fewer fights there will be among the disciples of Jesus.

*They left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death he will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him. They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the one who sent me."*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us the heart of Christ today.

## DO NOT PREVENT HIM

## Jam 4,13-1 7; Ps 48; Mk 9,38-40

### 23 MAY

The Law of the Lord forbids every man to do evil. Evil is the death of the soul, of the spirit and of the body. It must always be avoided. Every man must be taught what evil is so that he does not do it, but also what good is so that he dedicates himself to it with all his heart, mind, thoughts, soul and strength. Never either in the Old Testament or in the New is it forbidden to anyone to do the good that is in his possibilities. The good must always be done to everyone. St. James admonishes us: *"Whoever knows how to do good and does not do it, commits sin"* (Jas 4:17). It is a universal rule that every man is subject to.

In the law of good, Jesus goes infinitely beyond the Old Testament. It is true that it had very precise commands concerning the good on the part of the Lord. First of all, the good begins by observing perfectly the Commandments of the Law. Then there was also the commandment on the neighbour to be loved as the self and also on the enemy, who must be loved, doing him good and never harm. Evil must always be avoided.

*"You shall not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. Though you may have to reprove your fellow man, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your fellow countrymen. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord. When an alien resides with you in your land, do not molest him. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the Lord, am your God (Lev 19.17-18.33-34).*  *If your enemy be hungry, give him food to eat, if he be thirsty, give him to drink; For live coals you will heap on his head, and the Lord will vindicate you (Pr 25,21-22).*

Jesus overcomes these commands by bringing them to the most sublime of perfections. His disciples are asked to renounce their own life, in order not to do any harm to the other person. Did not Jesus give his tunic, cloak, his body and his blood to his enemies?

*"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow. "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect (Mt 5,38-48).*

With the answer given to the disciples returning from the mission, another fixed point is placed in history. In his name everyone can do good and everyone can ask it. When a disciple of Jesus sees another man who in the name of Christ performs prodigies, miracles, drives out demons, does anything else, he must always be helped, encouraged and supported. Then, with the help of the Holy Spirit from the good we will pass into the fullness of the truth. One must never ask for the fullness of truth or belonging. This path was that of God throughout the Old Testament. He has always asked everyone for the good. The truth is reached progressively.

*John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us.*

Whoever does good is for man, for the Lord, even for Christ Jesus, if he does the good in his name. Never might he speak ill of Him. Never will he speak ill of the disciples. Belonging in the faith is already a good. It must be brought to the fullness of the truth, but never impeded, hindered and condemned. Christ Jesus, you are wisely great!

Virgin Mary, mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us capable of discernment.

## KEEP SALT IN YOURSELVES

## Jas 5,1-6; Ps 48; Mk 9,41-50

### 24 MAY

Salt is that current wisdom, an ever new and immediate gift of the Holy Spirit, that makes us see in the Word of Jesus both the truth that we must live and the perfect modalities of implementation. But we must confess that the light of the Holy Spirit, if asked with faith and prayer flowing from a free, meek, humble and pure heart, without any stain or vice or sin infinitely exceeds the abilities handed down to us by the ancient hagiographers. In the New Testament Wisdom is the Holy Spirit, his eternal Light that is given to those who ask for it as light to enlighten his every step. The Spirit of the Lord becomes wisdom and his light in the disciple. It is He who gives himself as his intelligence and his science or knowledge of the divine mysteries. Taken by the hand by the Spirit, the Christian reaches the full imitation of Jesus.

*Such things as are hidden I learned and such as are plain; for Wisdom, the artificer of all, taught me. For in her is a spirit intelligent, holy, unique, Manifold, subtle, agile, clear, unstained, certain, Not baneful, loving the good, keen, unhampered, beneficent, kindly, Firm, secure, tranquil, all-powerful, all-seeing, And pervading all spirits, though they be intelligent, pure and very subtle. For Wisdom is mobile beyond all motion, and she penetrates and pervades all things by reason of her purity. For she is an aura of the might of God and a pure effusion of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nought that is sullied enters into her. For she is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness. And she, who is one, can do all things, and renews everything while herself perduring; And passing into holy souls from age to age, she produces friends of God and prophets. For there is nought God loves, be it not one who dwells with Wisdom. For she is fairer than the sun and surpasses every constellation of the stars. Compared to light, she takes precedence; for that, indeed, night supplants, but wickedness prevails not over Wisdom (Wis 7,21-30).*

Whoever walks without the Holy Spirit, without him as his ever new, alive, immediate and current salt, might always sin with scandal. He might say a good word at an inopportune moment. He might perform a just action before people, but small in faith. He might also give excellent advice, which the other does not understand. He might do everything excellently well according to his conscience, but which disturbs the conscience of the other. He might not even say a word, not take an action, not intervene with his light, scandalizing, because the other considers his intervention necessary. Everything, without the Holy Spirit, can turn into a scandal. Jesus never committed a single sin of scandal not because he acted in perfect holiness, but because every action, word, desire and decision was always guided by the Spirit of the Lord. All of He lived under the powerful light of truth of the Spirit of God.

*Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe (in me) to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' "Everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavour? Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another."*

The Spirit of the Lord is not only necessary in order not to sin actively with scandal; it is also indispensable so that the scandal does not enter us and ruin our life. Evil does not need a thousand words to ruin a heart: a single frame, a single word or be in a place for a few moments suffice. It is death. Those who are strong in the Spirit will prevent the scandal from devouring them. Who is without the Spirit of the Lord, today in a particular way has no escape, aggressed night and day by all immorality.Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, fill us with the Holy Spirit.

## COMMITS ADULTERY AGAINST HER

## Jam 5,9-12; Ps 102; Mk 10,1-12

### 25 MAY

What the Pharisees tell Jesus about the Law of repudiation is totally false: *"Moses allowed to write an act of repudiation and to repudiate her"*. The law was well circumstantiated.

*"If a man, after marrying a woman and having relations with her, comes to dislike her, and makes monstrous charges against her and defames her by saying, 'I married this woman, but when I first had relations with her I did not find her a virgin,' the father and mother of the girl shall take the evidence of her virginity and bring it to the elders at the city gate. There the father of the girl shall say to the elders, 'I gave my daughter to this man in marriage, but he has come to dislike her, and now brings monstrous charges against her, saying: I did not find your daughter a virgin. But here is the evidence of my daughter's virginity!' And they shall spread out the cloth before the elders of the city. Then these city elders shall take the man and chastise him, besides fining him one hundred silver shekels, which they shall give to the girl's father, because the man defamed a virgin in Israel. Moreover, she shall remain his wife, and he may not divorce her as long as he lives. "But if this charge is true, and evidence of the girl's virginity is not found, they shall bring the girl to the entrance of her father's house and there her townsmen shall stone her to death, because she committed a crime against Israel by her unchasteness in her father's house. Thus shall you purge the evil from your midst. "If a man comes upon a maiden that is not betrothed, takes her and has relations with her, and their deed is discovered, the man who had relations with her shall pay the girl's father fifty silver shekels and take her as his wife, because he has deflowered her. Moreover, he may not divorce her as long as he lives (Dt 22,13-21.28-29).*

*"When a man, after marrying a woman and having relations with her, is later displeased with her because he finds in her something indecent, and therefore he writes out a bill of divorce and hands it to her, thus dismissing her from his house: if on leaving his house she goes and becomes the wife of another man, and the second husband, too, comes to dislike her and dismisses her from his house by handing her a written bill of divorce; or if this second man who has married her, dies; then her former husband, who dismissed her, may not again take her as his wife after she has become defiled. That would be an abomination before the Lord, and you shall not bring such guilt upon the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you as a heritage (Dt 24,1-4).*

With Jesus we enter the Law of the new heart and of the new spirit. If man, regenerated in the Holy Spirit, becomes a new creature, even as regards marriage, he must live as a new creature. New body, new law and new life. Divorcing for a Christian is declaring useless and vain grace, the new birth from water and the Holy Spirit, together with all the fruits of redemption. What Jesus says in his Gospel would simply be a vain word. None of them is accomplished for man.

*He set out from there and went into the district of Judea (and) across the Jordan. Again crowds gathered around him and, as was his custom, he again taught them. The Pharisees approached and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?" They replied, "Moses permitted him to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her." But Jesus told them, "Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother (and be joined to his wife), and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In the house the disciples again questioned him about this. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."*

Divorce among Christians is a true declaration of the uselessness of the Cross of Christ, of his Body and Blood, of the Holy Spirit and of every sacrament. The divorce between the disciples of Jesus becomes the greatest attestation of the falsity of the whole message of the New Testament. It becomes the great scandal against the Father. He said that he would have changed the heart of stone into the heart of flesh, while the disciple of Jesus lives only with the heart of stone. Divorce is a condemnation of man not to live like a real man.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us of a humble and meek heart.

## LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME

## Jam 5,13-2 0; Ps 140; Mk 10,13-16

### 26 MAY

We know from Ancient Scripture and also from the New Testament that the Lord chooses the people to whom to entrust the mystery of salvation from the mother's womb and sometimes even before their own conception. Samson was chosen before conception. Samuel was offered to God when he did not even exist as a possibility. Anna was sterile. Jeremiah was called from the mother's womb. John the Baptist was announced to Zachariah filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb of Elizabeth even before being conceived. Even Paul is said to have been chosen since the mother’s womb.

*An angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Though you are barren and have had no children, yet you will conceive and bear a son. Now, then, be careful to take no wine or strong drink and to eat nothing unclean. As for the son you will conceive and bear, no razor shall touch his head, for this boy is to be consecrated to God from the womb. It is he who will begin the deliverance of Israel from the power of the Philistines" (Jdg 13,3-5). "O Lord of hosts, if you look with pity on the misery of your handmaid, if you remember me and do not forget me, if you give your handmaid a male child, I will give him to the Lord for as long as he lives; neither wine nor liquor shall he drink, and no razor shall ever touch his head" (1Sam 1,11).*

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you" (Cf. Jer 1,5-10). "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of (the) Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord" (Lk 1,13-17).* *But when (God), who from my mother's womb had set me apart and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him to the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; rather, I went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus* *(Gal 1,11-17).*

Every man belongs to God from eternity, since he is in his thoughts since eternity. If he belongs to him from eternity, he is also his from the first moment of his existence. This is the error today. It is no longer believed by parents that the fruit of their love is of the Lord and that they are his instruments to give him the children that He has already thought in his heart. Since the parents are separated from God, the child or children they conceive are also separated from God. Being the Lord the life of the soul and the spirit, separated from God, they can grow only with the body, but without soul and spirit. They have a body that is neither governed by the soul nor by the spirit. This is the true crisis of today's society. Without soul there is no reference to the supernatural. Everything is lived in the realm of the earth. Without spirit there is no relation with moral good. Society is thus deprived of its essential principles of fairness and sound morality.

*And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them (Mk 10,13-16).*

Our society is not like the disciples that rebuke those who present the children to Jesus. It has gone much further. It decided that Jesus must be exiled from this world. In this way every *"temptation"* to bring someone to Him is avoided radically. Jesus banned from our history, humanity is condemned to live by immanence alone, of matter alone, but also of evil alone. The world must know it. Only one takes away its sin: Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God. Having banned the Lamb of God from the world, the world will be submerged by sin and death. Others work in sin at the service of sin. Only Christ crucifies sin in his body and takes it away from the world.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true disciples of Jesus.

## IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER

## Dt 4,32-34.39-40; Ps 32; Rm 8,14-17; Mt 28,16-20

### 27 MAY – MOST HOLY TRINITY – S

The Gospel offered to our meditation, placed by St. Matthew to close the whole life of Jesus on the earth in his body, first visible and then resurrected, requires to be examined word by word. Nothing of it must escape our attentive, wise and intelligent reflection, in the prayer raised to the Holy Spirit, to ask Him for every light of truth. The severity or heaviness of all his Word demands it.

*"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me"*: All power on earth and in heaven belongs to the Father. Jesus is also from the Father through eternal generation. He is his Only Son. The Father gives his Son all his power. On the contrary, he places all of himself in the hands of the Son, so that the Son may give him to every man, as his only source of eternal life. It is on the foundation of this power that the apostles are sent into the world. The Father sends Christ with every power of salvation and redemption. Christ sends his apostles with every power of salvation and redemption. The apostles are from Christ as Christ is from the Father. The apostles must obey Christ as Christ obeys the Father. It is in the obedience of the apostles to Christ that the salvation of the world is accomplished.

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all peoples"*: Christ came and made the apostles his disciples. The apostles must go to the world and make all the peoples their disciples. In this command, all the false problematic of the Christian who wants to be in the world only an announcer of non-negotiable truths, indestructible first principles, other moral theories of the highest value, skips. The Christian social worker, almsgiving distributor, curator of the human body and defender of human justice, also skips. All these things are consequences of the mission, but not the end of it. The purpose of the mission is clear: the apostles are sent into the world to make disciples all peoples: disciples of the apostles, to be of Christ, to be children of the Father. If the disciples are not made, there is no mission. There is no obedience. There is no salvation.

*"By baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit"*: The disciples are made by preaching the Gospel, explicitly inviting to conversion and faith in the Word of Jesus. Having made the disciples they must be baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Father gives them his fatherhood. But he gives it in the Son who gives his true sonship. He gives it through the communion of the Holy Spirit, always in him and through him. Without this baptism one remains out of the mystery of the Trinity. One does not even become a continuator of the mission of redemption of Jesus.

*The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."*

*"Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"*: The teaching is needed to live in Christ as true sons of the Father, in full obedience to his will. The apostles live as true children of God and teaching every baptized person how to live as a true son of the Father, in Christ and in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

*"And behold, I am with you every day, until the end of the world"*: Jesus is with his apostles just as God was with Moses when he sent him to free his people from the slavery of Egypt. Jesus is with them to work together with them. It is He who must confirm all their Word, manifesting all his power of salvation and redemption. For Jesus to be with them, it is necessary that they are in his Word and obey his every command. Jesus certainly is not with whoever is ashamed to preach the Gospel, to invite to conversion and to faith, baptizing and teaching how the Gospel is to be lived. This is demonstrated by their way of being and operating. If the apostles do not obey Christ as Christ obeyed the father, there is no salvation.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us obedient to Christ Jesus.

## YOU ARE LACKING IN ONE THING

## 1Pt 1,3-9; Ps 110; Mk 10,17-27

### 28 MAY

For a son of Abraham the way of life was the observance of the Law, of the Norms and of the Statutes which from time to time the Lord made to reach his people. A man, having heard of Jesus, listening to all his Word, certainly must have thought that the way to the kingdom was no longer the way it was before and asks Him to have absolute certainties. In truth, the way of the kingdom has passed from obedience to the Word of God, contained in the Old Testament, to listening to the Word of Jesus revealed in the Sermon on the Mount. This is a non-minor passage. The way of the kingdom is now Christ the Lord. The Father has constituted only Him and He will remain forever the one and only way.

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.' "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined" (Mt 7,21-27).*

To this man that interrogates him, Jesus confirms that the way of the kingdom begins with the observance of the Commandments. We listen to the Word of the Father, we follow the path to the kingdom. You do not listen to it, you move forward for sure, but not towards the kingdom of God. Do you walk alone towards the kingdom or you can consecrate your whole life to help every other man to progress towards it? As Jesus has consecrated his life to pave and smooth out the way of the kingdom for all, so he proposes this man to imitate him in this consecration. If he wants to do this, he will have to sell all his possessions and distribute the proceeds to the poor, leave everything else and follow him, Jesus, to learn both the truths of the kingdom and the ways for a perfect service. The way of the kingdom must be indicated to every other man. It is a necessary mission. Love for the man to be led to eternal salvation does not win in this man, but what does is the attachment to the goods of the earth.

*As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honour your father and your mother.'" He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to (the) poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through (the) eye of (a) needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."*

The words of Jesus as a seal of this refusal must be well pondered: *"How difficult it is for those who possess riches to enter the kingdom of God! it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God"*. The difficulty stems from attachment to riches. If the heart is imprisoned in them, even when it is a small alms, we abstain from doing it. We know that the rich villain did not even see Lazarus, the poor man, sitting at the door of his house. It is not the riches that lead to perdition, but their idolatry. The heart is dead.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, free us from all idolatry.

## FOR MY SAKE AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

## 1Pt 1,10-16; Ps 97; Mk 10,28-31

### 29 MAY

The Gospel is a pact between Christ Jesus and every man who wants to sign it. Conditions are immutable over the centuries. Here are the invariable terms: Jesus gives to the underwriter himself and in him he gives him the Father and the Holy Spirit and every other spiritual and material gift, including the blessed eternity in his Paradise. The underwriter undertakes to give Christ his whole life in time, living every word contained in the Gospel, according to the teaching that the Holy Spirit offers him day after day. The covenant lasts until death. If it is broken and we are found outside at the time of death, there will be no reception in the eternal tent of God for us.

The Creator and Lord of man established the same covenant at the beginning of time, even if under different conditions,. *"You, man, do you want to stay in the life I made to you? You must walk in my will that always shows you the way of death and the way of life. If you come out of my will, if you disobey my command, you will proceed from death to death."* There is no relationship with the Creator, nor with Christ Jesus, except in the covenant. You are in it, you live, you get out of it and you die. It is valid for every Word of the Lord, every commandment and every prescription. You obey the Creator, you live. You disobey and you die. It is a universal, immortal and timeless law, invariable over the centuries.

Today both the man and the Christian have decided to break the pact: a pact of creation, an evangelical pact, a sacramental pact, a vocational pact, an amicable pact and a filial pact. So far it belongs to the will of man. Everyone can choose the path of death on earth and eternal perdition in the afterlife. The real misdeed is not the choice of death, but it is the affirmation that by following paths of disobedience one reached equally to the covenant. I can work on earth to sow massacres, to destroy the family, society, the Church, nature, all of humanity and the end result is eternal life with God. This is aberration. It is against all historical evidence. Only obedience produces life.

The rich man closes himself in his riches. Jesus says that a rich man will hardly enter the kingdom of heaven. The idolatry of riches leads to death. Peter tells Jesus that He and the other disciples have left everything and followed him. Jesus reminds them of the terms of the covenant with Him. You have given me everything and I give you everything on earth and in eternal skies. You gave up one thing, I give you a hundred of them. You have renounced a field for me, I give you a hundred fields. Not materially understood. He will give so much joy to the heart as if it materially enjoyed of a hundred fields and a hundred mothers. Following Christ involves persecution from the world. But every suffering endured for him produces eternal joy in his paradise. The persecution fully enters the pact. It must be accepted and offered for the salvation of the world.

*Peter began to say to him, "We have given up everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come. But many that are first will be last, and (the) last will be first."*

Let us observe well. The baptized person leaves the covenant and dies as the true son of God. He acts as a pagan. The confirmed person leaves the pact and becomes incapable of any testimony. He is a witness of Satan, not of Christ the Lord. The married man goes out of the covenant, generates spiritual death in his family. Life no longer blooms in it. The ordained minister violates the covenant and no longer converts anyone to Jesus. He no longer builds up the kingdom of God, rather he conforms to the thoughts of the world and decrees the surrender of the Christian to sin. Even those who receive the Eucharist; he does not receive it in the covenant and becomes incapable of living for Jesus. That the Word of God and of Christ are true, is witnessed every day by our history. We have decided to cancel Christ and his covenant, we have all become death-givers.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true observers of the covenant.

## THE SON OF MAN WILL BE HANDED OVER

## 1Pt 1,18-25; Ps 147; Mk 10,32-45

### 30 MAY

What awaits Jesus him in Jerusalem: the capture, the Sanhedrin, the death sentence, the surrender by his people to the pagans, his crucifixion and death. After three days all this great suffering will produce the fruit of his glorious resurrection. The cross is for Jesus the only possible ladder to reach the Father, so that Daniel's prophecy may be fulfilled for him. Indeed, he is the Son of the man of the vision.

*As I watched, Thrones were set up and the Ancient One took his throne. His clothing was snow bright, and the hair on his head as white as wool; His throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire. A surging stream of fire flowed out from where he sat; Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him, and myriads upon myriads attended him. The court was convened, and the books were opened. As the visions during the night continued, I saw One like a son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven; When he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, He received dominion, glory, and kingship; nations and peoples of every language serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed (Dn 7,9-10.13-14).*

*Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures* *and the elders, a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes; these are the (seven) spirits of God sent out into the whole world. He came and received the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones. They sang a new hymn: "Worthy are you to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth." I looked again and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honour and glory and blessing." Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour, glory and might, forever and ever." The four living creatures answered, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped (Rev 5,6-14).*

What is true for Jesus, is also true for every one of his disciples. Who wants a place at the top, has only one ladder to reach it: the cross. No other way is viable.

*They were on the way, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus went ahead of them. They were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. Taking the Twelve aside again, he began to tell them what was going to happen to him. "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him, spit upon him, scourge him, and put him to death, but after three days he will rise." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." He replied, "What do you wish (me) to do for you?" They answered him, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" They said to him, "We can." Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John. Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

James and John want to be great without going through the cross. Jesus tells them that this is not possible, either for them or for anyone else. Glory in his kingdom comes from the cross of service to love in full obedience. Jesus passes through this path, each one of his disciples will pass through it. Without a cross, there is no glory.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us love the cross.

## THE INFANT LEAPED IN HER WOMB

## Soph 3.14-18a opp. Rm 12,9-16b; C Is 12,2-6; Lk 1,39-56

### 31 MAY

The Virgin is not only the Mother of the Church, she is also the image and figure of her. The Church must let herself be made holy and immaculate every day by her Spouse. She must let herself to always be washed and purified with the blood of Jesus. In holiness she must conceive Christ in her bosom every day and every day make him be born to make a gift of him to God, so that God can give him to the world as its salvation and redemption, justification and peace, life, truth and way. She will do this if she will let the Holy Spirit always to flood her with the power and riches of his communion through which all of the Father and Son are brought into her heart.

Like Mary, the Church, full of Christ, of the Father and of the Holy Spirit, must go to the house of the world and breathe in it the Holy Spirit as the true Spirit of prophecy, truth, light, because only with his wisdom and intelligence in the mind and in the hearts of men it will be possible to know her mystery, in which every other mystery of salvation, of redemption, of past, present and future history is. If the Church does not breathe the Holy Spirit into the home of the world, because she has not let herself be washed by the blood of Christ; she has not conceived Christ in her womb and she is not even filled with the Spirit of the Lord, her presence in history is vain. She will speak from sin, she will breathe the spirit of sin, falsehood, lie, deceit and will darken the minds; she will not generate in them any light, because only the Spirit of the Lord is the one that produces light in the hearts.

*During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*

*And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.*

The Church must not only breathe in the house of the world the Holy Spirit on every man, if she wants the world to know what her true mystery is and sing it, if she wants the child that the world carries in its womb, be sanctified and to leap, she must always be the one to sing the greatness of her God in the purest truth. When the children of the Church do not breathe the Holy Spirit in the house of the world, it is a sign that they are deprived of him. If they are deprived of him, they might never magnify the Lord for his omnipotence of salvation and redemption. Everything in the Church is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Without the Spirit breathed by her the world remains eternally world and she offers a false image of the true God.

Today, if the children of the Church offer the world a false image of their God, if they no longer breathe in the house of the earth the Spirit of the Lord, it is a sign that they are deprived of Him. Without the Spirit, the Church is for the world similar to an old next door neighbour that turns from houses to houses, but only to gossip, criticize, murmur, judge, condemn and complain about everybody and everything. Either the children of the Church will let themselves be washed every day in the blood of Christ, be filled with the Holy Spirit, generate Christ in their womb, or it remains for them to live a history of sinful next door gossiping concerning humanity. Is not it next door gossiping to complain about the sin of the world when it is up to the Church to take it away?

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us saints for our God.