

SUNDAY *Plus*

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week III Year C**

Built for life

Peace begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others, listen to others and speak about others.

Pope Leo XIV

[Sir Henry Bromley] knew the house well; he had searched it before. First, he examined the long gallery over the gatehouse. There he found two of the dozen or more hiding places. In his report he pays a generous tribute to the skill of Nicholas Owen: they were "cunning and very artificial conveyances in the main brick wall, so ingeniously framed and with such art as it cost much labour they could be found".

As the search proceeded three other secret places were found, "contrived with no less skill and industry" in and about the chimneys, with

entrances covered over with brick, mortared and fixed to the planks that formed the entrance, and coloured black like other parts of the chimney. This was Owen's work again...

No day passed without one other place of concealment being discovered. "Eleven secret corners and conveyances were found". Bromley boasted, "all of them having books, massing stuff, and popish trumpery in them." It was only on the third day... that [Bromley] found his prey.

The two priests [Bl Henry Garnet and Bl Edward Oldcorne] were resolved to

starve to death rather than bring trouble on their hosts by emerging from the place of hiding. "After we had been in the hole seven days and seven nights", wrote Garnet, "and some odd hours, every man may well think we were well wearied, and indeed so it was, for we generally sat..." In fact, the hiding place had such a low ceiling that even in a sitting position the priests were unable to stretch their legs. They suffered continual pain.

*Philip Caraman SJ,
Henry Garnet, 1555-1606,
and the Gunpowder Plot*



Scaffolding

By Seamus Heaney

Masons, when they start upon a building,
Are careful to test out the scaffolding;


Make sure that planks won't slip at busy points,
Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.

And yet all this comes down when the job's done
Showing off walls of sure and solid stone.

So if, my dear, there sometimes seem to be
Old bridges breaking between you and me

Never fear. We may let the scaffolds fall
Confident that we have built our wall.

Seamus Heaney wrote this poem to explain that scaffolding offers support so that repairs can be made: a marriage with good walls and solid foundations can survive temporary crises and breakdowns.

Help us, Lord, to build strong foundations in our families and communities so that we can grow strong and weather the storms that sometimes happen in life. Bring us into the sunshine.  Amen.

Michel Quoist

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope Renewed in hope

For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the "door" of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as "our hope".

Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often, we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope.

Pope Francis, Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the year 2025:1

READINGS

Today:
Wisdom 9:13-18b
Philemon 9-10. 12-17
Luke 14:25-33

Monday:
Micah 5:1-4a
Matthew 1:1-16. 18-23

Tuesday:
Colossians 2:6-15
Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday:
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 6:20-26

Thursday:
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 6:27-38

Friday:
1 Timothy 1:1-2. 12-14
Luke 6:39-42

Saturday:
1 Timothy 1:15-17
Luke 6:43-49

Next Sunday:
Numbers 21:4b-9
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

