



The Priory Church of Jesus Christ Ascot

This Week at the Priory

The Priory is closed Wednesday to Friday

Monday, Tuesday

8:30am Morning Prayer

9:00am Mass

5:00pm Evening Prayer

3rd Sunday of Epiphany - January 20th -

10:00am Holy Eucharist

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him. Alleluia.

Hymn: 616

For your prayers this week

Pray for The Anglican Church of Australia Abp. Philip Leslie Freier, Jonathan our Bishop and the Bishops and Parishes of the Society. Bp Glyn Webster. All Saints, Small Heath, Birmingham Fr Oliver Coss. St Saviour, Saltley, Birmingham Fr Alan Thompson. St Barnabas, Balsall Heath, Birmingham Vacant. St Agatha, Sparkbrook, Birmingham Vacant. St Mark, Kingstanding, Birmingham Fr Philip Calvert.

Pray for the continuing ministry of this Priory for Fr. Paul and the Trustees.

Pray for the peace of the world.

Pray for all mothers with new born children.

Pray for those in need: the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the unemployed, for refugees, for all victims of terrorism, cruelty or abuse, the lonely, the frightened, the despairing and the bereaved.

Pray for those who are sick or in need: Simon, Naomi, Derek, Barbara, Ray, Patti, Lisa, Helen, Karen, Jacqui, Pam, Duncan, Marion, Marjorie, James, Nigel, Allan, Heather, Gillian, Fr Huw.

Pray for the Mother Alice of the Holy Sepulchre, Fr. Richard Benson, Philip Pusey, Fr. Alfred Rose, Lily Mackinnon, Bp. Charles Gore, Joyce Coombs, Fr. John Twisaday, Bp. Vibert Jackson, Tom Larkin, Maggie Scouller.

Readings for next Sunday

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21.



When Jesus was baptized, a voice came from heaven saying "This is my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." There could hardly be a more important message than this identification of Jesus. But why did this important message come through a voice from heaven? A voice from heaven can be heard only by those who are there then. What about everybody else? Surely it is important for all human beings to know that Jesus is God's beloved Son.

The same sort of puzzle arises from the First Reading. It says that the Messiah will open the eyes of the blind, and the Gospels testify that Christ really did so. But he opened the eyes of only a few blind people, those blind people who were there then. What about all the other blind people, in other places, in other times? Why didn't Jesus just heal all blindness everywhere with one impersonal command: let all the blind people of the world be healed?

In the voice from heaven, in the miracles of Christ, God shows that he does not send the news about the Messiah as an impersonal message. He identifies Jesus as his Son by a voice from heaven heard by particular people at a particular time. Similarly, Christ does not issue an impersonal decree about nameless blind people taken as a group. Christ heals some particular blind people who happened to be at a particular place at the particular time when Christ was also there.

God does not deal with people as faceless members of a collective. He calls, and he heals one particular person at a time, as each individual comes to him. But you need to come to the Lord, to face him, to know him, to love him, and to let him heal you. Come as yourself, as you are, here and now.

Eleonore Stump

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