

*Saturday of week 13 in Ordinary Time*

Readings at mass - Amos 9:11-15 Psalm 84(85): 9,11-14 Matthew 9:14-17

God is able to restore our broken selves as long as we turn to him in our hearts. This is what repentance is and something I pray for daily. This is the one to whom I will look, to the humble and CONTRITE in spirit, who trembles at my word. In 2 Corinthians 7:9-11, St. Paul says some mourning or grief is good! "For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves guiltless in the matter". This mourning is so that we can turn in love to our bridegroom who has been taken away from us because of sin.

Let us stop talking about praying, and let us pray as St. Therese wrote, and turn to him who knows what is best for us, who can give us more than anyone else in the world can. He is the one who can bring about peace, between "the calf and the lion" as the scriptures says (Is 11:6) – that means people with whom we just cannot get on with.

According to Sister Lúcia, on December 10, 1925, she experienced a vision of the Holy Virgin and the Christ Child. The Virgin showed her a heart encircled by thorns, which she was holding in her hand. During this alleged apparition, the Child Jesus asked Sister Lúcia "...have compassion on the heart of your most holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them.

Simeon foretold about this sword that shall pierce our Lady's loving heart. This continues after the suffering and death of our Lord. We see that Satan "poured water like a river after *the woman*, to sweep her away with the flood" (Rev 12:15). This enmity from the book of Genesis, "I will put enmity between you and the woman" (Gen 3:15) still continues through us who revere, and honour blessed mother.

The act of reparation consists of going to confession, receiving Holy Communion, and reciting a rosary to honour the immaculate heart of our mother who is the Queen of heaven.