

Saturday of week 12 in Ordinary time

Readings at mass

- Lamentations 2:2,10-14,18-19 Psalm 73(74):1-7,20-21 Matthew 8:5-17

“He took our sicknesses away, and carried our diseases for us” – we can easily get in to the mentality that because Jesus is also God, he was able to bear it and can forget the pain and sufferings of our Lord. His burden was light, and His yoke was in fact easy. Nevertheless, when he was carrying the burden of our sins, it caused him great pains. [In the stations of the cross by St. Francis of Assisi](#), at the 9th station we hear – “What a fearfully oppressive burden our sins must be to cause Jesus to fall so often”.

“That anyone could doubt the right of the holy Virgin to be called the Mother of God fills me with astonishment” – these are the words of St. Cyril of Alexandria, a 4th century Bishop. By defending the divine motherhood of the Virgin Mary, the great saints of the church upheld the divinity of Christ. Because of the blessed mother’s inseparable union with her Son, she also suffered greatly. Simeon prophesied, “a sword will pierce your own soul too” – referring to the interior martyrdom she is to face. Additionally, at the 4th station, St. Francis prayed – “O Jesus, O Mary, I am the cause of the great and manifold pains which pierce your loving hearts!”

Because her Lord is being taken from her daughter of Zion weeps. She mourns because her children lack bread; this can be closely related to us who are the church, mourning as we lack the bread from heaven. Also, we can refer this to the prayers we as people of faith, pour out before the Lord for those of little faith; people that are tossed about by the waves of this world.

Finally, the centurion’s ‘great faith’ was in recognising the holiness of Jesus and his own unworthiness rather than in expecting a miracle from Jesus. Along with him, we too must pray in these days as we prepare to come back to the Eucharist, “Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof”. We but do not however say ‘therefore Lord, we both can go our separate ways’ but rather ‘purify me and draw me close to you!’