

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

***Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.
Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart***

Jesus invites each and everyone of us to come to him, as we hear in the Gospel Reading for this Sunday. Perhaps the first question we might ask of ourselves is 'Have I heard this loving and gracious invitation?' Who am I that the Lord, who is my maker, should seek me out? As one of the Psalms (Ps. 8) says, *What is man that you should keep him in mind, mortal man that you care for him?*

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to awaken us to the most profound of all relationships that exist. This is something that a young John Henry Newman, our new English saint, discovered, and which set him upon a truly remarkable spiritual journey, eventually leading to his elevation as a Cardinal in later life. The motto he chose in Latin was *Cor ad Cor Loquitur* which means *Heart speaks to Heart*. It is in the heart of Jesus Christ that God speaks the mysteries and wonders of His love for all mankind. It is a motto we should make our own, for it goes to the centre of true religion.

The Solemn Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was celebrated recently. The origin of devotion to the heart of Our Lord comes from Jesus' own words contained in the Gospel for this Sunday; it is truly biblical. Let us, then, with spontaneity and with an open heart respond to Jesus' invitation *come to me, come to my heart, learn from me*. The lessons Jesus gives as the true teacher of mankind are lessons in life itself.

How often do we see man losing his humanity and becoming a distorted image of his true self, a reality reflected in the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*?

In our own prayer, devotion to the Sacred Heart should have a place. There is also the traditional devotion of the

First Friday of the month and many prayers in honour of the heart of Jesus.

The first reading of mass today begins with the words,

The Lord says this; Rejoice

How good that next Sunday 12th July, once more we can joyfully assemble to celebrate mass.

Fr. Anthony