

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

16th Sunday in
Ordinary Time, B
July 18, 2021

Fort Yuma, California | P. O. Box 1176, Winterhaven, CA 92283

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Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor

Entrance Hymn: 469 —

Holy, Holy, Holy.

Holy Communion: 832 —

Here I Am, Lord.

Recessional: 828 ---

Go Make of All Disciples.

SATURDAYS:

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm – Holy Hour
3:45 pm to 4:15 pm – Confessions
4:30 pm – HOLY MASS

SUNDAYS:

7:15 am to 8:15 am – Holy Hour
7:45 am to 8:15 am – Confessions
8:30 am – HOLY MASS

1st Reading:
Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds. I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have driven them and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply. I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing, says the Lord.

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; as king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security.

This is the name they give him: "The Lord our justice."

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want."

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

R.

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

R.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

R.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come. **R.**

2nd Reading:
Ephesians 2:13-18

Brothers and sisters: In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Lector: Alleluia, Alleluia.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia.

Lector: My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel Reading:
Mark 6:30-34

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come

away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTING ON THE WORD . . . GUIDEPOSTS

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

In today's Gospel, people from towns all over Galilee hurried to see and hear Jesus. His heart was moved, for they appeared to be "sheep without a shepherd." Jesus is that shepherd.

Jesus is *our* shepherd. He has drawn us here today, from different households, from different families. We come today to celebrate the Eucharist, this wonderful sacrament that Jesus established to be celebrated in his name until the end of time, this sacrament in which we receive our Lord, our redeemer, our shepherd.

Background to the First Reading: A brief lesson in history.

When David was king 1,000 years before Christ, God promised him through the prophet Nathan that his kingdom would continue forever and one of his descendants would always rule. This blessing lasted through the reign of David's son, Solomon.

However, Solomon turned to pagan gods and over-extended the country financially by elaborate building projects and exorbitant taxes so when he died there was a rebellion and most of Israel broke away from Solomon's successor, David's grandson Rehoboam, resulting in the division of Israel into the northern kingdom (those that broke away) and the southern part of Israel, the area we know as Judea, ruled then by David's grandson Rehoboam. For 400 years, the kings of Judea were descendants of king David.

In less than 300 years after the division, the northern kingdom was destroyed by the Assyrians, people from northern Iraq; and, about 100 years after that, the Babylonians from southern Iraq conquered the Assyrians and took control of the entire Middle East. This brings us up to Jeremiah, whom we heard in today's first reading.

The situation during the time of Jeremiah:

At the time of Jeremiah, the northern kingdom no longer existed. The southern kingdom, Judea, was still being ruled by David's descendants. Jeremiah preached there under the last five kings before it finally fell to the Babylonians.

When Jeremiah wrote that the Lord said, "Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture," he was referring to the last four kings of Judah before its fall to Babylon, namely: Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoikin, and Zedekiah. They reigned after the death of Josiah, considered the last of the great Davidic rulers. Despite Jeremiah's challenge to rule by the standards of God, these kings turned to Egypt for security, even refurbishing the royal palace in the style of the pharaohs (Jer. 22:14). They focused on their own comforts, leaving the

people of Israel like sheep with no shepherd.

Jesus — the Successor to the throne of David

The first reading ends with an oracle that looks forward to a future successor to the throne of David, whose title will be "The Lord our Justice."

600 years after Jeremiah, this king came, through the announcement of an angel to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. This Davidic king is Jesus, called Son of the Most High, who will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

At the root of the failure of the kings of Israel was their having abandoned God. Instead of ruling by the standards of God, they turned to earthly power. Instead of turning to and "spending time with" God for enlightenment, they put their trust more on their alliances with pagan nations. This prepares us for today's Gospel.

**"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile."
(Don't be so busy working for Jesus
and fail to spend time with Jesus.)**

The setting for the Gospel is the return of the disciples from their first missionary trip. In last week's Gospel, you'll recall we heard Jesus send them out to preach the Good News to all. This week we hear them return and report all they had done and taught. And then Jesus said to them, "*Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile.*"

Jesus taught them the need to recharge their batteries before they could continue their work. The same is true for us in trying to live the faith. Our works must be reinforced by times of prayer and enrichment in faith — by spending time with Jesus which hopefully will climax in a direct or mystical experience of the Lord.

St. Augustine said, upon discovering Jesus: "You were with me. I was not with you."

In going to a "lonely place by ourselves," we are, as the Chinese proverb says, "*making one step backward, but two steps forward.*"

The Greek philosopher Socrates once wrote:
"*An unreflected life is not worth living.*"

What is clear in all the readings is that the words preached must be God's and no one else's. There cannot be mixed messages. There is only one voice. We may become authentic speakers of that one voice if we make it an essential part of our practice of the faith to regularly spend time with the Risen Lord in a direct or mystical manner.

It must come across that Jesus' invite "Come away by yourselves . . ." isn't limited to us as individuals:

- A husband and wife going off by themselves could be a great gift to their marriage and to their parenting. *
- "Family Time" is another dimension of Jesus' "come apart." Some decades ago, Sunday was, for many families, strictly family day: The whole family would go to Mass and follow up later in the day with a big family meal.

Much good quality family time takes place around the dinner table. Let's enjoy some ourselves as we move to gather around the Lord's table.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

CELEBRANT:

Let us turn to our loving Shepherd with our needs and the needs of the world.

LECTOR:

- 1) For God's holy Church, that we may be shepherded by wise and righteous leaders who will bring us ever closer to the kingdom of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) That leaders around the world may truly care for the people entrusted to their leadership and guide them along right paths, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all who feel like sheep without a shepherd, that they may feel the compassion of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) That we may uphold the dignity of human life, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts (*pause*), let us pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT:

O God, source of all goodness, teach us true wisdom and justice, and give us the courage to apply those lessons in all that we do. Hear our prayers through our Good Shepherd, your Son, Jesus Christ.

St. Thomas Indian Mission

will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2022.

We would like to plan some events to celebrate as well as to generate some funds for the Church.

We will be having a meeting on July 25, 2021 (Sunday), in the Church, right after Mass.

We are encouraging you to come to the meeting, hear the ideas we have and share your ideas. We need help in all areas of the events, so we are asking you all to get involved and help make our 100th Year Celebration a great success.

If you can't attend the meeting but you're interested in helping, please put your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet located at the entrance.

We will make sure to contact you.

Father Joseph Carroll dies at 80.

Last Sunday (July 11), Bishop McElroy emailed to all priests, the following message:

"It is with sadness, but also with the joy of the Resurrection that I wish to inform you that Father Joe Carroll died peacefully early this morning.

Father Joe accomplished monumental achievements in his priesthood – through building the constellation of programs for the homeless that constitute Father Joe's Villages and even more importantly by calling our society to embrace homeless men, women and families with the compassion of Jesus Christ.

When Bishop Dolan and I visited Joe last week, he gave great thanks for his priesthood and for his fellow priests in this diocese. I pass that thanks on to you.

Let us remember in prayer Joe and all of the priests who have served God and the Church in San Diego.

Bishop McElroy"

Father Joseph Carroll's funeral will be at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 20 at Saint Rita's parish (5124 Churchward St., San Diego). Bishop McElroy will preside.

Contributions for Parish Support:

July 3-4: \$ 1,048.00

July 10-11: \$ 997.17

Via online:

June 30 to July 14: \$ 670.00

Please include in your prayers:

Gordon Osborne

Amelia Lopez Ortiz

Maria Atalig



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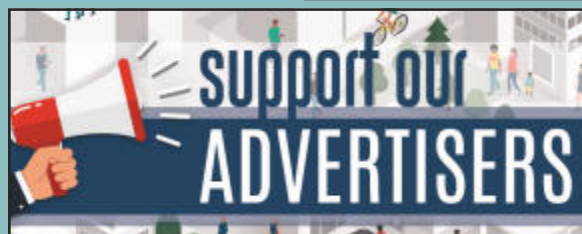
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