



Coloma Catholic Life.

Liturgical Year

5th Week in Ordinary Time. Liturgical colour – Green

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February Listen to the Migrants' Cries

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

Short video on his intention at

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-02/pope-francis-prayer-intention-february-2020.html>

Pope Francis Tweet

"Faith grows when we invoke the Lord with confidence, bringing to Jesus who we are, without hiding our sufferings."

Gospel reflection for Sunday 9th February: Matthew 5: 13 - 16



The lamp used in a typical Palestinian home was a partially closed reservoir made of clay. It had a hole on top to pour oil in and a spout on one end into which a wick of flax or cotton was set. It was a fairly small lamp, which gave off only a modest light; thus, to give maximum illumination it was placed

on a lampstand. Since many Jewish homes were often modest one-room structures, such an elevated lamp could give light to everyone in the house. Lamps were essential for finding one's way in enclosed areas during the night and were placed under a measuring bowl only to extinguish the light.

Jesus' disciples are called to be the light of the world. They cannot be hidden, for their very nature, the kingdom life within them, is living testimony to those in the world who do not yet have that light. Their good works are produced by the light and life that come from God. It is not of their own making, because those who see them in action will glorify not them but their "Father in heaven". The title "Father" is used in Matthew here for the first time, introducing the special relationship that

Upcoming Events

26th February

Ash Wednesday – Service & distribution of ashes during the day. Lent begins.

3rd March – Periods 5 & 6
Reconciliation for Year 7

10th March – Periods 5 & 6
Reconciliation for Year 8

17th March – Periods 5 & 6
Reconciliation for Year 9

24th March – Periods 5 & 6
Reconciliation for Year 10

1st April - Periods 5 & 6
Reconciliation for Year 11
Years 12 & 13 are warmly invited to attend any of the above to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

10th April - Good Friday

11th – 18th April - Year 12
Pilgrimage to Lourdes

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exists between God and Jesus' disciples. Jesus has been declared to be the beloved Son, and now those who have received the kingdom light are children of the heavenly Father as well.

The God Who Speaks – Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Below is a link to Cardinal Vincent Nichols Interview speaking about the scripture Road show of the Word of God.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=10&v=z9GpM0Od7H8&feature=emb_logo

The focus for February is Follow the Lion's tale, specifically St Jerome.

St Jerome (Born: c.347 AD, died: 420 AD) is renowned and praised for his many Commentaries on Scriptures and for his masterpiece, the translation of the Latin Vulgate.



Legends about St Jerome include the account that he once pulled a thorn from a lion's paw whilst he was living in the wilderness. In gratitude the lion is said to have faithfully guarded and assisted him.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference have created a group study resource for adults (based on the article by Fr. Jerome Ituah, OCD) and several activity sheets for children to share St Jerome's love of Scripture further.

[St Jerome resource for adults](#)

[St Jerome resources for children](#)



Tu B 'Shevat – Judaism, Jewish New Year for Trees

Tu B'Shevat, the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat, is a holiday also known as the New Year for Trees. The word "Tu" is not really a word; it is the number 15 in Hebrew.

Judaism has several different "new years." This is not as strange a concept as it sounds, there is the calendar year (January-December), the school year (September-July), and many businesses have fiscal years. It's basically the same idea with the various Jewish new years.

Tu B'Shevat is the new year for the purpose of calculating the age of trees for tithing. See Lev. 19:23-25, which states that fruit from trees may not be eaten during the first three years; the fourth year's fruit is for G-d, and after that, you can eat the fruit. Each tree is considered to have aged one year as of Tu B'Shevat, so if you planted a tree on Shevat 14, it begins its second year the next day, but if you plant a tree two days later, on Shevat 16, it does not reach its second year until the next Tu B'Shevat.

Tu B'Shevat is not mentioned in the Torah and there is only one reference to it in the Mishnah, and the only thing said there is that it is the new year for trees.

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Customs



There are few customs or observances related to this holiday. One custom is to eat a new fruit on this day, or to eat from the Seven Species (shivat haminim) described in the Bible as being abundant in the land of Israel. The Shivat Haminim are: wheat, barley, grapes (vines), figs, pomegranates, olives and dates (honey) (Deut. 8:8). You can make a nice vegetarian pilaf from the shivat haminim: a bed of cooked bulgar wheat or wheat berries and barley, topped with figs, dates, raisins (grapes), and pomegranate seeds, served with a dressing of olive oil, balsamic vinegar (grapes) and pomegranate juice. Some people plant trees on this day. Jewish children commonly went around collecting money to plant trees in Israel at this time of year.

Saints of the Week

10th February St Scholastica, Virgin

St. Scholastica, sister of St. Benedict, consecrated her life to God from her earliest youth. After her brother went to Monte Cassino, where he established his famous monastery, she took up her abode in the neighborhood at Plombariola, where she founded and governed a monastery of nuns, about five miles from that of St. Benedict, who, it appears, also directed his sister and her nuns. She visited her brother once a year, and as she was not allowed to enter his monastery, he went in company with some of his brethren to meet her at a house some distance away. These visits were spent in conferring together on spiritual matters. On one occasion they had passed the time as usual in prayer and pious conversation and in the evening they sat down to take their reflection. St. Scholastica begged her brother to remain until the next day. St. Benedict refused to spend the night outside his monastery. She had recourse to prayer and a furious thunderstorm burst so that neither St. Benedict nor any of his companions could return home. They spent the night in spiritual conferences. The next morning, they parted to meet no more on earth. Three days later St. Scholastica died, and her holy brother beheld her soul in a vision as it ascended into heaven. He sent his brethren to bring her body to his monastery and laid it in the tomb he had prepared for himself. She died about the year 543, and St. Benedict followed her soon after.



11th February Our Lady of Lourdes



The Blessed Virgin Mary first appeared on 11th February to a young 14 year old peasant girl called Bernadette Soubirous. She told her mother that a lady spoke to her in the cave of Massabielle while she was gathering firewood with her sister Toinette and friend Jeanne Abadie.

"...I came back towards the grotto and started taking off my stockings. I had hardly taken off the first stocking when I heard a sound like a gust of wind. Then I turned my head towards the meadow. I saw the trees quite still: I went on taking off my stockings. I heard the same sound again. As I raised my head to look at the grotto, I saw a lady dressed in white, wearing a white dress, a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot, the same color as the chain of her rosary; the beads of the rosary were white....From the niche, or rather the dark alcove behind it, came a dazzling light..." The

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“lady” appeared a further 18 times. On 25th march the lady told Bernadette ‘Que soy era immaculada concepciou’ - I am the Immaculate Conception, meaning Mary, the Mother of Christ was conceived without sin and her conception was thus *immaculate*. This doctrine was declared by Pope Pius IX in 1854.

14th February St Cyril - Monk, and Methodius - Bishop

St. Cyril was a priest and a philosopher and accompanied his brother St. Methodius to Moravia to preach the Gospel. They both perfected a Slavonic alphabet which is now known as the Cyrillic alphabet and translated the liturgy into this language. Cyril and Methodius, the apostles of the Slavs, were brothers who hailed from Thessalonica. After receiving an excellent education, they were sent by the Eastern Emperor Michael III (842-856) into the kingdom of Grand-Moravia; through great effort and despite tremendous difficulties they converted the Slavonic nations. They translated the Bible into Slavonic and devised a kind of writing, called *glagolitic*, which to the present day is used in the liturgical services of some Eastern rites.



In 867 the two brothers came to Rome, were met by Pope Hadrian II (867-872) and the whole papal court. They gave a report of their labours but encountered opposition on the part of jealous clergy who took offence, because of their liturgical innovations. Cyril and Methodius explained their methods and from the Pope himself received episcopal consecration (868). Soon after, Cyril died at Rome, only forty-two years old, and was buried in St. Peter's; later his body was transferred to San Clemente, where his remains still rest.

Methodius returned to Moravia and laboured as a missionary among the Hungarians, Bulgarians, Dalmatians, and the inhabitants of Carinthia. Falling again under suspicion, he returned to Rome and defended the use of the Slavonic language in the liturgy. The Pope bestowed upon him the dignity of Archbishop. After his return to Moravia, he converted the Duke of Bohemia and his wife, spread the light of faith in Bohemia and Poland, is said to have gone to Moscow and to have established the diocese of Kiev. After his return he died in Bohemia and was buried in the Church of St. Mary at Velehrad.



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