

**THE  
GROUNDPLAN  
OF HEROD  
THE GREAT'S  
TEMPLE ,  
which was  
still under  
construction in  
the time of  
Our Lord Jesus  
Christ.**

**The Court of the Gentiles was where the money-changers exchanged worldly money for the Temple Money and animals were being sold for the Temple Sacrifices. All people of the world were welcome in the Temple, however, there were different degrees of access.**

### **PREPARING FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY next Sunday 14th March 2021 a.k.a.: MOTHER'S DAY**

**From Wikipedia:** "Mothering Sunday is a day honouring mothers and mother churches,<sup>[1][2]</sup> celebrated in the British Isles and elsewhere in the English-speaking world on the fourth Sunday in Lent since the Middle Ages.<sup>[3]</sup> **On Mothering Sunday, Christians have historically visited their mother church - the church in which they received the sacrament of baptism.**<sup>[1][4]</sup>

Constance Adelaide Smith revived its modern observance beginning in 1913 to honour Mother Church, 'mothers of earthly homes', Mary, mother of Our Lord Jesus, and Mother Nature.<sup>[1][5]</sup> It gained popularity in response to the American Mother's Day and its narrowly biological definition of motherhood.<sup>[6]</sup>"

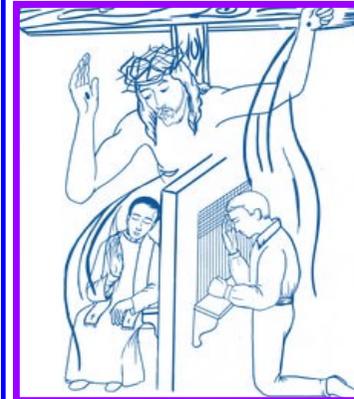
**So, where? and when? were you Baptised? Who Baptised you? Who are your God Parents / Sponsor(s)?**

### **ST MARY OF THE CRAYS NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 7th March 2021 In the Year of St Joseph: 8th Dec. 2020 - 8th Dec. 2021**

#### **SAINT JOSEPH:**

**Comfort of the Afflicted: Pray for us! Hope of the Sick: Pray for us!  
Patron of the Dying: Pray for us! Terror of Demons: Pray for us!**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**



**The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has the following Prayer Intention for the Month of March:**

***"When I go to confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal my soul. To leave with greater spiritual health. To pass from misery to mercy. The CENTRE OF CONFESSION is not the sins we declare, but the Divine Love we receive, of which we are always in need. The centre of confession is JESUS Who waits for us, Who listens to us and forgives us. Remember this:***

***In the heart of God,  
we come before our mistakes.***

***And let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the forgiveness and infinite mercy of God. And let us pray that God may give His Church merciful priests and not torturers."***

**Let us pray that we may experience  
the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth,  
to taste the infinite mercy of God.**

**Fr David writes and invites: HCPT:** having been a helper and a Chaplain of a couple of HCPT Family Groups and I wish to help promote their work with disabled people. Therefore, may I invite you to attend, with me, an **HCPT VIRTUAL DISCOVERY EVENT**, which you can join from the comfort of your own home? This exciting and informative event, **lasting no more than 40 minutes**, will highlight their work with disabled and disadvantaged children and adults.

**The event will be NEXT THURSDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 7.00PM.**

**If you are able to and would like to join us please contact:**

**[philip.gay@hcpt.org.uk](mailto:philip.gay@hcpt.org.uk)**

**This will be a wonderful evening and I sincerely hope that you will be able to join us as we discover more about HCPT.**

**SOME FURTHER REFLECTIONS ON  
PRAYER AND PRAYERFULNESS FROM  
THE CATECHISM OF  
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ...  
FOR YOUR REFLECTIONS AND DAILY  
PRAYERFULNESS THIS LENT:**

**IV. PERSERVERING IN LOVE**

**2742** "Pray constantly . . . always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father."<sup>33</sup> St. Paul adds, **"Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance making supplication for all the saints."**<sup>34</sup> For **"we have not been commanded to work, to keep watch and to fast constantly, but it has been laid down that we are to pray without ceasing."**<sup>35</sup> This tireless fervour can come only from love. Against our dullness and laziness, the battle of prayer is that of humble, trusting, and persevering love. This love opens our hearts to three enlightening and life-giving facts of faith about prayer.

**2743** *It is always possible to pray:* The time of the Christian is that of the risen Christ who is with us always, no matter what tempests may arise.<sup>36</sup> Our time is in the hands of God:

It is possible to offer fervent prayer even while walking in public or strolling alone, or seated in your shop, . . . while buying or selling, . . . or even while cooking.<sup>37</sup>

**2744** *Prayer is a vital necessity.* Proof from the contrary is no less convincing: if we do not allow the Spirit to lead us, we fall back into the slavery of sin.<sup>38</sup> How can the Holy Spirit be our life if our heart is far from him?

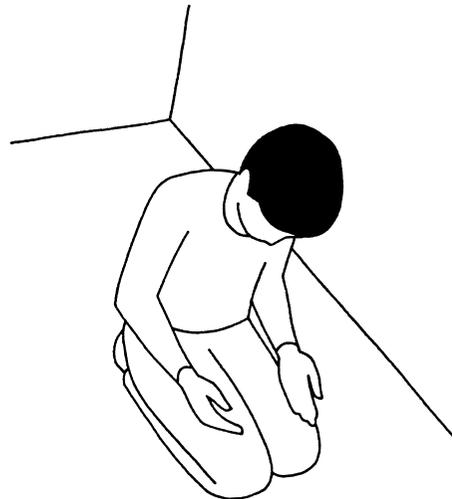
**Nothing is equal to prayer; for what is impossible it makes possible, what is difficult, easy.**

. . . For it is impossible, utterly impossible, for the man who prays eagerly and invokes God ceaselessly ever to sin.<sup>39</sup>

**Those who pray are certainly saved; those who do not pray are certainly damned.<sup>40</sup>**

**2745** Prayer and *Christian life are inseparable*, for they concern the same love and the same renunciation, proceeding from love; the same filial and loving conformity with the Father's plan of love; the same transforming union in the Holy Spirit who conforms us more and more to Christ Jesus; the same love for all men, the love with which Jesus has loved us. **"Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he [will] give it to you. This I command you, to love one another."**<sup>41</sup>

He "prays without ceasing" who unites prayer to works and good works to prayer. Only in this way can we consider as realizable the principle of praying without ceasing.<sup>42</sup>



**NOTES ON THIS SUNDAY'S  
GOSPEL: JOHN 2: 13 –25**

**" [John 2:13-25]** John makes it clear that what Christ said about rebuilding the Temple was a reference to His own Body rather than the physical structure in Jerusalem. Nevertheless, these words would be used against Christ when He was arrested and tried. The Jerusalem Temple would be destroyed by the Romans AD70, but Christ Himself is the new and eternal Temple of God. His statement here foretelling of His eventual Death and Resurrection, although His disciples would not fully understand this until after the Resurrection. (CCC 583, 586, 994)

**[John 2:14-16]** John places the Cleansing of the Temple at the beginning of Christ's Ministry. Christ chased the merchants from the outer court of the Temple **out of love for His FATHER'S HOUSE, which is meant to be A HOUSE OF PRAYER.** (CCC 584)

**[John 2:18]** *The Jews:* In John, this term usually should be taken to mean "the Jewish authorities" rather than the Jewish people as a whole. Even at that, among the Jewish authorities (scribes, Pharisees, Sanhedrin, etc.) there were many who were sympathetic to Christ and even supported Him. (CCC575)

*(Some scholars use the expression: "The Judeans", that is the people of the south around Jerusalem).*

**[John 2:25]** *"He could tell what a man had in him":* As His human nature was fully united to His Divine nature in the hypostatic union, Christ could read the interior thoughts and hearts of others. (CCC473)"



**NOTE:**

**In the SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM,** our bodies were joined to Christ Jesus and consecrated and anointed to be Temples of the Holy Spirit of God ... **In the SACRAMENT OF CONFESION, Reconciliation, Mercy, Forgiveness, Penance, Pardon and Peace,** we are **CLEANSED OF SIN AGAIN** to be worthy dwelling places of God among His people today.