

First Reading Acts 14:21-27

They assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1

*(R.) I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.*

or

(R.) Alleluia.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign. (R.)
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Rv 21:1-5

He will wipe away all the tears from their eyes.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:

love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 13:31-35

I give you a new commandment: love one another.

When Judas had gone Jesus said:

'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified.

If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.

My little children, I shall not be with you much longer.

I give you a new commandment:

love one another;

just as I have loved you,

you also must love one another.

By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

'Love one another as I have loved you.' You may think that Our Lord's extravagant extreme of love in voluntarily undergoing death for us, is something no human being could ever measure up to.

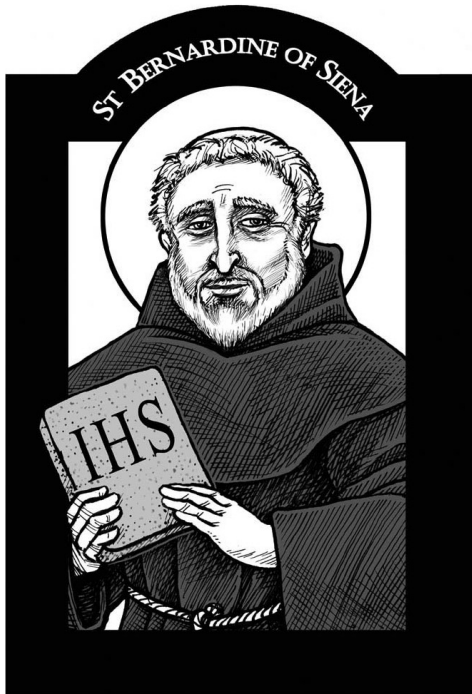
But actually, something like this happens whenever a mother or father sits by the bedside of a child suffering the terrible pain of a chronic illness or traumatic accident and, perhaps, even facing the prospect of death. Such a parent will invariably say 'I would rather suffer and die than see my child suffer and die.' It is the same with a person seeing their much loved life partner in a similar situation.

Each of us, usually to a lesser degree and in less fraught circumstances, has the opportunity to absorb, to some extent, the sufferings of others. We are thus given the possibility of fulfilling the command: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

The effect of this sort of loving will be realised at the end of history, not in a garden of Paradise, but as in a wonderful City where all tears will be wiped from our eyes.

We could pause for a moment on our way to that future City, resolving to be alert to opportunities to fulfil our Lord's command: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'

mtate@bigpond.com



St Bernardine was the son of the governor of Siena. He was orphaned at age six and was brought up by his aunt. He became a Franciscan friar at the age of twenty two and travelled all over Italy, preaching several sermons a day to large crowds. He is remembered for his devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. At the end of his sermons he would hold up for veneration a plaque on which he wrote IHS - the Greek translation of 'Jesus'. Through his preaching, Bernardine was responsible for a vast number of conversions to Christianity. In 1437 he became the vicar-general of the Observant branch of the friars, during which time the number of Observants rose tenfold due to his popularity. After establishing theology schools for the friars, he returned to his favourite task of preaching at the age of sixty three, but died a year later on the 20th of May.



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

cannot	find	Judas	love
children	giving	little	new
everyone	going	look	told

U B U L O V E R A N S Q T T D L B
M R W K U C O J F D J A B Q D U I
D J F B Y T H N P V M S A T G K N
D B I O O R E N A L U D F E G E I
M B Z W V R K L A V V R P Q J Y M
X R F L D K U C I N F Q T O L D G
F R Q L E I A V J T B J L H L P I
J J I V V W L T K L T C Q D X D V
O H H Q E A H R V S C L P S W W I
C S N K R C N R A A G K E Y T E N
L R L O Y C W D N L C G O I N G G
S M W C O X U N D C F X O E W R P
S Q U F N J O N Y N V I O W U P F
V Y L S E T L W E D I L G S V K J
K O O L D Y W T N W S F K R M K V

Use the words below to

complete

these Scripture passages

Lord **enemies**
hate **loved** **heart**
neighbour **another**

“**Love** your _____, do good to those who _____ you.”

Luke 6:27

“You shall **love** the _____ your God with all your _____, and with all your soul.”

Matthew 22:37

“You shall **love** your _____ as yourself.”

Matthew 22:39

“Just as I have _____ you, you also should **love** one _____.”

John 13:34

