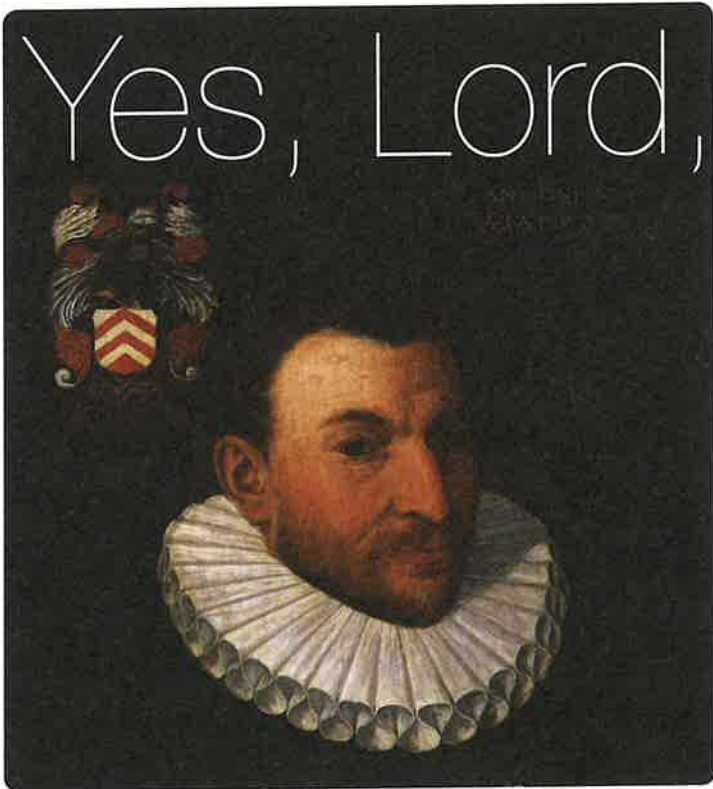


SUNDAY *Plus*

5th Sunday of Easter **Divine Office Week I** Year A



Fr John Gerard SJ, Painter unknown

In our frailty, we discover that Christ himself is the Good Samaritan who heals our wounds and restores our hope.


Pope Leo XIV

Be not afraid

You shall cross the barren desert
But you shall not die of thirst.
You shall wander far in safety
Though you do not know the way.
You shall speak your words in foreign lands
And all will understand.
You shall see the face of God and live.

Be not afraid:
I go before you always.
Come, follow me
And I will give you rest.

John Michael Talbot

Jesus, help me not to move into panic mode. Help me to take a deep breath and count to ten before I start to expect disasters which might never happen. Teach me to stay calm and trust in you.  Amen.

I believe

After a few months we had, by God's grace, everything so arranged that I was able to perform there all the tasks of a Jesuit priest, and provided only I could have stayed on in this prison, I should never have wanted to have my liberty again in England.

Though I was locked up, I looked on this change [from Poultry Compter] to the Clink as a translation from Purgatory to Paradise. I no longer heard obscene and bawdy songs, but, instead, I had Catholics praying in the next cell. They came to my door and comforted me, then they showed me how I could have freer dealings with them through a hole made in the wall, which they had covered over and concealed with a picture. Through this hole they handed me, the next day,

letters from some of my friends, and at the same time gave me paper, pen and ink, so that I could write back...

Through this same hole I also made my confession and received the Blessed Sacrament. But there was no need to carry on like this for long, for some Catholics in the prison contrived to make a key that would open my door. Then every morning before the warder came round, in fact before he was out of bed, they came and took me to another part of the prison, where I said Mass and gave the sacraments to the Catholics confined in that section. All of them had keys of their own doors.

John Gerard,
Autobiography of a Hunted Priest



Feast of the week
Monday 4 May

The Martyrs of England and Wales

One of the treasures of the English College in Rome is an atlas, an old atlas. It is dated 1570, and it is beautiful. The English College opened just nine years later, so that atlas must have been bought to show the students where to go once they got back home.

These students had come to Rome for just one reason: to go back home, to return to England and Wales, where Queen Elizabeth I had banned seminaries and banned the Mass. At great risk to themselves, after years of preparation in Rome they would make their way back to England to bring the sacraments to Catholics up and down the land...

There were Benedictines, Carthusians, Franciscans and many other religious preparing to shepherd the Lord's flock on English soil. It is no exaggeration to say that, without the courage of these Tudor martyrs, there might have been no Catholic Church remaining in England today.

Bishop Nicholas Hudson

READINGS

Today:
Acts 6:1-7
1 Peter 2:4-9
John 14:1-12

Monday:
Acts 14:5-18
John 14:21-26

Tuesday:
Acts 14:19-28
John 14:27-31

Wednesday:
Acts 15:1-6
John 15:1-8

Thursday:
Acts 15:7-21
John 15:9-11

Friday:
Acts 15:22-31
John 15:12-17

Saturday:
Acts 16:1-10
John 15:18-21

Next Sunday:
Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
1 Peter 3:15-18
John 14:15-21