



# St Mary's Cathedral

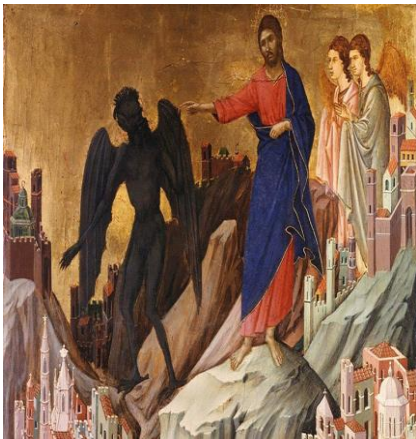
SYDNEY

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**Sunday, 04 February 2018**  
**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B**

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Dear Parishioners and Visitors,

In the section of St Mark's Gospel set down for Mass on this Sunday, we read of Jesus casting out many devils, and so liberating the people who were possessed.

What are we to make of Satan and these unclean spirits? How do they come to exist and what is the extent of their influence over human beings?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church sets out the Church's understanding of these creatures, in the section dealing with the Fall:

## **THE FALL OF THE ANGELS**

**391** Behind the disobedient choice of our first parents lurks a seductive voice, opposed to God, which makes them fall into death out of envy.<sup>[Gen 3.1-5; Wis 2.24]</sup> Scripture and the Church's Tradition see in this being a fallen angel, called "Satan" or the "devil".<sup>[cf John 8.44; rev 12.9]</sup>

The Church teaches that Satan was at first a good angel, made by God: "The devil and the other demons were indeed created naturally good by God, but they became evil by their own doing." <sup>[Lateran Council IV (1215) DS.800]</sup>

**392** Scripture speaks of a sin of these angels.<sup>[cf. 2 Peter 2.4]</sup> This "fall" consists in the free choice of these created spirits, who radically and irrevocably rejected God and his reign. We find a reflection of that rebellion in the tempter's words to our first parents: "You will be like God."<sup>[Gen. 3.5]</sup> The devil "has sinned from the beginning"; he is "a liar and the father of lies".<sup>[1 Jn 3.8; Jn 8.44]</sup>

**393** It is the irrevocable character of their choice, and not a defect in the infinite divine mercy, that makes the angels' sin unforgivable.

"There is no repentance for the angels after their fall, just as there is no repentance for men after death." [St John Damascene, *Defide Orth.* 2.4, PG 94, 877]

**394** Scripture witnesses to the disastrous influence of the one Jesus calls "a murderer from the beginning", who would even try to divert Jesus from the mission received from his Father. [Jn 8.44 cf. Mt 4.1-11] "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." [Jn 3.8] In its consequences the gravest of these works was the mendacious seduction that led man to disobey God.

**395** The power of Satan is, nonetheless, not infinite. He is only a creature, powerful from the fact that he is pure spirit, but still a creature. He cannot prevent the building up of God's reign. Although Satan may act in the world out of hatred for God and his kingdom in Christ Jesus, and although his action may cause grave injuries - of a spiritual nature and, indirectly, even of a physical nature - to each man and to society, the action is permitted by divine providence which with strength and gentleness guides human and cosmic history. It is a great mystery that providence should permit diabolical activity, but "we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him." [Rom. 8.28]

Our Sunday Gospel passage also tells us that the next morning, after healing and casting out devils, Jesus went to spend time in prayer; and fortified by prayer he went on to heal and cast out devils in the neighbouring towns. Prayer is our best strategy against the work of evil, as the Compendium to the Catechism notes:

Jesus teaches us to pray not only with the *Our Father* but also when he prays. In this way he teaches us, in addition to the content, the dispositions necessary for every true prayer: purity of heart that seeks the Kingdom and forgives one's enemies, bold and filial faith that goes beyond what we feel and understand, and watchfulness that protects the disciple from temptation. [Compendium to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 544]

So I hope we may all make ample space for prayer— especially in these as we establish our daily routine for the year ahead.

Fr Don Richardson, Dean

## *Liturgy...*

### **First Reading     Jb 7:1-4. 6-7**

#### **A reading from the book of Job**

*I am filled with sorrow all day long.*

Job began to speak:

Is not man's life on earth nothing more than pressed service, his time no better than hired drudgery? Like the slave, sighing for the shade, or the workman with no thought but his wages, months of delusion I have assigned to me, nothing for my own but nights of grief.

Lying in bed I wonder, 'When will it be day?' Risen I think, 'How slowly evening comes!' Restlessly I fret till twilight falls. Swifter than a weaver's shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind. Remember that my life is but a breath, and that my eyes will never again see joy.

**The word of the Lord.  
Response: Thanks be to God!**

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### **Responsorial Psalm   Ps 146:1-6. R. v.3**

*(R.) Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.*

1. Praise the Lord for he is good; sing to our God for he is loving: to him our praise is due. (R.)

2. The Lord builds up Jerusalem and brings back Israel's exiles, he heals the broken-hearted, he binds up all their wounds. He fixes the number of the stars; he calls each one by its name. (R.)

3. Our Lord is great and almighty; his wisdom can never be measured. The Lord raises the lowly; he humbles the wicked to the dust, (R.)

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*Liturgy...*

**Second Reading 1 Cor 9:16-19. 22-23**

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

***Punishment will come to me if I do not preach the Gospel.***

I do not boast of preaching the gospel, since it is a duty which has been laid on me; I should be punished if I did not preach it! If I had chosen this work myself, I might have been paid for it, but as I have not, it is a responsibility which has been put into my hands. Do you know what my reward is? It is this: in my preaching, to be able to offer the Good News free, and not insist on the rights which the gospel gives me.

So though I am not a slave of any man I have made myself the slave of everyone so as to win as many as I could. For the weak I made myself weak. I made myself all things to all men in order to save some at any cost; and I still do this, for the sake of the gospel, to have a share in its blessings.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Response: Thanks be to God!**



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**Gospel Acclamation**

**Mk 8:17**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

He bore our sickness,  
and endured our suffering.

**Alleluia!**



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*Liturgy...*

**Gospel Mk 1:29-39**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

***He cured many who suffered from diseases of one kind or another.***

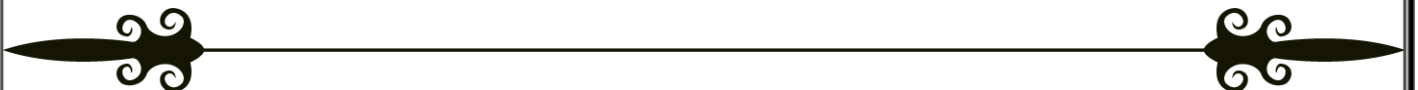
On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**Response: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ!**



**CATHEDRAL CLERGY**

*Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP*  
*Father Donald Richardson, Dean*  
*Father Brendan Purcell*  
*Father Emmanuel Yoon Jae Seo*  
*Father Pierluigi Passoni*

**CATHEDRAL STAFF**

*Chris Backhouse- Cathedral Sacristan*  
*Thomas Wilson – Director of Music*  
*Helen Morassut – General Manager, St Marys*  
*Cathedral Precinct*

**A COPY OF THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$2**

<b>Weekend Mass</b>	Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm Sunday: 7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass); 12noon Latin Mass in the extraordinary form; 6.00pm Mass
<b>Weekday Mass</b>	Monday to Friday: 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm; Saturday: 9.00am & 12noon Public Holidays: 9am (or as advertised)
<b>Reconciliation</b>	Monday-Friday: 12noon -1.00pm & 5.00pm to 5.25pm Saturday 11.30am- 11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm
<b>Vespers (Evening Prayer)</b>	Monday to Thursday: 5.00pm; Saturday 5.30pm; Sunday 5.00pm (with Benediction of the Blessed Sacraments)

**\*\*COELIACS:** Special Provision is made for Coeliacs at the Cathedral. Those who are gluten intolerant may receive communion either from the Chalice or with a gluten low host. Application should be made to the Sacristan before Mass.

## St Bakhita's Day Mass

To be celebrated by the  
Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP

St Bakhita is the patron saint of victims  
of modern slavery and human trafficking.

