

Special Mass on Sunday, 8 August
In honour of St Vianney, priest,
and praying for priestly vocations

(1786-1859). He was born near Lyons (France), ordained priest in Grenoble, and was assigned to the parish of Ars where he spent forty-two years. He was outstanding for his steadfast care of souls, for his spirit of prayer and mortification, but above all, for his tireless dedication to the Sacrament of Penance. He spent most of his life in the confessional, drawing energy from his intimate and constant friendship with our Lord in the Eucharist. Pius XI declared him Patron of the Universal Clergy.

"The priest continues the work of redemption on earth. . . . If we really understood the priest on earth, we would die not of fright but of love. . . . The Priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus." St. John Vianney, quoted in B. Nodet, Jean-Marie Vianney, Curé d' Ars, 100.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I will appoint over you shepherds after my own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently. (*Jer 3:15*)

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. (*pause*)

Father of mercy, you made Saint John Vianney outstanding in his priestly zeal and concern for your people. By his example and prayers, enable us to win our brothers and sisters to the love of Christ and come with them to eternal glory. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

FIRST READING (*I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel.*)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel 3:17-21

The word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman for the house of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, you shall warn them for me.

If I say to the wicked man, you shall surely die; and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his wicked conduct so that he may live: the wicked man shall die for his sins, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, on the other hand, you have warned the wicked man, yet he has not turned away from his evil nor from his wicked conduct, then he shall die for his sin, but you shall save your life.

If a virtuous man turns away from virtue and does wrong when I place a stumbling block before him, he shall die. He shall die for his sin, and his virtuous deeds shall not be remembered; but I will hold you responsible for his death if you did not warn him. When, on the other hand, you have warned a virtuous man not to sin, and he has in fact not sinned, he shall surely live because of the warning, and you shall save your own life.

—The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (*117:1,2*)

R. Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (*Mark 16:15*)

Praise the Lord, all you nations; glorify him, all you peoples! (*R.*)

For steadfast is his kindness toward us, and the fidelity of the Lord endures forever. (*R.*)

SECOND READING *(Do not be ashamed to your testimony to our Lord.)*

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy 1:6-8,13-14
Beloved:

I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner of his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.

Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us. —The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA *(Lk 4:18)*

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, and to proclaim liberty to captives. *(R.)*

GOSPEL *(At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them.)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 9:35-10:1

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and curing every disease and illness.

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness.

—The word of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord, accept from your Church these gifts, which in your mercy you have given us to offer and which by your power you transform into the sacrament of our salvation. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. (*Mt 20:28*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Merciful God, let our sharing in this sacrament deliver us from evil and make us stand firm in the light of your truth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Cum Approbatione Ecclesiastica

Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Liturgy Commission 30 July 2010