



THE KINGDOM OF EVIL

ST. BRUNO, ABBOT



Luke xi. 14. The Blessed Evangelist Matthew tells us, that this man was not alone dumb but blind also. And blind is every man who follows not after that Light Which says: I am the Light of the world; he that followeth Me walketh not in darkness, but shall have the Light of life (Jn. viii. 12). And he is indeed dumb who confesses not his sins, and who knows not how to open his mouth to the praise of God.

And he hath a demon within him who persists in any grave sin. And because of this the Apostle admonishes us, where he says: Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body (Rom. vi. 12). For as long as sin remains in a man, for so long is he bound and captive and possessed by the devil. Such a man, blind and dumb, if he be offered to the Lord, if he be converted to penance, the Lord shall straightaway heal him; so that the evil spirit being driven out of him he may speak and see. ...

But some of them said: He casteth out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils. Of these the Evangelist Matthew says: But the Pharisees hearing it, said: this man casteth not out devils but by Beelzebub the prince of devils. For the more the Pharisees appear to be better and wiser than the rest, so much the more often are they goaded by an ever greater jealousy against the Lord. But who, O Pharisees, has taught you this? For only because

you are the disciples of Beelzebub could you say such things in his praise. You see Jesus raising the dead, giving light to the blind, cleansing the lepers, and curing every kind of infirmity and disease, and you say that He casts out devils by the power of Beelzebub? When did Beelzebub, the Lord of the Flies, ever do such things? ...

But he seeing their thoughts, said to them: Every kingdom divided against shall be brought to desolation, and house upon house shall fall. And if Satan also be divided against himself, how shall his kingdom stand? because you say, that through Beelzebub I cast out devils. With a very clear illustration He confutes those who said that He was casting out devils by Beelzebub. For if it is as they say, then Beelzebub has wholly lost his power, his leadership, and his kingdom. For if the spirits of evil were waging war against each other, they would have had little or no power against man.

Rather what is worse than this holds; for there are scarcely to be found any number of men imbued with such unity of purpose in doing good, as the devils possess in doing evil. For though they are endless, innumerable, yet in this they are one, that they seek to do nothing but what is evil. If then they had not this concord in wickedness, and desired to be converted to penance, and could do so, then indeed would the kingdom of Beelzebub be brought to desolation; for this is what we see take place in other kingdoms. It is not therefore as these others say; and Satan does not cast out Satan; rather do all in his kingdom give aid to each other in all that they do.

But if I by the Finger of God cast out devils; doubtless the kingdom of God is come upon you. What this means another Evangelist tells us, saying: If I by the Spirit of God cast out devils (Mt. xii. 28): which is indeed true, and may not be doubted: therefore is the kingdom of God come upon you. For where the Spirit of God is, there also is the Kingdom of God. The Holy Ghost is called the Finger of God, because of the multiple division of graces. For in no part of the body do we find such division as in the fingers. And this is as if He had said: I indeed cast out devils in the Spirit and Power of God; since they are subject to me, since they are powerless to withstand me, since I hold them tied, and keep them bound.



Above: Jesus Heals a Man Possessed by a Demon in the Synagogue, illustration for 'La Vie de notre Seigneur Jesus-Christ', published in Tours 1896 by Tissot, Bibliotheque des Arts Decoratifs, Paris, France.

Left: Saint Bruno en prière dans le désert, 1638, Musée des Beaux Arts, Avignon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAY OF RETREAT POSTPONED

Due to the coronavirus restrictions we will not be able to preach the Day of Retreat as planned on Saturday, March 6th. Unfortunately, we will have to postpone this important spiritual exercise to a later date which will be announced as soon as it will be possible to make new arrangements.

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

The Triduum Paschale in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite will be celebrated at St. Winefride's church according to the following schedule:

Holy Thursday, April 1st, at 5:00 pm

Good Friday, April 2nd, at 3:00 pm

Holy Saturday, April 3rd, at 7:00 pm

Gift Aid Envelopes Arrived

The envelopes used for the weekly collection have arrived. In the back of the church, please pick up your box with the (green) envelopes which will be used this year and which carry your individual (Gift Aid) number. We apologize for the delay in bringing them to you. – If you are interested in joining the Institute's local Gift Aid Program, please contact Canon Wiener.

March 12th Mass will be at 6.30pm

Due to a Requiem at the Cathedral on Friday, March 12th, Mass in the Extraordinary Form will be celebrated at 6:30 pm, not as usually at 10:00 am.

Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas on March 8th

Today's Third Sunday in Lent has liturgical priority over the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas. Our co-patron's feast will be transferred to tomorrow, Monday, March 8th. We will on this joyful occasion celebrate a sung Mass at 10:00 am at the Cathedral.

SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS	
				CANON WIENER	FATHER GRIBBIN
SUN	7 TH MAR	12:30 PM	THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT	THE INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING	PI
MON	8 TH MAR	10:00 AM	ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CO-PATRON OF THE INSTITUTE	THE SUPERIORS OF THE INSTITUTE	PI
TUE	9 TH MAR	6:30 PM	FERIA IN LENT	ADELINE RAYMENT	PI
WED	10 TH MAR	10:00 AM	FERIA IN LENT	BABY WILLIAMS	PI
THU	11 TH MAR	6:30 PM	FERIA IN LENT	DONNA RILEY	PI
FRI	12 TH MAR	6:30 PM	FERIA IN LENT	CASEY FAMILY	PI
SAT	13 TH MAR	10:00 AM	FERIA IN LENT	CASEY FAMILY	PI
SUN	14 TH MAR	12:30 PM	FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT "LAETARE"	GERTRUDE MOSELEY RIP	PI

SUNDAY MASSES AT 12:30 PM AT ST. WINEFRIDE'S CHURCH, CROWMERE ROAD, MONKMOOR, SHREWSBURY, SY2 5RA

St. Winefride's Presbytery, Mynd Close, Shrewsbury SY2 5RA

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