



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

THE FINDING OF THE HOLY CROSS

DOM GUÉRANGER - THE LITURGICAL YEAR, MAY 3RD

Procession of the True Cross in St. Mark's Square, Gentile Bellini, 1496, Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice



It was most just that our Divine King should show Himself to us with the scepter of his power, to the end that nothing might be wanting to the majesty of his empire. This scepter is the Cross; and Paschal Time was to be the Season for its being offered to Him in glad homage. A few weeks back, and the Cross was shown to us as the instrument of our Emmanuel's humiliation, and as the bed of suffering whereon he died; but has he not, since then, conquered death? And what is his Cross now but a trophy of his victory? Let it then be brought forth to our gaze; and let every knee bend before this sacred wood, whereby our Jesus won the honor and praise we now give Him!

On the day of his birth at Bethlehem, we sang these words of the Prophet Isaias: A Child is born unto us, and a Son is given unto us, and his government is upon his shoulder. We have seen Him carrying His Cross upon His shoulder, as Isaac carried the wood for his own immolation; but now, it is no longer a heavy burden. It is shining with a brightness that ravishes the eyes of the angels; and, after having received the veneration of man as long as the world lasts, it will suddenly appear in the clouds of heaven, near the judge of the living and the dead—a consolation to them that have loved it, but a reproach to such as have treated it with contempt or forgetfulness.

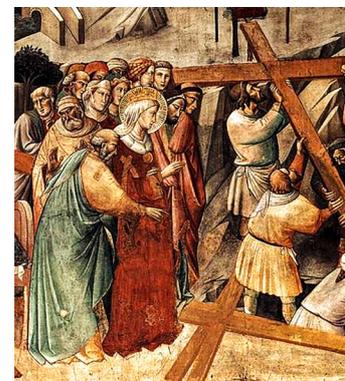
Our Savior did not think the time between His Resurrection and Ascension a fitting one for glorifying the Instrument of His victory. The Cross was not brought into notice until it had subjected the world to Him whose glory it so eloquently proclaimed. Jesus was three days in the tomb; his Cross is to lie buried unknown to men for three centuries: but it is to have its Resurrection, and the Church celebrates this Resurrection today. Jesus would, in his own good time, add to the joy of Easter by miraculously revealing to us this sacred monument of His love for mankind. He entrusts it to our keeping—it is to be our consolation—as long as this world lasts: is it not just, that we should love and venerate it?

Never had Satan's pride met with a humiliation like that of his seeing the instrument of our perdition made the instrument of our salvation. As the Church expresses it in her Preface for Passiontide: "... he that overcame mankind by a Tree, was overcome by a Tree." Thus foiled, he vented his fury upon this saving Wood, which so bitterly reminded him both of the irresistible power of his Conqueror, and of the dignity of man who had been redeemed at so great a price. He would fain have annihilated the

Cross; but knowing that this was beyond his power, he endeavored to profane it and hide it from view. He therefore instigated the Jews to bury it. At the foot of Calvary, not far from the Sepulcher, was a deep hole. Into this was the Cross thrown, together with those of the two Thieves, the Nails, the Crown of Thorns, and the Inscription, or Title, written by Pilate. The hole was then filled up with rubbish and earth, and the Sanhedrim exulted in the thought of its having effaced the memory of the Nazarene, who could not save Himself from the ignominious death of the Cross.

Forty years after this, Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans—the instruments of God's vengeance. The Holy Places were desecrated by the idolaters. A small temple to Venus was erected on Calvary, and another to Jupiter over the Holy Sepulcher. By this, the pagans intended derision; whereas, they were perpetuating the knowledge of two spots of most sacred interest. When peace was restored under Constantine, the Christians had but to remove these pagan monuments, and their eyes beheld the holy ground that had been bedewed with the Blood of Jesus—and the glorious Sepulcher. As to the Cross, it was not so easily found. The scepter of our Divine King was to be raised up from its tomb by a royal band. The saintly Empress Helen, Constantine's Mother, was chosen by heaven to pay to Jesus—and that, too, on the very spot where he had received his greatest humiliations—the honors which are due to Him as the King of the world. Before laying the foundations of the Basilica of the Resurrection, this worthy follower of Magdalene and the other holy women of the Sepulcher was anxious to discover the Instrument of our Salvation. The Jews had kept up the tradition of the site where it had been buried: the Empress had the excavations made accordingly. With what holy impatience must she not have watched the works! And with what ecstasy of joy did she not behold the Redeeming Wood, which, though not at first distinguishable, was certainly one of the three Crosses that were found! She addressed a fervent prayer to the Savior, who alone could reveal to her which was the trophy of his victory; the Bishop, Macarius, united his prayers with hers; and their faith was rewarded by a miracle that left them no doubt as to which was the true Cross.

Finding of the True Cross, Agnolo di Taddeo Gaddi, 1380, Florence



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gift Aid Participation

We thank you for your generous financial support you have given the Institute here in Shrewsbury since His Lordship, Bishop Davies, invited our community to work in his diocese. We would like to point that, if you are a UK tax payer, you could consider to Gift Aid your donations towards the Charity of the ICKSP. The Institute would be allowed to claim from HMRC 25p on each £1 that had been donated by you.

Presently, we are updating our records of all those who are already participants in this program. You will receive a letter from us, either by mail or email, in which you will be invited to send the form back to us after you have filled in your updated information.

There is a charity put in place in the UK to support the work of the Institute. By signing up to the Gift Aid Program you help us to support more effectively the apostolate here in Shrewsbury, the work of the Institute in the UK, the seminary in Gricigliano as well as the Sisters Adorers.

Please contact Canon Wiener if you have questions with regard to this exceptional program that enables us to strengthen our financial resources. Feel free to pick up a copy of the participation form which is available at the entrance of the church.

Masses for Your Intentions

You are invited to request Masses to be celebrated for your and your family's intentions. Mass stipends support the apostolate here in Shrewsbury. Please contact Canon Wiener with your requests.



SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS	
				CANON WIENER	FATHER GRIBBIN
SUN*	2 ND MAY	12:30 PM	4 TH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER	THE FAITHFUL OF THE SHREWSBURY APOSTOLATE	PI
MON	3 RD MAY	10:00 AM	THE FINDING OF THE HOLY CROSS	PI	PI
TUE	4 TH MAY	6:30 PM	ST. MONICA WIDOW	PI	PI
WED	5 TH MAY	10:00 AM	ST. PIUS V. POPE, CONFESSOR	PI	PI
THU	6 TH MAY	6:30 PM	VOTIVE MASS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST SUPREME AND ETERNAL PRIEST	MSGR. GILLES WACH PRIOR GENERAL	PI
FRI	7 TH MAY	10:00 AM	VOTIVE MASS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS	MSGR. RUDOLF MICHAEL SCHMITZ VICAR GENERAL	PI
SAT	8 TH MAY	10:00 AM	THE APPARITION OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL	CANON AMAURY MONTJEAN PRO-PROVINCIAL	PI
SUN*	9 TH MAY	12:30 PM	5 TH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER	PI	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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